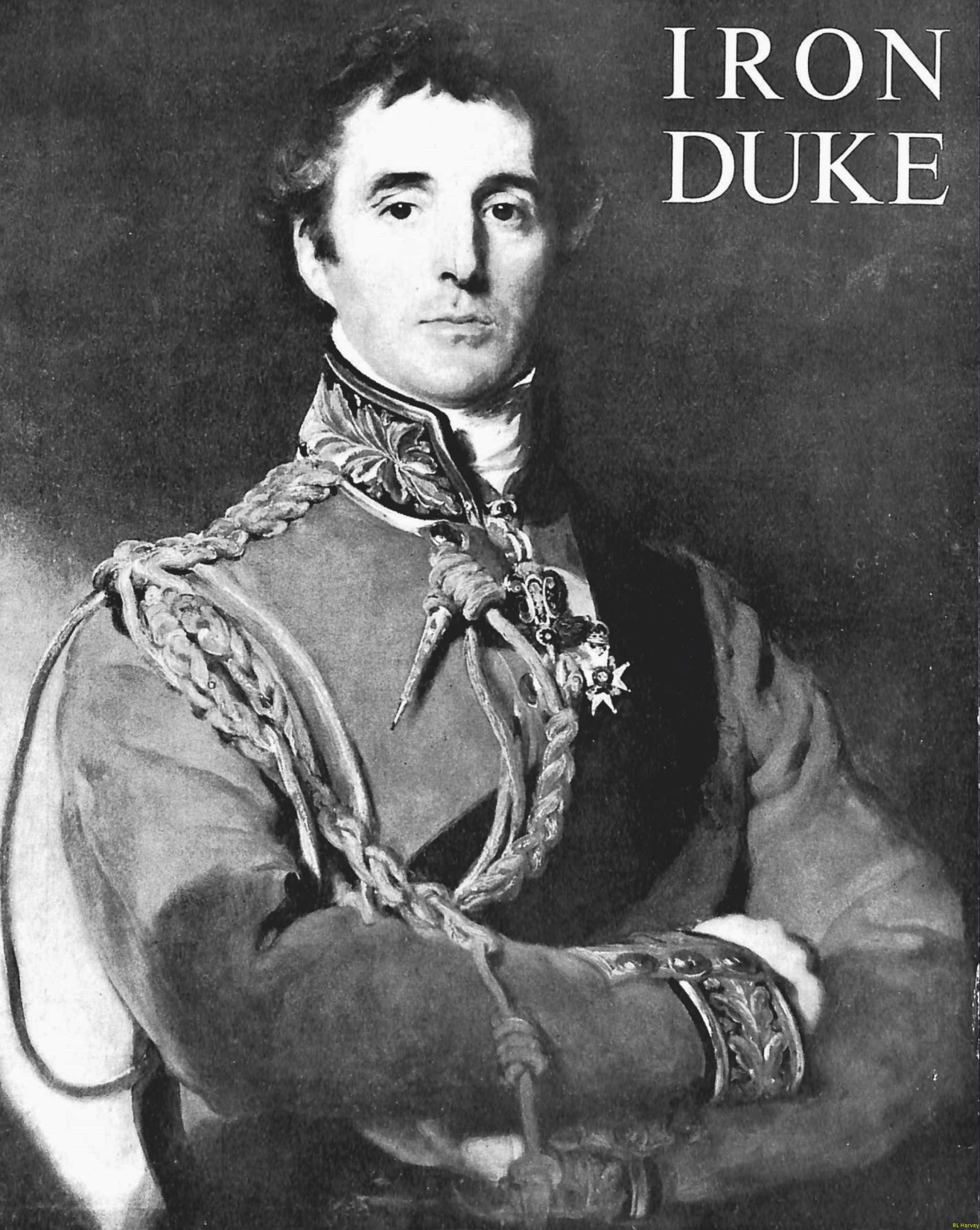


No.179 April 1979

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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

Vol. LII

APRIL 1979

No 179

BUSINESS NOTES

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Acknowledgement

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

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

Colonel of the Regiment

MAJOR-GENERAL D. E. ISLES, CB, OBE
The Laurels, Denton, Grantham, Lincolnshire

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellesley Park, Halifax

Regimental Secretary: Major G. C. Tedd
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major J. S. Milligan

THE 1st BATTALION

BFPO 29

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

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

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



THE DUKE'S LATEST SPORT
Hang gliding club members airborne over the Derbyshire Moors

Photo: Sheffield Morning Telegraph—The Star

One Hundred Years of Duke's Rugby

On March 31, 1979, the Duke of Wellington's 1st XV played the Commander-in-Chief BAOR's XV as part of their rugby centenary celebrations. The match took place at Clifton Barracks in Minden, West Germany, where the Battalion are currently serving.

The great rugby tradition in the Dukes really began with the combination of the 33rd and 76th Foot to form the 1st and 2nd Bn of the Duke of Wellington's Regt in 1881. A foretaste of this was the establishment of a Brigade Depot at Halifax in 1878 and for the first time the Dukes rugby team took the field. Thus in the season 1978-79 the Dukes are celebrating 100 years of rugby.

In the past 100 years the Dukes have produced many 'greats' in the rugby world, both Union and League. In 1907 the Army Cup was played for the first time, and it is appropriate that the first name on it is that of the Duke of Wellington's Regt. The Dukes roll of honour includes such international players as 'Bull' Faithfull, Horsey Brown, Geoff Reynolds, Charles Grieve, Nim Hall, Mike Hardy, Dennis Shuttleworth, David Gilbert-Smith, and Mike Campbell-Lamerton. It is interesting to note that when England won the Calcutta Cup in the 1951-52 season Hardy and Shuttleworth were the half-backs, the only time in rugby history that one

regiment has provided both halves for an international side.

Dukes rugby has always been of a very high standard and past victories over Ulster and many Yorkshire clubs testify to this. During National Service days the Dukes benefited enormously from rugby league players such as Scrobie (Halifax RL), Keegan (Hull RL), Renilson (Halifax RL) and many more.

The 1962-63 season saw the arrival of those enterprising rugby players the Fijians and they fitted into the Dukes style of rugby with remarkable ease. Since the inauguration of the Army Cup the Dukes have won it 11 times and are the current holders. In 1975 the first Army sevens were organised at Aldershot and sponsored by Courages. The Dukes are the only name on the Cup having won it on four consecutive occasions. In the last two seasons the Dukes have also won BAOR Sevens, the Camberley Sevens and the Danish Sevens and provided a couple of shocks for the international seven which won last season's Heineken Sevens in Amsterdam.

The current Dukes side contains eight Army and four combined services players as well as providing the nucleus for the BAOR side. Earlier this season the Dukes defeated the West German national side by 19 points to 13 in Hannover.

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

The new CGS

Her Majesty The Queen has approved the appointment of Gen Sir Edwin Bramall, KCB, OBE, MC, as Chief of the General Staff in July 1979. Gen Bramall will succeed Gen Sir Roland Gibbs, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC Gen who is to retire.

Sir Edwin will be the 28th holder of this appointment which dates back to 1904 when General The Honourable Sir Neville Lyttelton became the first Chief of the General Staff.

Born in 1923, Gen Bramall joined the Army in the ranks in 1942 and was commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1943. Eleven months later he was in action in Normandy where, after being twice wounded, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. His war service continued in North West Europe, India and the Far East and, having decided to make the Army his career, he

took a regular commission in 1946. He was a member of the Far East Airborne Forces and later took part in the Commonwealth occupation of Japan as a member of the British and Indian Division.

A series of regimental and staff appointments then followed with early promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. After a brief spell as second in command of 2nd Bn Royal Green Jackets he was soon on Lord Mountbatten's staff with special responsibilities for the reorganisation of the Service Departments into a unified Ministry. Given command of his regiment in 1965 he returned to active service and a Mention-in-Despatches with 2nd Bn Royal Green Jackets in Borneo and Malaysia during the confrontation with Indonesia. Accelerated promotion from Lieutenant Colonel to Brigadier followed in

1967 and after commanding 5 Infantry Bde he spent a year at the Imperial Defence College. The year 1971 saw him assisting with the reorganisation of forces in Britain during an attachment to the United Kingdom Land Forces. Having achieved the rank of Major General a year later when he was still 47, he became GOC 1st Div in Germany and further promotion soon followed when at the unusual age of 49 he was made a Lieutenant General and appointed Commander British Forces Hong Kong which also carried with it a position on the

Executive Council.

His return to Britain in 1976 was marked by promotion to full General and he became Commander in Chief of the United Kingdom Land Forces. He was appointed Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff responsible for personnel and logistics earlier this year.

Gen Bramall played cricket for the Army and is a keen all round sportsman. He is also a gifted artist having had his work hung in the Royal Academy.

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover

The Duke of York's Royal Military School is a modern boarding school for the sons of officers and soldiers. Founded in Chelsea in 1803 by His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York, the school catered then for the orphaned children of soldiers killed in battle. In 1909 the school moved to Dover and over the years has changed a great deal, so that today, though unique in certain respects, it compares very favourably with any good independent boys' boarding school in the country.

It is very well equipped with all the facilities normally associated with a good school and occupies purpose-built accommodation set in 150 acres of downland about two miles east of Dover. The 450 boys, aged 11-18, are comfortably provided for in every respect and enjoy a very high standard of academic, sporting and social facilities.

Though largely financed by the Ministry of Defence the school is not a military unit. It is a normal boys' boarding school providing an education up to GCE Advanced and Scholarship levels which fits young men to proceed to university or to enter the professions, commerce or industry direct. Although no longer primarily intended for boys who wish to make the Army their career those who wish to 'follow in father's footsteps' are given every encouragement and assistance to do so. About 15 per cent of the boys enter the Services and in 1978 six out of the seven candidates who attended the Regular Commissions Board were successful. Well over half the boys in the Upper Sixth proceed to University.

The curriculum is mainly directed to public examinations and boys are prepared for seven subjects at GCE 'O' level but provision is made for those pupils who have special difficulties caused by frequent changes of primary school. In the first three years boys follow a broad timetable incorporating the normal range of academic subjects, including art and craft sampling courses. The fourth and fifth years consist of a structured two-year course to 'O' level. Entry into the Sixth Form to study for three 'A' levels is by invitation and is conditional upon a satisfactory performance at 'O'

level and a suitable recommendation from Housemasters.

Sporting facilities abound in the 150 acres of school grounds, although Rugby, Hockey, Athletics and Cricket are the main sports, opportunities exist for many more including Swimming and Tennis.

There are eight boarding houses consisting of two Junior Houses for boys aged 11-13 and the six Senior Houses for older boys. Housemasters, Tutors and Matrons are all available to offer advice and to guide the boys in the routines and disciplines of community life.

A boy must have attained his 11th birthday and be under the age of 12 years on September 1 of the year of entry and selection is based on a competitive examination and father's or mother's service. Parents of candidates may be serving or retired but must have served a minimum of four years in the Regular Army. Many who know of the school's existence believe that unless you have served a minimum of four years in the ranks, a son is ineligible. This was so until recently when the rules of admission were altered to enable the sons of all serving and former officers of the Regular Army to be considered.

All candidates may be registered on attaining their 8th birthdays and must be registered before November 1 of the year preceding entry in the following September. Early registration is advisable.

There are no school fees but parents are normally required to make a Home Savings Contribution and a contribution towards the cost of clothing. These amount to approximately £400 per annum—a total charge that represents excellent value for money. The Army Boarding School Allowance cannot be claimed in respect of sons at the Duke of York's.

For a copy of the prospectus or to make an appointment to visit the school please contact:

The Headmaster,
The Duke of York's Royal Military School,
Dover, Kent CT15 5EQ.
(Tel: Dover 203012, ext 25)

THE SOCIETY FOR ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Information has been received that Brig B. W. Webb-Carter, DSO, OBE, retired from being Chairman of the Society at the AGM in October 1978 after holding that office, with much distinction for the last 17-18 years. He is succeeded as Chairman of the Society by Maj Gen J. D. Lunt, another ex-Duke, who members of the Regiment will recall was the author of our short history in the Famous Regiments series.

We are sure the Regiment would not wish this moment to pass without an expression of appreciation to Brig Webb-Carter for his interest, knowledge and application of that knowledge of all aspects of a military historical nature and particularly of course to our own Regiment. We thank him for all this, we are grateful for his wisdom and guidance over the years, and we wish him well.

We also congratulate Maj Gen Lunt on his selection as the next Chairman of the Society.

G.C.T.

NEW ANTI-TANK WEAPON FOR THE ARMY

A new Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW) is due to come into service with the British Army in the early 1980s. It will be a simple to use, cheap to produce, single shot 'throw away' weapon in which the launcher is discarded after firing. It has a light weight specification which will ensure the weapon can be carried by one man, in addition to his other equipment. As the short range member of the Army's anti-armour family of weapons it will complement the crew served Milan medium range weapon, which is now in service with many battalions.

Specifically designed for engagements against the whole range of tanks which will be on the battlefield throughout the 1980s, the Army is confident that it will be lethal against all known and potential targets. LAW is a great improvement on the American M72 (66mm) and the Carl Gustav (84mm) both of which will be replaced. It will be issued widely throughout the infantry and to other arms and services, including those in the rear areas.

Initially LAW was developed at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment. A contract for the full development of the weapon has been awarded to Hunting Engineering Limited with the project team composed of representatives from Royal Ordnance Factories, Rank Optics, and Ministry of Defence Research and Development Establishments. Widespread interest has already been shown by many NATO Armies to whom it has already been demonstrated and may well be adopted as their next generation weapon. When developed it will, as far as can be foreseen, be the only weapon in the world which will fully meet the requirements of our European allies' Armies and it has considerable world-wide export prospects.

The Regimental Museum

We receive enquiries from individuals all over the country asking for the address of our Museum and its actual location—and requesting that this information be published in THE IRON DUKE. Whilst gladly doing this we thought a little background information would not be amiss.

At the closure of the Regimental Depot in 1959 discussions were opened between the Trustees of the Museum and the Mayor and Corporation of the then Borough of Halifax over the latter's offer to transfer our Collection from Wellesley Barracks to the Halifax Museum at Bankfield, and for the Borough to look after it. This was agreed and the entire collection was transferred. A Deed was drawn up between the Trustees and the civic authorities whereby the latter accepted responsibility for our Collection's display, maintenance, safe keeping and insurance.

The Collection is housed at Bankfield Museum, Haley Hill, Halifax.

The Curator of our Collection is Mr R. A. Innes, FMA, FRGS, Director of Museum's Services, Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale, whose office is at Clay House, Greetland, Halifax HX4 8AN.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

At the request of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer of the 1s Bn has presented an example of the Ulster Statuette (see ID No 178, page 92) to the National Army Museum.

In his letter to the Colonel acknowledging the gift, the Deputy Director and Keeper of Records—Mr Boris Mollo says 'We are delighted to have this finely modelled figure for our collection and we are most grateful to you for arranging this gift'.

NEW EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

The Council of the National Army Museum has awarded Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd a contract worth more than half-a-million pounds to build the second phase of the new museum in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. The architects for the project are Carl Fisher & Partners of London, the quantity surveyors Gardiner & Theobald, the consulting engineers H. Bressloff & Associates.

The extension adjoins the building opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 1971 to give an additional 26,000 sq ft of exhibition and administrative accommodation. Permanent displays will continue the story of the British Army and the land forces of the Empire from 1914 until today. A large gallery will house temporary exhibitions, and reading room and educational facilities will be improved.

The cost of the building has been met entirely from private donations, enough having been raised by the museum Building Appeal Fund to complete the 'bricks and mortar' part of the project. Further sums are needed to equip the new wing, but it is hoped to open its permanent galleries in 1981.

SSAFA TO PRESENT A NEW TRI-SERVICE ALDERSHOT TATTOO FOR 1979

SSAFA are taking over the entire Aldershot Rushmoor Arena, lock, stock and barrel to present a new tri-service Tattoo. Although the next traditional Aldershot Army Display will not take place until 1980 the public will still be able to enjoy a spectacular service event on the last weekend of June 1979. The promise of full inter-service co-operation will ensure the very high standards of previous Army Displays will be maintained by this brand new SSAFA venture.

All proceeds from this event (to be known as the SSAFA Aldershot Tattoo) will go to SSAFA funds thus enabling us to continue our assistance to the families of Service and ex-Service men and women as we have done in 37,216 cases last year.

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 takes a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish.

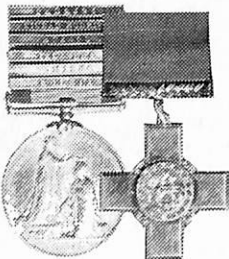
The Association has 42 branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with employers. It provides all services free. In 1978 the Association placed some 5,500 men and women from the Services in employment.

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

MESS JACKET

An Officer of the Regiment has a Mess Jacket suitable for the fuller figure, for sale price £25, also a No 1 Dress Hat (Field Officers). Any officer interested should contact RHQ.

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GOC'S COMMENDATION AWARDED TO CPL ROBERT INGRAM

Cpl Ingram of the MI Room received his Commendation from the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Timothy Creasey, KCB, OBE, on December 18, 1978, with the following citation for the award.

While on duty as company medical assistant in Londonderry on August 26, 1977, Cpl Ingram was called to the scene of a shooting incident during which Pte John received a severe head wound. Pte John was taken by ambulance to hospital under Cpl Ingram's supervision. While in the ambulance Pte John ceased to breathe and for many minutes Cpl Ingram carried out mouth to mouth resuscitation. At Belfast City Commission on June 28, 1978, Mr Justice Kelly commended in open court Cpl Ingram for his 'outstanding' work on August 26 and said that his actions saved the life of Pte John.

APPOINTMENTS

Lt Col J. R. P. Cumberlege is to be GSO1 Trg HQ North East District. Lt Col T. D. Lupton is taking up the appointment of CO Warminster Support Unit, School of Infantry.

Maj E. J. W. Walker has been appointed GSO2 Ops/Mans/Nato at HQ UKLF.

Maj A. R. Redwood-Davies, MBE, has been appointed DAAG Org/PS at HQ North East District.

Capt B. G. Buxton, MC, MBE

We congratulate Capt Barclay Godfrey Buxton, MC, of Crawley Ridge, Camberley, on the award of the MBE for his services to the Officers' Christian Union, the organisation which for the past 100 years has worked among Service officers, relating the Christian faith to their work.

Capt Buxton was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regt in the first month of the First World War, winning the Military Cross and Bar. In 1918 he was wounded four times in 12 hours. In the Second World War he devoted his efforts to the cause of the OCU and many officers of the Regiment will remember him in this connection.

MR R. A. (Victor) PRINCE

Mr R. A. (Victor) Prince retired from full time employment and the position of Storeman at Regimental HQ on reaching the statutory age limit on February 7, 1979. By that date he had given 48 years service as soldier and civilian to the Dukes. He enlisted on February 9, 1931, served in the 2nd Bn in India until 1939, then with the 1st Bn during the war. He left the army at the end of 1945 and was immediately employed in the old DCREs office at the Depot in Halifax, transferring to the Depot



'Victor' Prince

Photo Halifax Courier

Staff proper as Groundsman and later GD man in 1947. When the Depot closed and RHQ came into being in 1959 there was a Storeman on the establishment and Victor was the natural choice for the vacancy. He transferred therefore to RHQ as Storeman and has been with us ever since. During this period he also found time to serve as a Territorial soldier with the old 7th Bn (TA) later

the 5th/7th Bn (TA) and West Riding Bn DWR (TA), from 1947, finishing in 1962 in the rank of Sergeant. He was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1974.

Although a quiet self effacing man all of us at RHQ had reason to be grateful for his presence here. He was always willing to turn his hand to all sorts of tasks, many beyond the bounds of his official position. One of his specialities was his patient remembering, searching and locating documents and the like, sometimes difficult to pinpoint, in the Regimental Archives.

We shall miss him and we all wish him well in his retirement.

On February 7 at midday we held a small drinks party at RHQ for Victor and Mrs Prince, at which we were glad to have with us the previous Regimental Secretary and his wife, Maj J. H. Davis, with whom Victor had served and worked for so many years. We gave him his farewell gifts—an inscribed tankard and an electronic cigarette lighter plus a cheque—all from contributions received from his many friends who wished to be associated with a retirement gift. Afterwards Victor entertained the staff of RHQ to lunch at the Shibden Mill Inn.

MR T. WIDDOP

Mr Terence Widdop, who lives within walking distance of RHQ, has been engaged as Mr Prince's successor as Storeman at RHQ. Born and bred in Halifax, Mr Widdop served for three years in the RAF (he whispered this when he told us!), but his father and two uncles served in the Dukes—his two uncles serving in our 9th Bn (146 Regt RAC), at one time both in the same tank crew.

Mr Widdop himself, joined the TA in our West Riding Bn DWR (TA) at Prescott Street, Halifax, in 1964 and was in Maj Pat Haw's Company. He continued with the TAVR in the Yorkshire Volunteers when the old TA was reorganised and has continued serving ever since. He is currently a Cpl in 'C' Coy (DWR) 1 Yorks based at Prescott Street, Halifax. He was awarded the TAVR Efficiency Medal in 1978. We welcome him to our staff.

EXTRACTS FROM LONDON GAZETTE COMMANDS AND STAFF

Regular Army

Maj Gen D. E. Isles, CB, OBE, 304091 late DWR retires on retired pay October 2, 1978.

Regular Army

King's Division

Maj D. R. D. Newell (469425) DWR retires on retired pay September 30, 1978.

2 Lt (On Probation) S. J. N. Morgan (502752) DWR is confirmed as Second Lieutenant June 23, 1978, with seniority February 1, 1975, to be Lieutenant June 23, 1978, with seniority February 1, 1977.

Maj (Staff QM) W. Robins, MBE (477338) DWR to be Lieutenant Colonel (Staff QM) November 4, 1978. LG November 7, 1978.

Regular Army

Lt M. J. Stone (498694) to be Captain, February 1, 1979.

Regular Army

King's Division

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors December 31, 1978, with seniority June 30, 1978, A. D. Roberts, MBE (479979) DWR, J. M. Thorn (482854) DWR.

2 Lt (On Probation) (University Candidate) Simon John Neville Morgan (502752) DWR to be 2 Lt (on probation) June 23, 1978.

The undermentioned Lt to be Captain December 16, 1978: A. H. S. Drake (494411) DWR.

The undermentioned 2 Lt to be Lieutenant December 11, 1978: P. J. Harvey (503111) DWR.

2 Lt Timothy John Isles (487279) DWR from Short Service Commission to be Second Lieutenant September 24, 1972 with seniority April 25, 1969. To be Lieutenant September 24, 1972, with seniority April 25, 1971. To be Captain October 25, 1975. (Substituted for notification in L.G. dated May 23, 1972 and August 10, 1976.)

Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Short Service Commission

Lt P. M. Jenkins, DWR (500964) from Active List to be Lieutenant November 8, 1978.

TAVR

Group A

Maj T. D. Tetlow, TD (460428) 3 Yorks to be Bt Lieutenant Colonel December 1, 1978.

Regular Army

Guards Division

The undermentioned Maj to be Lieutenant Colonel December 31, 1978 with seniority June 30, 1978: D. B. W. Webb-Carter, MC (467644) Irish Guards.

Major G. C. Tedd

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Association of Cricket Umpires held at Lords in early March, Maj Graham Tedd had the honour of being elected a Life Vice-President of the Association, with a permanent seat on the Council of the Association.

ENGAGEMENT**Maj P. J. Mellor and Miss P. M. H. Carter**

The engagement is announced between Maj Peter James Mellor, the Duke of Wellington's Regt, son of Brig and Mrs J. F. M. Mellor, of Muckleburgh, Kelling, Holt, Norfolk, and Sasha, daughter of Sir Derrick and Lady Carter, of Withington House, Withington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

MARRIAGE

Mr and Mrs Kilburn leaving the church and into the snow

Mr G. A. Kilburn and Miss P. A. Shuttleworth

The marriage took place on January 20, 1979, at the Garrison Church, Strensall, of Lt George Andrew Kilburn, son of Mrs M. Kilburn and the late Mr J. Kilburn of Upper Hopton, Mirfield, and Penelope Ann, daughter of Brig and Mrs D. W. Shuttleworth of Fulford, York.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Brig and Mrs C. R. Huxtable, Flat 3, 40 Westbourne Terrace, London W2 (Tel 01-262 9980).

Maj & Mrs T. W. Hibbert, Rockwood, Staveley Road, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD13 4HD (Tel 0274 53374).

Maj and Mrs C. F. Grieve, Greenbanks, Sheet Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.

Mrs W. M. Watson, Cedar Lodge, The Close, Godalming, Surrey GO7 1PQ.

Lt Col and Mrs D. Booth, 33 Willow Road, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8DJ.

Mr J. S. Bailles, Staff, c/o HM Prison, Lewes, Sussex.

Maj and Mrs L. F. H. Kershaw, 188 Aldershot Road, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants GU13 0EW (Tel Fleet 20845).

Lt Col J. H. Dalrymple, OBE, c/o The Army and Navy Club, London SW1Y 5JN.

Book Review

ANZIO 1944. An unexpected fury. By Peter Verney. Batsford £8.50.

Thirty-five years ago, in late January 1944, the 1st Bn of the Regiment as part of 6th US Corps landed in the port of Anzio. Five months later, after suffering over 100 per cent casualties—including numerous reinforcements—the Battalion was selected to represent the British Army in the formal entry into Rome.

During these 35 years, those who survived the operation, have waited for an adequate account of it. Now, at last Peter Verney has provided this. Based on examination of the terrain, personal reminiscences and a mass of unpublished sources, including German, he has produced an admirably accurate and balanced account of that hard fought campaign.

The Anzio landing—Operation Shingle—purported to put two infantry divisions, one British and one American, plus some supporting armour well behind the German lines holding the Cassino position which had held up the 5th Army for months. It was hoped that the force would emerge from its beach head cut Routes 6 and 7, thus cutting the German lines of communication, and perhaps even capture Rome. Was it possible? In the opinion of this reviewer it was not. When it is considered that within 10 days of the initial landing we were opposed by elements of 10 German divisions and that a few weeks later the beach head force, by then reinforced by a third division and later a fourth, concentrated in a comparatively small area with its back to the sea was only just able to maintain itself. What chance would it have had spread over some 20 miles of country with a totally vulnerable line of communication? It would have been a massacre. Presumably the planners hoped that the mere threat to their men would cause a panic in the German high command. But the enemy reaction showed no sign of panic. Instead a rapid improvisation of a sealing off process until massive reinforcements were rushed to the scene.

What saved the VI Corps from annihilation was the personality of their Corps Commander, the US Gen Lucas. Had he been an ambitious or thrusting commander, he might have tried a dash on Rome or an immediate advance to the Alban

Hills. But Gen Lucas was not that type of officer.

The 1st Bn saw him once, the day before we embarked at Castellemare, near Naples. He was expected. His car drove into our billets, the quarter guard presented arms, the drummer blew a general salute, the RSM opened the door of his car. Scrambling out, Gen Lucas grasped the RSM by the hand exclaiming 'Morning Colonel, I hear you have a swell outfit here'. The scandalised RSM could only point mutely to the Commanding Officer who was standing a few yards away. The General then shambled up to the Colonel and repeated his previous remark with somewhat less conviction. We never saw him again. On arrival at Anzio, he dived with his staff into some old catacombs from which he seldom emerged.

As a result of the Corps Commander's caution no move out of the original restricted beach head occurred for three days and by then it was too late. We were swiftly contained and the long drawn out battle of attrition began.

Two other factors now saved the beach head. Firstly the remarkable efficacy of the artillery which built up an almost impregnable cover for the defence. A battalion commander in need could count on the fire of 100 guns on his front. Secondly the stubborn and devoted resistance of the infantry, both British and American.

Peter Verney brings out in his story all the aspects of the vicious campaign. He described vividly all the separate actions and gives full credit to the participants both Allied and German.

Finally he discusses the tragic anti climax of the beach head story. When finally in May when the 8th Army broke through the Cassino position and the greatly reinforced beach head force burst out of its position at last in strength to cut off the retreating Germans, that triumph was thrown away. Gen Mark Clark deflected the thrust north eastwards for the empty honour of being first into Rome and the Germans got away.

This is an admirable book and should be owned or at least read by everyone of the Regiment who has its history and traditions to heart.

BW.WC

One of us!

BY CAPT JOHN LAPPIN, MC

I am ashamed now to admit that when I joined the 7th Duke's, as a replacement Platoon Commander, in the hedgerows of the Normandy 'Bocage', just after they had won the battle honour of 'Fontenay-le-Pesnil', I was very ignorant of the identities of Yorkshire's famous regiments.

No doubt I was taught at school of the generalship of the famous Iron Duke, whose ancestral home, Stratfieldsaye, was less than 10 miles from my war-time family home. My companion in reinforcement, Bill 'Fuz' Fawcett, must have been chuckling up his battledress sleeve at my expense, when, after turning down invitations to join other famous regiments, we heard an appeal for two officers and six ORs, for The Duke of Wellington's . . . 'Come on, John, this will do for us!' he said. What he didn't tell me was that he was a Yorkshireman by birth!

We had both joined the local heavy Ack-Ack Regt RA, training with enthusiasm in gunnery, instrument control, and aircraft recognition, etc, and were mobilised 'before the balloon went up', ready for the mass air raids on London, which didn't materialise, as it happened! However, we got our chance to hit back, in the heavy Luftwaffe raids on southern England in that unforgettable summer of 1940.

By the winter of 1943-44, however, the RAF had 'got on top' to such an extent that the Ack-Ack defences were overmanned, while the impending Second Front demanded more able-bodied men as infantrymen. So those of us considered suitable were given the choice of Regiment, and we opted for our local unit, the Royal Berks, and after re-training at Dunbar, and on the Kent coast where we saw 'D' Day come and go, it was our turn to follow on 'D+20'.

Our crossing from Newhaven, on an LCT, was

an exciting new experience, and if I had a queasy feeling in my belly, it was because I'm not a particularly good sailor. Our last sight of the white cliffs of England, the company of a steady stream of craft speeding south towards the French coast, and our distant view of the swarms of protective balloons over the beachhead, all added to the atmosphere of general excitement. As we came nearer to land we were surprised how similar it all looked to the stretch of English coast where we had done most of our training, and I wondered how I would measure up to the standards of a frontline infantry unit.

So far it was just like a big exercise, but what lay ahead?

All around us we saw the debris of the fierce battles of the first few hectic days of the invasion—burned-out tanks, wrecked guns, strongpoints and transport.

We made our way through the rear areas, past ammunition and supply dumps, towards the sound of our own artillery, coming up on batteries of heavies and mediums firing on distant targets, familiar enough to ex-gunners, and the inspiring sight of massed formations of Allied bombers heading for their targets in the big attack on Caen area going on to our left.

Finally we took to our feet as we came into the forward area and soon we were shown into the 7th Duke's command post, where we were welcomed by the CO, Lt Col 'Felix' Wilsey, and the Adjt, Capt Leslie Denton. We were given a brief picture of the situation on the 'Duke's' front, and then separated, 'Fuz' going to 'C' Coy, on the left, while I was guided right to 'D' Coy, along the now all-too-familiar solid earth and stone Norman hedge. At Coy HQ I was greeted by the reassuring figure of Maj Barry Kavanagh, my OC for the next few



Officers of 'D' Coy 7 DWR
Left to right: 2 Lt Horne,
The Author, Maj Kavanagh,
Lt Evans

eventual months. He filled me in with the Company picture—we were the right flank forward Company, and after a tough battle for Fontenay the Battalion was in reserve to the 4th Lincolns of 146 Bde. So apart from intermittent enemy mortaring and shelling and nightly patrolling life was fairly peaceful!

Barry immediately transmitted a feeling of confidence to me. I felt I was surrounded by people who knew their job, whose morale was good, and who were going about a difficult job in a thoroughly professional way. I met 'Charlie' Hill, the 2IC and our CSM and was told I would take over 16 Platoon, whose commander, Lt Alexander, had been put out of action when he carried out an attack on an enemy weapon position not realising it was a Tiger tank 'hull-down', until it opened up on his small force with its 88mm! (I made a mental note here to try to be more careful).

I next met my good friend, CQMS Walter Horne, 17 Platoon Cdr, now Lt W. Horne, MC, and his Platoon Sgt Bill Tandy, before returning to my new command. After being briefed on the Platoon situation by Sgt Bill Middleton, I was next to meet the other Walt, Lsgt Downs, one of my leading section commanders, and a great character, who has since become a good friend, and my main link with the old crowd. Having spent my early boyhood in the West Riding, I knew I was going to settle down well with the 'Dukes', and I was soon initiated into the operational routine of taking cover, digging and strengthening our defences against the continual shelling and mortaring, and the 'dawn and dusk' stand-to's, while a big enemy counter-attack raged on our left flank, where the 21st Panzer were reacting fiercely to our attempt to gain the high ground around Rauray, the 'hinge' of the salient.

What amazed me was the way my new comrades had accepted me—I was determined not to let them down! However, my growing self-confidence was badly shaken following a snap inspection by the CO. My Platoon position, of which I was so proud, was severely criticised, not giving nearly enough protection from enemy fire—result, more furious digging and sand-bagging, until I was sure everyone was safe from anything short of a very heavy direct hit. Well, one can never be really sure! The following day Barry was going round checking on our general state when we were caught above ground by a sudden 'stonk', and dived for cover. My first Platoon casualty, little Ernie Gibson, the Platoon runner, was caught in a direct hit and died before we could get medical aid to him. This made me extra digging-conscious. The Padre, Stephen Chase, was very quickly on the scene, as he always was when the lads needed him, and we became firm friends from there on.

That night was my first patrol duty—a simple affair as it turned out, but good training for all the work ahead. My small recon patrol had to cover a gap between ourselves and the Hallams between 2000 hrs and 0800 hrs.

Our route lay along a typical Normandy lane, half blocked with fallen trees, wrecked guns and AFV's, along which we struggled to move silently down to the remains of a bridge over the stream which was our Battalion boundary. After our tour of relative quiet in reserve, we moved forward

to relieve the Lincolns on high ground at Tessel-Bretteville overlooking more 'Bocage' country, a few miles short of the key position of Villers-Bocage. We took over well-sited and well made defences around the village and awaited developments. This was a different experience to our previous reserve position. Disadvantage—nightly offensive patrolling, and constant watch for signs of counter-attack. Advantage—most of the enemy's fire seemed to sail overhead and land somewhere behind us! However, as the farmhouse immediately behind was the most prominent position the gunners used it as an OP, and every so often the enemy got its range and dropped a salvo on and around it with warning.

I had just settled down to the new routine when I was ordered to take out a recon patrol to trace a missing standing patrol. The key position ahead of our line was the extensive farm and outbuildings at Bretteville and we kept a permanent standing patrol there which apparently could not be located by its latest relief. I set off, guided by the would-be relief over the now familiar hazards of fallen trees, wrecked vehicles for 300–400 yds into the eerie atmosphere of the seemingly deserted farm. We explored cautiously from building to building and after what seemed an age our muffled challenges were answered and out crept the missing patrol, who had thought we were an enemy patrol and whose trigger fingers must have been very itchy. I was made very conscious of the hazards of night patrolling and the problems of identification that night but—'all's well . . .'

No doubt as a result of my success in finding the lost patrol, the following night I was chosen to lead a standing-cum-fighting patrol from the farm, to probe the neighbouring farm some 200–300 yds ahead for an indication of the enemy's strength there, and if possible to take a prisoner. We set off down the now familiar track to our patrol base, with Sgt Hall, Cpl Davidson, Cpl Simpson, Sigmn Gentle as our RT link, and a strong party of the lads. Having set up base, the Corporal and two good lads began their recon. The wait for their return was painfully long but they eventually returned to report activity on the objective of at least section strength. A quick briefing on the patrol plan and we set off back as a fighting patrol of 10, including Cpl Simpson as our guide. The farm was approached under cover off tall standing corn, which took us to within 20–30 yds of the belt of trees and scrub which screened the outbuildings, but as soon as we broke cover we came under heavy mortar and small arms fire, and we were forced to drop flat and crawl back into the screen of the corn, where I decided to withdraw to base as we were badly unnerved by such a fierce reception, and made a slow and painful return to report.

I was informed that higher authority still demanded a prisoner so there seemed to be nothing else for it but to have another go! Meanwhile the short summer night was coming to an end, and it was daylight before we approached the farm cautiously again, but this time there was no opposition, and we walked openly through the scrub and trees into the uncanny scene of an obviously defensive position but with no signs of the occupants. As we

crept cautiously around it became obvious that the poor devils had finished their dawn stand-to and were relaxing their guard, never expecting a return visit, and even the sentries had fallen asleep. We attempted to wake one sleeper and persuade him quietly to give himself up and become our prisoner, but he wouldn't cooperate, and soon the whole position was coming to life, and as things were becoming too hot for us we disposed of our remaining grenades and ammunition among the bewildered enemy, and withdrew again.

Back in the comparative safety of our farmhouse base I reported progress to Barry at Coy HQ. It seemed that Intelligence were still demanding a prisoner, and would we have another go if we got maximum support from Battalion 3 in mortars and Division artillery? We weren't too keen at that, but agreed to have a shot at it. I would have to act as FOO but as an ex-gunner I felt I ought to have a go.

It took the best part of the next hour ranging in the fire support in a makeshift drill, which entailed an observer across the farmyard, a runner to carry directions across the open yard which was now exposed to sniper fire, and the WT link to HQ. Eventually we got it all buttoned-up, and the assault party crept through the corn ready for another go. Just out of cussedness it started to rain steadily and we got really wet. The guns and mortars cracked off in good time, and we crept forward as near as we dare. Right on the dot the lads rushed the enemy post but this time they were ready and waiting for us, despite being very jittery and we were able to wound several of them before withdrawing again. *(to be continued)*

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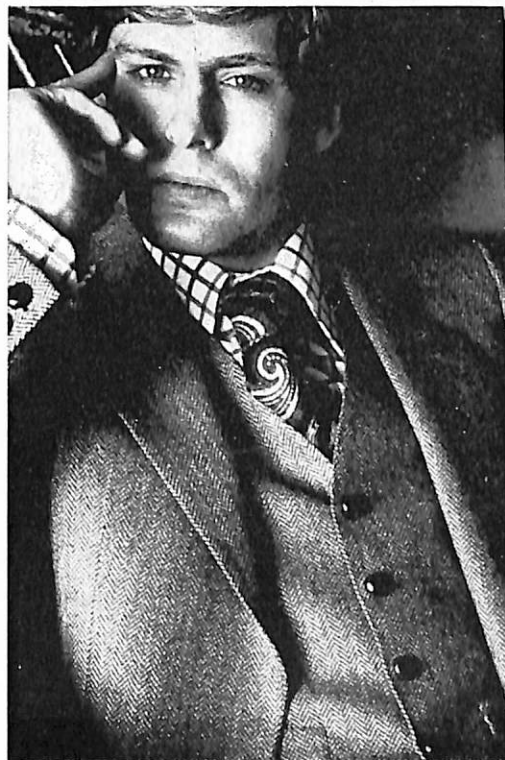
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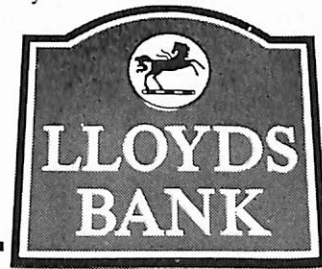
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1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

This time last year I explained in this introduction how we had just carried out the Defence Review reorganisation, abolishing Somme Coy and creating Dettingen Coy in the process. Now I have to tell you that we have gone back to the original arrangement, and in case you are reading this on the 1st I must assure you that I am not joking. Nor is this *volte face* quite the Grand Old Duke of York it appears to be. When, a few years ago, the Defence Review planners were considering how to reduce the size of the Infantry they had to decide whether to reduce the number of battalions in the Army or reduce the number of men in battalions. In the belief that better times would come again and that restoring disbanded battalions is a much more difficult exercise than increasing each battalion's establishment, they settled for reductions in each battalion. In carrying out this reduction in our numbers we were also required, mostly by giving men two jobs ('double hatting' so called), to form a fourth rifle company in accord with the Review's policy of cutting the tail but increasing the teeth. Although this created considerable difficulties we made it work in 1978 largely because we were over strength. But looking ahead last December into 1979 it was clear that we would not be able to make both ends meet. Our establishment has improved and we will form a Milan Platoon 60 strong in summer 1979, but there has not been a comparable improvement in our strength which is likely to be 75 men less than in 1978. The recruiting organisation, itself maimed by the Defence Review, has not been able to meet the new targets and it was clear that we would be unable to produce four rifle companies with sections and platoons of a reasonable strength. We have therefore been allowed to reduce to three and reform Somme as support and training company. This move gives us three rifle companies of reasonable strength, a more manageable headquarter company, and a company headquarters to supervise our support training and our unit cadres. It will in every respect make a much happier arrangement, and is a step towards the better days wisely anticipated by the Defence Review planners.

The year 1977 having been largely taken up by a tour in Ulster and 1978 by training in Canada, the first two thirds of 1979 is devoted to low level training. We have a welcome opportunity to place the emphasis on basic infantry skills and give the platoon commanders and NCOs a good run for their money. We have just finished a very demanding inter-platoon patrol exercise of four days in the toughest weather conditions I have ever met; and very well our men did too. Next, we have our annual small arms camp, followed by two weeks of platoon training at Vogelsang which culminates in our annual inspection by the GOC in the form of an inter-platoon competition. Platoons then

go adventure training for 10 days before we round off our BAOR training at Soltau in July and turn our attention once more to Ulster. All in all this is a very good programme designed to satisfy the professional ambitions of the junior commanders, something we don't often manage to do.

Less satisfactory is the current sporting scene, frozen almost out of existence for the last three months. We produced a very highly motivated and happy ski team which has retained our position as the premier infantry skiing regiment, the boxing has just got under way with a very exciting win in the first round, and we are entering the hang-gliding scene. Sadly promising soccer and rigger sides are not able to play at all and this leaves a big hole in Battalion life.

In all other respects life goes well and not least amongst the good news is the arrival of the Clansman radio sets, about 350 for the Battalion and every platoon has 14. Even a dismounted section has two small sets so if recruiting doesn't look up we will soon have one each, bringing dangerously close the day when every man can be remotely controlled by someone totally out of touch with what's going on.

OFFICERS MESS

THE IRON DUKE is upon us again and the Sub-Editor has been growling at me for the last week about notes for the magazine. The Mess started quietly with an Autumn Ball on October 13. It was a joint affair with the Cheshires and carried on until the early hours. Everybody enjoyed it and would have said so if it wasn't for their preoccupation with hangovers. On November 16 we dined out Brig Lane (Commander Task Force Golf) and the paymaster Ewan Simmonds alias 'Gloomy Doom'. The paymaster was presented with a silver ashtray and golden boot.

During this period we had attached to the Battalion two colonial officers, Capt Mark Howell from New Zealand and 2 Lt Scot Perkins from Australia. They settled in well and made a colourful addition to the Mess. Before they left we had a farewell party in what could only be described as fancy dress. It was announced as 'Queensland Dinner Suit' which I am told consists of string vest, shorts, and flip flops which goes very well with a bow tie.

On November 24 we entertained the Colonel of the Regiment, General Isles, and on December 9 we almost finished the years entertainment with the Ladies Guest Night.

There was one further bit of entertainment which deserves a paragraph in itself. Every Christmas the Officers Mess play the Sergeants Mess at football (or an excuse for football). The Sergeants

Mess are then invited to the Officers Mess for lunch, drinks and the presentation, of the Rupert Award: The football match as usual developed into a free for all and nobody can remember the final score. The presentation of the Rupert Award had a slightly different twist to it this year. Until now the incident has always been one sided but this year we devised our own scheme in retaliation.

Unfortunately at the last minute, David Harrap who was handing out the presents had his Father Christmas suit stolen (we think it was sabotage). Eventually we did hand out all the prizes and everybody enjoyed the proceedings. I should however warn Capt Sherlock and Capt Sinclair to tread carefully through the year because the Sergeants Mess will retaliate.

Finally the Dukes and Cheshires had a New Years Eve Ball which was an away fixture.

Congratulations to George Kilburn and Penny Shuttleworth on their marriage, George can now join the ranks of the PADs. We say goodbye to Johnny and Susie Walker who have gone back to England, Chris and Angie Gilbert who are now 'Bronzing in Cyprus', and Chris and Mitch Fitzgerald who are at York. Welcome to Peter and Pauline Gardner, Tim and Sheena Nicholson, Charlie and Gay Grieve, Charles and Veronica Bunbury not forgetting Wes Higginson the new paymaster and his wife Pat. We hope you all have an interesting and enjoyable tour in Minden.

After the last tour in Northern Ireland, the fifth, Gen Sir Robert Bray kindly offered to present the 1st Bn with a piece of silver to commemorate service in the province. After much deliberation on the pose which the statuette should strike and the equipment which should be carried, it was agreed that a Dukes soldier with flak jacket, federal riot gun and pocketphone should be used as the model. A photograph of the resulting statuette appeared in the last issue, and the original now stands proudly in the Mess anteroom, a fine tribute and a fine gift for the Mess to accept.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

Since the Post Canada Ball the Mess has had a recovery period though we have not been dormant.

The social whirl started with a Wives Dinner, during the excellent evening the Mess presented our outgoing SQMS Norman Bryson with a set of silver goblets on a silver salver and a magnificent bouquet of flowers to Irene his wife. Norman thoroughly deserved his reward for all the work he has put in during his four years with us. Norman realised his childhood dream when he conducted the Regimental Band in his Corps march.

It seemed a very short time before our Christmas Draw, which this year was held in the Zur Gille under the eagle eye of John Toplis. A very welcome guest was Ssgt Terry Garrity a Duke of many years



DUKE'S IN RHEINDAHLEN

Ssgt Terry Garrity was awarded a bar to his LS & GC Medal in October 1978.

He declined to have it presented by one of the many Generals in Rheindahlen and wanted to keep it in the family. Hence Lt Col W. R. Mundell presented it to him in the Commander in Chief's office.

Ssgt Garrity enlisted in the Green Howards in 1942 and joined the Dukes in 1951 and served without a break in the 1st Bn from then to 1966, mainly with the MT. He will be remembered as an outstanding basketball player.

He is now on the Long Service List and is working in the QM's Department in HQ Rheindahlen Garrison.

standing and his wife. Terry enjoyed the evening and rounded it off by winning one of the big prizes, Terry is also the proud possessor of the LS & GC and bar, a fact that our well known non recipients found hard to take. The draw resulted in a fair allocation of prizes to the Officers, our guests for the evening and the Mess, though the Officers nearly came out on top when the Commanding Officer won his travelling bag. Our thanks to John Toplis, Norman Bryson, their merry men and everyone else who contributed to a memorable evening.

With the Christmas leave looming up, our annual Officers v Sergeants footer match took place. This year we tried a different format to make the game more enjoyable. We fielded two teams, one in correct gear and one in scruff order plus a full riot squad complete with NI riot gear. After a few livers in the Mess we formed up in front of the Regimental Band with the proper team leading, their gear under an odd assortment of clothing, to the sound of an out of time band we marched away to the sports field.

Cpl Cooper finally got the match away with the scruffs defending valiantly against some strong attacks from the Officers. Just as the Mess were holding their own, there was a blowing of whistles and on came the riot squad. Cpl Cooper was whisked away leaving the RSM in command and a rattly fellow he looked in his black and white (referees kit). No sooner had the game got under way again than on came Charlie Oscar in full cooks whites complete with hot dogs and punch, which he proceeded to dole out with gay abandon. On the appearance of the proper Mess team the opposition resorted to that oval ball game finishing up on the rugger pitch, where a free running? and hilarious game fully enjoyed by players, actors and spectators alike.

After the game had ended and the participants had cleaned up the whole Mess moved en bloc to the Officers Mess. Drinks (cold) were dished out in grand style (what went wrong?). TC and his team gave a sparkling performance on the Rupert Award which this year went to Capt Harrap for his great performance as the colour blind man in that fabulous feature called Keen Wind, also he was awarded a 'Gremmie' in the form of a colour chart to help distinguish the different stages.

Leave soon came and with the Mess taking it at different times not much happened, however, we did manage to hold a New Years Dance. This was well attended and we were entertained by a group called 'Trilly' their somewhat ribald humour went a long way to making sure that the New Year was well and truly launched.

We have had quite a few Mess members leaving for different reasons:

Dave Skipworth—Graham Nellist have left for new pastures, we wish them well in their new work.

John Toplis, Ossie Theodore, Suggie Sugden, have already gone on posting to England.

From the LAD we say farewell to Lionel Gran-court, Les Fynn, Bas Elliott.

New members joining are Ray Saxby and also our new SQMS Dave Ash, we hope you and your wives enjoy your stay with us. Congratulations are

in order to Vinnie Page and Paul Gray, Ray Exley, Bill Staniland on their promotion, also Bill Parrot on his award of the LS & GC so becoming one of the few.

From BMH news we have heard that our Mr Perfect (to borrow a phrase) has been left in isolation in BMH Rinteln while doctors find out why he was the only one on Snow Boot to catch that rare disease called Hoggyfozzyfoot; we hope they find out quick as we miss his patter.

There was a nostalgic evening when the Blues Syndicate gave their last performance in their present form. They have given us vast enjoyment over the years, but have decided that enough is enough. Maybe they will rise again in another format, we wish them well in what ever they do.

Finally our thanks to various committees for all the hard work they have put in to make this quarter a fully enjoyable one.

ALMA COMPANY

With the exception of Christmas leave the last months have been taken up with training for our conventional task in BAOR. The highlight of the period was a two-week exercise 'Full House' which took place near the East German border. The exercise itself was fast moving with Alma Coy taking their role with the Blues and Royals Battle Group. This was the third time we had worked with the Blues and Royals on a large exercise and we seem to have a good relationship. The exercise was enjoyed by all and certainly beats anything that can be achieved wallowing in the mud at Saltau. Other training has included various weapon cadres, potential NCO cadres, Signal cadres and even a compulsory day's rugby training for the whole Battalion. Indeed on the sports field Alma can boast several representatives in the rugby, football, skiing, and boxing squads, we have people actively involved in canoeing, sub-aqua, judo, hang gliding, and fishing to name but a few.

We are presently top of the inter-Coy football league and hope to repeat that standard in the other competitions when they start. Once again personalities have changed and we have said farewell to Maj Andrews, CSM Wilkinson, Sgts Hogg, Sugden, Hall, and not least 'Blue Boy' Scott Perkins from the Australian Army. In their place we welcome Maj Gardner, 2 Lt Borwell, CSM Grey, D/M Wilkinson and the entire Drums Platoon. The schedule for the next four months looks as hectic as normal with a patrolling exercise in the Harz mountains, the skill at arms camp and the ARV to be held at Vogelsang.

BURMA COMPANY

People come and people go, and a few remain. Those who stay or go think of what has been, as the notes below tend to prove. Those who come, look to the future and hope to find whatever it is that makes them content with life. The next year should have something for everybody; we will patrol in snowy forests for nights on end, shoot our weapons and test our skill at arms, re-examine our dismounted infantry tactics and wheel and deal in

the iron monsters that were made when some of those that drive them were six years old. And then we will change gear and direction, to find out whether Santa Claus still visits Belfast. Before we have fully accepted this new year of 1979 it will be 1980, despite it being 11 months and some 22 Battalion forecasts of events into the future. No matter, soldiering is our profession, and the more we have to do, the more it proves how much we are needed. Thus: Gratitude to those who have gone, confidence in those who remain, good luck to those who have and will come. The Duke's, and Burma Coy, march on.

Welcome

To all those, too numerous to mention individually who have joined Burma Coy since our last notes.

Congratulations to:

Lcpl Dave Oxley—JNCOs cadre Grade A.
 Lcpl Jimmy Ellis—JNCOs cadre Grade B.
 Pte Chris Irving—JNCOs cadre Grade B.
 Cpl and Mrs Ennis—birth of twins, Richard and Joanne.

Lcpl and Mrs Oxley (again)—birth of a son.
 Pte and Mrs Kerrigan—recently married.
 Pte and Mrs Lofthouse—recently married.
 Pte and Mrs Holden—recently married.
 Pte and Mrs Goodwin—recently married.

Anyone who blinked twice during 1978 might well have missed it! It was like 1977, a very fast moving year in which many objectives were achieved.

The post-Canada period was dominated by the Div Ex Full House. As in Spearpoint we were given more licence to soldier in and around villages and towns. It made a pleasant change from moving to our FUP at Strip Wood, Soltau, for the 23rd time! The soldiers especially enjoyed this type of operation, even though it was very fast moving at times.

In the main we have concentrated on low level winter curricula such as upgrading, cadres, courses and dispatched many members of the company to both battalion skiing teams and Snow Queen. We trained hard in the period preceeding the Task Force March and Shoot competition in which the company performed well over the 8.6 miles. OC B proved conclusively that you don't have to be 21 to do well, he led his Section in the fastest time in the TF. (Beware all those who plead too old and bold!)

We came runners-up to 'A' Coy in the novices Boxing Competition, we witnessed fights of great courage and determination. Well done to Ptes Corey, Goodwin, Mitchell, Hanley and Carter. Pte Corey alias 'The Hulk' won the man of the match award for demolishing his opponent in the heavy-weight bout within 45 seconds!

The ship has now changed hands and we say a fond farewell to Maj Johnny and Sue Walker. 2A will seem funny to the old sweats not having those familiar yellow boxes of KE's around! Good luck to you both.

We have also seen numerous other Company characters move on. Capt Mark Howell RNZIR

returned to NZ after four enjoyable months (we hope!) his rugby prowess and fancy dress get ups have left memories! 2 Lt Tim Coburn has left to join the Depot. Good luck Tim we look forward to your return. Sgts Sugden and Holmes have moved on to pastures nearer home. Sgt Arundel and Cpl SAS Tooley have joined the Training Wing. Good luck to Cpl 'Dog' Morton at the depot, and also Pte 'Gigs' Cox at APRE Farnborough. We wish the best to Ptes Powell, Palmer and Fairburn who have decided to join the Civvy Club!

Maj Tim Nicholson has taken the helm and we wish him a warm welcome to Burma. We also welcome Capt Charlie Grieve as 2IC and 2 Lt Martin Drake back from Ex Long Look (oops who said holiday!).

CORUNNA COMPANY

Ex Full House in October saw a complete reshuffle of the Company. With Maj Palmer being upgraded at Warminster, Capt Sinclair assumed command with Lt Stark as the new 2IC. Sgt Cuss commanded 7 Platoon, Sgt Wood 8 Platoon and 2 Lt Kilburn 9 Platoon. The exercise was arduous but extremely beneficial as we practised our defence of West Germany. The highlight of the exercise was the last 48 hours which were played out in an extremely realistic setting. Cpl Smith's Section earned extremely high praise from the Task Force Brigadier and the Company emerged (quite contrary to expectation) in excellent order. We couldn't compete with road-blowing, but we do have a specialist platoon now—the bino recovery team of 9 Platoon.



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The OC returned in November and promptly spent the first two weeks dealing with Hook Coy problems (his previous command). The Company took its turn at Site Guard and Mr Kilburn found out just how difficult private soldiers in the US Army can be! Site Guard is a thankless job but everyone worked well and the boys produced the fastest turn out time of the year.

GPMG (SF) and Assault Pioneer cadres took away numerous soldiers and vehicle maintenance occupied the rest of the time. The Task Force March and Shoot competition came and went and apart from some sore feet so did the participants. In the Inter-Company boxing we came third but Ptes Wagstaffe and Birch gave us two resounding wins, and Ptes Grogan and Fieldhouse were runners-up.

Three weeks leave at Christmas came just at the right time! We left Minden in a foot of snow and when we returned in early January we found two feet of snow. And it hasn't changed since. We have now had 10 weeks of Arctic conditions and the weather forecast isn't too good. The first few weeks of the new year were spent in preparation for Ex Snow Boot, a platoon patrolling exercise in the Solling Forest. It was a period of intense instruction on patrol techniques and routine as well as a mini-survival course. We carried out a practice night out on Minden South Training Area and only then did we fully realise what it meant to live and patrol in over a foot of snow. Sleeping's not much fun in snow either.

Ex Snow Boot lasted three nights and four days and although extremely demanding and very,

very cold, it was most valuable and instructive. 9 Platoon wiped out the casevac Spartan and OC 7 Platoon lost DM45 in mysterious circumstances. All four platoons (the Anti-Tank Platoon joined us for the exercise) performed very well in cold, unpleasant conditions.

Throughout this period Ex Snow Queen in Bavaria has been teaching soldiers from the Battalion to ski and while we had much snow, no skis and ideal skiing conditions on Ex Snow Boot, the Snow Queeners had no snow, plenty of skis and grassy slopes!

There has been too much activity in the comings and goings department to record them all here. But hello and welcome to those who have arrived and farewell and thanks to those who have gone. Congratulations to Pte and Mrs Walker on their recent marriage and to the Elwells, Fittons, Gales, Carters, and Duftons on all producing baby girls! What now the rugby Company.

DETTINGEN COMPANY

Dettingen Coy have been without a 2IC since June/July of 1978 and so when I arrived from my tour at the Depot as a recruit Platoon Commander to become the new 2IC I began to wonder how they ever managed to exist. The number of jobs that were thrust at me with the words 'really a 2ICs job' I thought were rather many. But once I had caught up with the pace of this crazy country I soon found out that I was no worse off than any other person.

Ex Full House hit us in October with a bang for which we can thank 2 Lt Nick Borwell but more of that later. The exercise over two weeks was split into two halves. The first week was spent training as a battle group and the second week was at Task Force level. 'D' Coy was only performing with two platoons, the Drums plus 11 Platoon plus 1 Section from 12 Platoon. The other Section of 12 Platoon mainly our pioneers were seconded, under Sgt Blackburn, to become Damage Control. We acquitted ourselves well, judging by all the favourable comments we received both from within the Battalion and significantly from outside.

The soldiers enjoyed the exercise as it was always moving and they never had time to change their minds except those that spent nearly a total of 20 hours digging in and then digging out the OCs personnel air raid shelter (at least he had a nice night). Before we leave Ex Full House we must return to 2Lt Nick Borwell's imitation of Blaster Bates, the explosives expert. He received orders to put an obstacle on a new road. This is normally done either by white tape across or with some fallen trees but having approx 17lb of PE left in his pioneer section he did a marvellous job and sure enough the enemy recce vehicles could not pass—nor could anything else. We have now sent 2 Lt Borwell to Warminster to teach his technique to the other members of his Platoon Commanders Battle Course.

Since Full House we have had a very busy time, as is always the case, trying to catch up on lost training. We were granted two weeks in the form of Ex Fresh Breeze to up grade as many soldiers as possible and after a lot of false starts and hiccups

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we achieved good results in both up grading to 2-1. Cpl Bell and Cpl Ingram came over from Hook to help with NBC and First Aid respectively for which we were very grateful.

Sport has always been high on the list of tasks and we had the boxing championships in December. Although we did not win overall we had nevertheless an individual winner in Pte Barker, a losing finalist in Lcpl Doyle and the best loser in the whole Competition in Pte Evans 60-well done you three. However, sport is not all about winners and losers its about taking part and all those that entered the ring in a 'D' Coy yellow vest deserve congratulations especially Pte Edge who put up an excellent fight despite still not having recovered from a serious leg injury. None of our boxers was disgraced and I should know because I was in there.

On the football field the Drums have done very well and have now reached the last eight of the Inter-Platoon Knockout.

As Christmas approached the Battalion went on leave, one half at a time, leaving 'A' and 'D' Coys behind. During this period we had a childrens Boxing Day party with a real 'Sgt Laws' type Father Christmas but the *pièce de resistance* was the 'D' Coy Christmas dinner held in the cookhouse. This was for all 'D' Coy and attached people, wives and girl friends. The whole evening was a great success with us dining formally with regimental silver and candles on the tables and the Colours forming the backdrop. The Band was playing, the meal excellent and everybody was really smartly turned out. People were even buying new suits for the night. I hate to think how many ties were donated by the OC and CSM. After the meal there was a raffle in which some excellent prizes were given away and we finished with a disco in the Coy Club.

Having mentioned the Coy Club thanks must go to Lcpl Woods who is now running it and also producing a good 'bill of fare' to combat everyone going out for 'Bratty and chips'.

The Company went on leave on January 8 and returned on the 30th of the same month. This leave had been worked for and well earned and I am sure everyone enjoyed the rest.

During this leave and before it Ex Snow Queen has been in operation and some members of the Company have taken advantage of the moment our adventure specialist Cpl Cockshott is away skiing but he has been very busy. He has been keeping up and building up the following of hang gliding and also during most weekends has taken 12 of the lads canoeing with Pte Sutcliffe assisting. He is a very busy man and without him adventure training in this Battalion would hardly be off the ground. No pun intended.

So another period comes to a close. There are many people in the Company and its not possible to mention all, suffice to say, it needs everybody to make the Company what it is and the lads in 'D' make a great Company. The OC went on a winning spree starting in November with a trip to New York for himself and his wife but thats another story.

Congratulations are due to Cpl Thomson and

Lcpl Edwards on their recent additions to their families and to Lcpl Casey and Cpl Roast on their promotions. We also welcome Sgt Cooper and Cpls Porter and Williams into the Company.

FUNERAL OF DETTINGEN COMPANY

Dettingen Coy was laid to rest on February 7, 1979. After due ceremony a coffin, carrying the Company sign, was slow marched around the barracks to the pioneer shop. On arrival a few words were spoken over the coffin to the assembled family members. I quote all the words as I feel it sums up the short life of the late Dettingen Coy.

'We are gathered here today to witness the laying up of our dear friend Dettingen Coy. It is always sad to see such a young and healthy body struck down in the prime of life when there are so many old and feeble bodies left around. But the Army Board Giveth and the Corps Commander taketh away'.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the lord. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Next time we shall have to convert a few more into believing. Ashes to Ashes: Dust to Dust. The name is dead but the spirit lives for evermore.

A volley of three rounds was fired by the four escorts to the coffin. The Company was marched back in quick time to be scattered to the four Companies.

HOOK COMPANY HQ

Hook Coy Headquarters notes, due to many recent changes will be kept to a brief hello and goodbye column, as yet another restructuring period runs through the Battalion.

So to begin at the top we say hello to Maj Bunbury, who after only a brief stay with Hook Coy has opted for a quieter life as Battalion 21C. All of Hook Coy wish him the best of luck.

Now pulling his hair out over the duties book is CSM Geoff Cookson, weathering a storm of 'I can't do guards sir, I'm a driver' and other such sentiments, while playing naughts and crosses on the ration roll.

Just back from a round the world trip and thrown in at the deep end as 21C of Hook Coy is Capt Colville—you can read more of his exploits in far off corners of the world later on . . . the best parts of his adventures are sadly not printed.

Fond farewells are said to:

Maj Palmer who has now taken over as Corunna Coy Commander, and CSM John Toplis who has left the Battalion to take over as CSM of the Training Coy at Depot The Kings Div.

At the time of writing Ssgt Dave Dickens is in the process of handing over Hook Coy accommodation Stores to Ssgt 'Duke' Lawrence, we wish them both the best of luck.

Finally congratulations are in order for Cpl Ken Greenwood and his wife Julie on the birth of their second daughter Heather.

To find out what the rest of Hook Coy has been up to since the last IRON DUKE was published read on . . .

MORTAR PLATOON

Taking delivery of brand new military vehicles may be not quite like collecting the latest production car with all its chrome accessories, wide tyres and built in stereo but it comes a long way in these days when our masters have their hands very much in their pockets. The Army hasn't seen a new tracked vehicle enter service since the AFV432 took to the road some years ago. It has seen so much road in those past years that we now spend most of our time trying to repair the repairs. With any luck the problems and frustrations of the 432 era will have been removed with the introduction of the new Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance series, Sultan and Spartan are the familiar names the vehicles have been christened with, but their design is far removed from any ancient association. They're so new that the makers haven't yet got around to publishing an all important handbook. It's therefore a case of pressing a button and seeing from which gadget the Toast pops up.

For the drivers of the Platoon the new vehicles have presented an interesting new challenge. Thanks to the helpful expertise of the 16/5 L at Wolfenbuttel six of the platoon have managed to master the skills of gaining the most out of the Jaguar engine, with only one or two exceptions they have also managed to stay on the right side of the law! Surprisingly the few exceptions haven't been as a result of speeding but more a consequence of tanking up with the wrong sort of fuel! For the remainder of the platoon it's unfortunately a case

of driving on with the old 432 (Mortar). Your day will come 'Lads' at least you have the satisfying consolation that no new vehicle or piece of equipment could take away the all important task you perform on the Mortar line. Without the Mortarman where would we all be.

ANTI TANK PLATOON

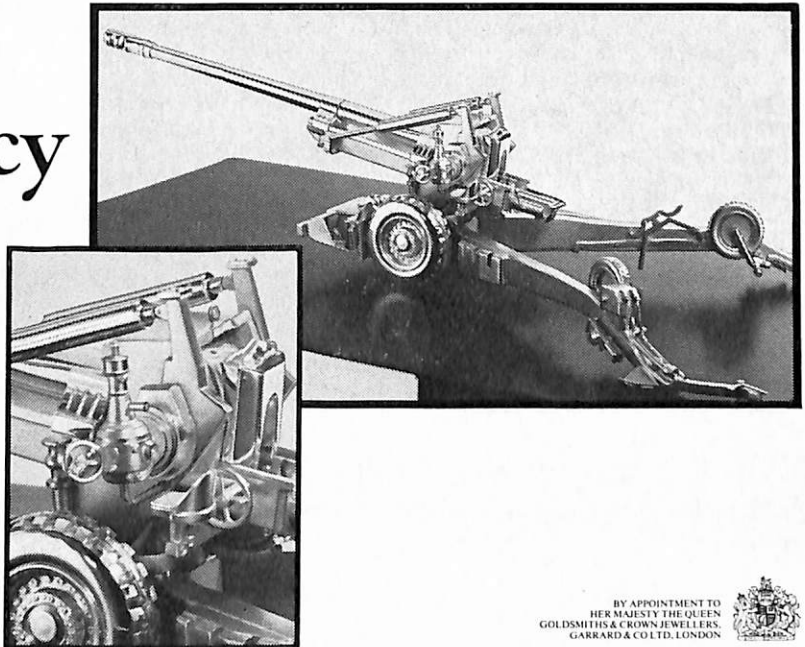
In the few short months from July to September the Platoon was weakened by discharges. The result was the usual recruiting drive for replacements. The rifle Companies were as helpful as ever and after a little discussion the Platoon was filled up. The cadre to train the new lads began and reached its climax with a week's live firing. During this Cpl Nicholson and Lcpl Hall were lucky enough to be standing legs apart and mouth open when a Wombat was fired. (For those unfamiliar with the Wombat the resulting sensation is unique and a little unpleasant).

Christmas leave followed the cadre and shortly after everybody had returned to work we had to think about our poor flat feet. We were destined to use them extensively during Ex Snow Boot. In the event the weather was extremely unpleasant, but the exercise was not too bad. Nobody actually died, but we did have the odd case of 'Cold Nip'. Some 10 minutes before the end of the exercise Pte Leigh collapsed due to the cold. In true sympathetic style the reason for his collapse was explained by the man closest to him 'It's Leigh sir, he's thrown a wobbler'.

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Having survived Snow Boot we now look forward to 12 months intensive activities. With the Skill at Arms camp and conversion of the Platoon to Milan looming large in the future. The programme seems packed already. One thing is certain we are going to be very busy.

MT PLATOON

Writing notes for the MT Platoon is akin to allotting vehicles for the Battalion. It is no easier finding interesting things to write about, than finding enough vehicles to carry out our varied tasks from day to day.

Life in the Platoon can be humdrum from day to day, and though scenery changes basic tasks do not. It is welcome that we do, from time to time move out on exercises and change our life style even if only for short periods.

What makes men on the MT tick? To find answers to this we turn our questions to our able stalwarts who have spent most of their life in the MT and the one thing that comes out time and time again is job satisfaction.

Most of our NCOs take their life in their hands day in, day out, teaching young and old soldiers alike to drive. To the outsiders this must seem a terribly monotonous and repetitive task but strangely they feel different and accept that every student is an individual and must be treated as such. At the end of a cadre period they are like a pregnant woman waiting the results of their student on test and derive great pleasure in giving the MTO a running commentary on each student as he sits his test. Our pass rate is very high and all credit must go to the instructors.

Apart from driving instructions we do have in the platoon this year Pte Maskill who represents the Battalion at Boxing. Lcpl Wroe who has recently taken up the sport of hang gliding and is trying to work out how to put a wing to a vehicle, and Cpl Jameson who is working hard on the problem of how he can complete his BFT in an iron lung.

Work is hard, hours can be long, and comings are numerous, goings usually directly out of the services. There must be some magic somewhere on the MT as there are always more volunteers than vacancies. If anyone knows the secret then whisper it to the MTO and he may spread a little joy and satisfaction your way.

TQMS DEPT

'You are always sitting writing?'

'Yes sir'.

'Well you can write the notes'.

'Oh no!'.

After the front line troops of this department returned to BAOR from Canada we had Ex Full House thrown at us, this was to prove to all the division and the Dukes that Sgt Naiken does work in the department. He was to show to the old Brigade Commander that he knew what a rifle was (that was when the coffee was out of his right hand), his cam creame was what we had after the well earned leave of the TQMS at Christmas.

We have added to the department Ssgt Noble from the mortars and this has added to our military training side of life, ie BFT's, indoor shooting

ranges, etc. We have all had to put many hours in lately to try and get Sgt N's account right, his motto is now 'outscaled', what about the inscale as they still need to make 20 to 30 telephone calls to other units for parts?

We are now looking forward to Snow Boot and hoping the clansmen kits lasts out.

REGIMENTAL BAND

Minden Massed Bands this year turned out to be the wettest on record. For the three days rehearsal prior to the Display, raincoats and wellington boots were in full use. On the actual night of the Display, the heavens really opened up and the ground became a quagmire. As the Bandsmen trundled about, sodden, cold and miserable, shoes were seen to be left behind stuck in the mud. It was remarkable that the watching crowd of spectators was so large and a sizeable sum of money was raised for donation to charity.

When the Battalion go on Exercise, the role of the Band is back in camp carrying out Rear Party Duties. However, on Ex Full House we were invited to go to war and so with a little apprehension we donned full combat kit and webbing and joined 4 Field Ambulance to carry out our secondary role as medics. It made quite a change living and eating out in the open. We really did enjoy ourselves but when time was called, we were glad to get back to our trombones and trumpets.

While performing at a parade in Osnabruck for the Royal Engineers, we met up with an old friend Ron Harrison who used to play the trombone in the Band. Ron who lives in Osnabruck has recently been in a poor state of health but seemed to be in good spirits and we were able to re-live some of our fondest memories.

December was taken up with performing concerts in old folks homes and orphanages. A Carol Service which was an Anglo/German event for all denominations took place in the Martinikirche. A large congregation attended and the Band finished off by playing the march 'Crown Imperial' as an outgoing voluntary. We also performed an open air Carol Service in the area of the Officers Married Quarters. The Commanding Officer and his wife kindly handed out 'Hot Toddies' and mince pies which helped to keep out the cold.

We ended the year with our usual Band Christmas Draw held in the Dining Hall which was heavily disguised to look like a Night Club. Over 150 people attended and an excellent evening was had by one and all. The Band were voted the best dancers in the Battalion by the Commanding Officer and his wife.

Leave took care of most of January. In early February we held a Band Social to say farewell to two long serving members of the Band. Firstly, Sgt Dave (Ginge) Jackson has left us to join 2 Royal Irish Band. This was brought about by the Divisional system of posting for Bands. Secondly, Bdsm Fred Castleton left us to try his luck in Civvy Street. True to form even while being presented with a tankard and other gifts, Fred had to have the last word. We wish both of them every success for the future.

EXERCISE SNOW BOOT

The Divisional Commander stated last year that he wanted all Battalions to stage an outdoor Exercise to include living in the open during the winter without the comparative luxury of an APC.

The Exercise took place in Solling Forest near Holz Minden. The countryside was heavily wooded and hilly with numerous forest tracks and pathways, an ideal area for a patrolling Exercise. Most of the drills and standard operating procedures are taught in Jungle Warfare so the training was started in December and January with a bias towards jungle training. Many comments were passed both complimentary and unprintable when it was explained soldiers would be practising jungle techniques in a landscape covered in snow.

All the Companies managed to produce an extensive training programme leading up to the Exercise including overnight Exercises of their own, 'just to get the soldiers acclimatised'.

The week before the Exercise the weather improved and the snow began to melt. We now had the extra inconvenience of wet as well as cold conditions. The Exercise started on February 12 with platoons being 'Air Lifted' by 4 ton and Bus. The next 24 hours was spent looking for hide areas, settling in to patrol bases and sending out Recce patrols.

By the second day the odd contact was being reported back through various Company Headquarters. I should at this stage point out that platoons were patrolling against each other, points scored for successful contacts and destruction of

any bases and final scores going towards the inter-platoon championship.

The weather suddenly took a turn for the worse, a certain amount of rain fell during Monday and Tuesday with temperatures dropping well below zero at night. Inevitably the first few cases of exposure appeared but were immediately reported and dealt with by the Medical Officer.

Wednesday dawned and the snow came back with a vengeance. The wind chill factor didn't help matters and more cases of exposure appeared.

The tracks became almost impassable to wheeled vehicles and two 1 tonners slid off the tracks onto their sides, fortunately nobody was injured and eventually the recovery crew pulled them out. Platoons at this stage were pressing on with their patrol programmes and attacking enemy bases. By Thursday morning every platoon had been given enough information to attack and destroy the enemy bases and this resulted in a fitting climax to the Exercise.

One amusing incident happened to the CQMS of Burma Coy during the Exercise. Imagine the CQMS battling through snow drifts in a blizzard trying to replenish his Platoon. A forest warden stopped him and announced with some severity that the CQMS was going the wrong way down a one way forest track!, the mind boggles.

At the end of the Exercise 4 Platoon came out the winners, congratulations to Jonathan Woods and his platoon. On reflection the Exercise proved how difficult it is to survive and patrol in arctic type conditions and due credit must be given to the soldiers for sticking to their tasks in the face of such difficulties.

Exercise Long Look

Ex Long Look consisted of a number of selected personnel cross posted between Army Units in BAOR, England, Australia and New Zealand. The aim of the exercise was to broaden the military

knowledge and at the same time widen the understanding and co-operation between Commonwealth Armies.

I Australia

On a warm day during our miserable summer, 130 all ranks left Brize Norton on Ex Long Look via Singapore to Australia. The Antipedes was to prove fascinating and of immense value.

Having eventually arrived in Sydney after two enlightening days in Singapore, a city of great character, which seemed in a state of perpetual motion, from the dubious hot spots of Bugis Street to the days of the British Empire, namely the Raffle's Hotel, we were immediately thrust into a welcoming party and the spirit stayed with us for the rest of our stay.

I was attached to 5th/7th Bn The Royal Australian Regt in Holesworthy, about 20 miles from Sydney. After the war in Vietnam and Australia ceased to have any real Asian presence and having no obvious threat, the 5th and 7th Bns were amalgamated to form the 5th/7th RAR. So it was a very new battalion compared to our standards.

On my arrival I was greeted by the officers, by what was to become, an everyday greeting of 'Good Day' or 'Hello Pom'. My chief task in the first few days was to survive the Australian 'Happy Hour'. A pastime of drinking at 4 o'clock straight after work with the officers wives dutifully arriving at 6 o'clock to collect the remnants of their husbands.

I was given the task of running a platoon of 30 men, a rare occurrence, and soon found myself sampling the delights of the Australian outback. Suffield was nothing in comparison to this sprawling wasteland. Being a non mechanised battalion it was a delight to be free of the metal mashers and return to foot soldiering. As regards tactics, a subject to be touched very briefly here, they had very similar tactics to ourselves.

After the completion of a four week exercise in the 'outback' or 'bush' as the soldiers called it, I managed to fly to Perth, a nine-hour journey in a

Hercules! On arrival in Perth, I was ready for the beautiful Indian Ocean and the golden beaches. My illusions of a leisurely week were soon shattered as the battalion I was staying with, the Australian SAS, decided that it would be good for me to sample the work of the SAS. So I joined in one of their patrolling exercises, not a very pleasant experience in temperatures of 35–40 deg C.

Sydney is a city of great character with Bondi Beach living up to the reviews it received in the centre of the Sun. Life during the summer was slowed down because of the heat and most of the activity was centred around Sydney beaches with

a few 'tubes' and a Barbecue, and many a happy hour was spent enjoying the delights, of the sand, sun and surf.

Australia was a country of great contrasts, the relative fertile east coast to the dry barren centre, with the aboriginals being the only inhabitants it was very reminiscent of the American West, with people making their fortunes prospecting for gold, and there was always something new to discover.

I found my stay extremely enjoyable, an experience that few, too few, manage, and the Australian Army's lack of resources was a real eye opener to me, considering how much we complain!

2 New Zealand

As one 'winging, pasty-faced Pom' to another, I'd like to take some time to tell you about the lives and times of our colonial brothers (and sisters).

The first week of Ex Long Look is sadly lost to living memory, in terms of people, places and times. I do however remember travelling long distances in between Happy Hours, and I'm told we passed through Singapore, Darwin and even spent some time in Auckland. It must have been a lot of fun . . .

What I'm trying to tell you, is that we were superbly hosted and entertained throughout the exercise, even if subjected to incessant witticisms and 'Pommy' jokes.

We were never allowed too long in the one place. A fortnight after arriving, the Company I was attached to as 2IC, was dispatched to Australia for seven weeks' worth of exercise and training. Unfortunately crossing the Australian east coast at 28,000ft, one of the engines on the Hercules blew up and we had to make an emergency landing at Brisbane. Equally unfortunately they couldn't fly a replacement aircraft to us, and we were 'stuck' for five magnificent days in Brisbane.

Eventually though all good things must come to an end, and so we flew up to Townsville in North Queensland where they started again.

We spent a total of six weeks in Townsville with 1 Royal Australian Regt. Two of these weeks were spent 'in bush' participating in Ex In Concert, a joint service affair involving some 3,000 men. In the space of a week we passed from airportable to mechanised. Conventional to CRO and back to conventional.

The terrain also varied from almost desert-like to sparse forestry, to high rocky outcrops, and abounded in wild life, such as kangaroos, wallabies, enormous spiders and unpleasant snakes.

The exercise though was a lot of fun and very interesting, certainly the highlight of the work side of Long Look.

In the remainder of our time in Townsville, we were taken on trips to a rum distillery (the infamous Bundaberg Rum), Magnetic Island which is a quite beautiful and idyllic little island comprised mainly of fabulous beaches and small bars, the

peace of which was ruptured occasionally by the New Zealanders playing dodgems with Avis' rent-a-mokes. They took us for beach barbecues and organised a superb day trip to the Barrier Reef, ostensibly under the guise of a fishing trip. Unfortunately some fool filled the cold fish storage units with 'tubes of Foster's' and in order to make room for any fish we might catch we first had to empty these! Needless to say we didn't catch a lot of fish.

Sadly we left Townsville and I with another Long Look Officer set off for some local leave(!) in Sydney. We 'did' Sydney in a week, the Opera House, the bridge, Manley Harbour and of course Bondi Beach. I considered Sydney to be a beautiful city and could easily have spent a lot longer there. However . . .

We returned to Christchurch just in time to go out on Exercise with the New Zealanders for 10 days. This was a fairly cold and miserable experience, rescued only by the magnificent scenery of the South Island, and the ever cheerful Maoris whom I found to be excellent soldiers with very high standards.

On return to camp the Long Lookers were told to go on leave which we did willingly. It was by this time very close to summer and the temperature during our leave averaged out at about 75–80 deg F. We visited the beautiful Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Hawke's Bay, and Windy Wellington the capital city.

After this extensive and exhausting period of leave, we returned to Christchurch for our last week. A period of dekitting, farewell drinks and Happy Hours soon saw us restored to our former stupour, and I'm again assured the trip back through Papua, New Guinea, Jakhartar and Singapore was even better than on the way out. This being due in no small part to two full days and nights in Singapore in general and Bugis Street in particular. Anyone wishing to hear more of our exploits here should speak to me personally or wait until I publish my memoirs.

On a more serious note however the exercise was designed to broaden military experience and knowledge and, at the same time, promote a wider

co-operation between the Commonwealth armies. In my own case I should like to think this aim was achieved.

In addition to achieving the military aim, we were not slow in achieving our social aims and every opportunity and facility was provided by our hosts, and every gratitude will be eternally with them.

In all, Ex Long Look was a unique experience in a job where sadly, such opportunities are the exception rather than the rule.

Should any reader of this enthusiastic piece, be so lucky as to be offered a trip to either Australia or New Zealand, I can offer one piece, of I hope, helpful advice.

'Gow fa ya loife'.

3 Australia

On a wet September morning I left RAF Brize Norton for what would prove to be a very eventful and enlightening 19 weeks. The first shock came when we were told that it would take seven days to reach our destination, two of those days would be spent in Singapore. We were looked after by 1 RNZIR (many people will remember them from Hong Kong days). Under protest many of us were dragged into Singapore City to have a look at some old haunts—what memories! From Singapore we flew on to Darwin, Sidney and finally to Brisbane where we were met by our hosts.

For the rest of my time in Australia I was to stay with the 6 RAR based at Enoggera just outside Brisbane. 6 Royal Australian Regt is a young Regiment by our standards having been formed in 1967. Most of their soldiers have had combat experience in South Vietnam and their company received a citation from the president of the United States for action during their campaigns in Vietnam. They are a very proud Regiment and already have a deep rooted Regimental spirit.

After the first week's initiation to the Sergeants Mess, the heat and language, I was given my Platoon; it consisted of one officer and 35 soldiers (what a lot to play with) it is interesting to know that the Australians have the same problems as us (well almost), their equipment is a mixture of British, American and German. They have Leopard tanks and in some cases American M113s with a British Saladin Turret. I spent 10 weeks as a Platoon Sergeant, a few weeks as Assistant Provo Sergeant (which was very eventful for them), four weeks on exercise (I will not say anything more about that in case I incriminate myself) and finally rest and recuperation.

We spent one week on the Gold Coast, soaking up the sun, birdwatching and generally enjoying ourselves. Finally the time came to return to Germany and the cold winter. On reflection I found Ex Long Look interesting and rewarding, a chance to exchange views on common topics and see how other Armies cope with their problems.

Anon.

Rugby

In this the one hundredth year of Dukes rugby the traditional rugby tour back to Yorkshire was mounted despite doubts as to weather and pitch condition. Of the five games planned it was only possible to play two but both games proved immensely rewarding.

After a solid work out on the moor above Halifax the 24 strong tour party set off to take on a mid-week York side who were strengthened by some guest players. The result was a convincing win for the Dukes by 36 points to nil. The game was much harder than the score suggests and some excellent tries were scored. In his first game for the Dukes Pte Steve Grogan scored two tries which emphasised just how fast a wing threequarter he is. Cpl Williams, still basking in Combined Services glory, played his normal strong game and scored two tries following excellent support work. Other tries came from Pte Phil Barr (twice) and Sgt Steve Mortimer, Lcpl Jones converted four goals.

The next five days were very cold and the pitches

were unplayable but the tour party kept in good spirits with training sessions (both in sports hall and drinking halls), visits to RHQ and the Regimental Museum. Fortunately the last scheduled game of the tour against Halifax could be played, although the ground was extremely hard both teams launched themselves at each other with vigour and determination. Halifax fielded 10 of their 1st XV and showed why they are doing well in the Northern Merit Table. At half-time the score was 3—0 to Halifax and the Dukes turned round into the wind with a stern task ahead of them. They proved equal to the task and after 15 minutes of pressure on the Halifax 22, Pte Dexter Landell raced away to score a fine try wide out following superb second-phase play by the pack, and some very slick handling by the backs. Pte Phil Holliday in his first game for the Dukes played a tremendous game and could be firmly established in the second row for many seasons.

STOP PRESS

ARMY RUGBY UNION CUP

BAOR Semi-final

1 DWR 18—7 Signal Regt R. Sigs 0.

BAOR Final

1 DWR 9—1 Welsh Gds 6.

Final

1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regt 12 pts

1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales 7 pts

The Regiment won the Army Cup at Aldershot for the thirteenth time in a most exciting final.

They beat the Royal Regiment of Wales, by three tries against a penalty goal, and a try, despite a tremendous effort by the Welshmen in the six minutes of injury time.

The Welsh had to score and convert a try to win so four times in the closing minutes they gallantly ran the ball from penalty kicks to within yards of

the Duke's line.

None did better in the Duke's defence than Cpl Garston Williams, the Army wing forward.

Scrum half Cpl Walker stole a cheeky try to put the Duke's ahead when they were struggling in the second half. The Welsh heeled from a scrum almost of their line and Walker crept through behind the ball, pouncing as the Welsh scrum half gathered it, robbed him and made the touch down.

Both the Duke's other tries were good ones, the first by Dixon and the other by Landell on the left wing.

Team—Cpl F. Jones, Cpl P. Elwell, 2 Lt S. Dixon, Sgt D. Allen, Pte D. Landell, Sgt M. Cuss, Cpl G. Walker, Lcpl L. Patten, Capt T. Sinclair, Capt M. Colville, Sgt Instr W. Swap, Pte P. Holliday, Cpl G. Bucknor, Cpl G. Williams, Lt M. Drake.

Langlauf ski team 1978-79



Csgt Malcolm Hirst powers his way over the 15km race

For those who experienced Ex Snow Boot the memory of 1979 as the year of the bare Alp will be bitterly ironic. The langlauf team arrived in Urnerboden, Switzerland, in mid-November to find the mountains in a condition that would be ideal for a remake of the Sound of Music but hopeless for a Biathlon Team. For 10 days we ran and shot and did circuit training before the snow came mercifully to the rescue. However, the time lost was well spent and coupled with the fitness work achieved in the Autumn in Minden and Silberhutte ensured that the team was fitter than ever by the time the championships began in January.

This year's team consisted of a few experienced skiers, Lt Stark, Cpl Tooley, Lcpl Whelan, Ptes Sweeney, Varley and new blood in the shape of 2 Lt Coburn (some shape), Sgt Arundel, Ptes Brown, Lawler and Bdsm Jones. Following last year's promise, we set out to make a strong challenge to those teams which have dominated skiing as if by right for years, the permanent RA units such as 94 Locating, the RE units such as 4 Armd Div Engineers, and the Cavalry's long resident stars, the QDG. To do this we needed time, good conditions and above all intensive and intelligent coaching. Time we certainly had, and were particularly fortunate to get all but the senior members to train at Silberhutte with Csgt Hirst's British 'B' team in October. The conditions were never easy, but provided testing wax quandaries that helped us later on. From the coaching point of view we were very fortunate indeed in having Csgt Robson as team trainer. He worked us hard, and his downhill experience was invaluable. Between him and Csgt Hirst we must have had the best coaching of any team and owe them a lot.

Once again Csgt Hirst was our trump card both at the Divisional and Army meetings, and when one considers that his commitment to the British 'B' team was if possible heavier than last year which seriously affected the amount of time in which he could train, he skied quite remarkably well for us. To win the 15km as he did in Galtur, Austria, at the Divisional meeting was a great achievement.

The Divisional meeting was run this year by the CO which gave us added incentives. Once again the opposition was dominated by 4 Armd Div Engineer Regt, Army champions last year and in the team events they had the measure of us. However, we ran them very close and in the Biathlon Relay which is our most important race they finished a mere six seconds ahead of the Duke's. Second overall was the inevitable outcome, a good result in itself, but once again highlighting the gap that separates us from the long-serving corps units.

We thoroughly enjoyed Galtur and left with high hopes for Oberjoch and the Army championships. This was to be the last Army meeting at Oberjoch as next year it is to be held at Zwiesel close to the Czech border. The weather that blighted early training and gave us some experience of ice and slush returned with a vengeance and the steady cold of Galtur gave way to rain, thaw, freeze and snow in a two day cycle that caused havoc with waxing. The courses, particularly in the 4x10km Relay were hazardous and the ice took heavy toll in

casualties. Nevertheless Duke's results continued to be encouraging. Best results came in the Biathlon Relay (for the Duke of Wellington's Regt Trophy), where the 'A' team came 6th and would have been 3rd but for a rule infringement which cost a six-minute penalty, while the 'B' team were placed 3rd in the 'A' race having lead for most of the race. Individually we picked up excellent results with Pte Brown winning the prize for the best novice in the Biathlon Sprint, 2nd novice in the British Junior 10km event and he had in fact the second fastest time in the Biathlon Relay 'A' race. Csgt Hirst once again starred, and, it should be noted, was beaten by only one or two of the British team even though he had not competed nor seriously trained since 1976. Pte Varley fulfilled the promise he showed last year, and though he was also a tankard winner in the Junior 10km event, his particular contribution was in Biathlon. Lcpl Whelan came 4th in the Biathlon Sprint amongst very elevated company, and Cpl Tooley and Pte Sweeney were consistent front runners.

Mention could be made of other individual efforts but the hallmark of the team was tremendous spirit and aggression coupled with fitness and a co-operative attitude that made the team captain's job easy. Once again we were undisputed winners of the Infantry Cup and the KOSB Cup, now ours almost of right. The Duke's have to be reckoned amongst the top seeds in every race and the ascendancy of the Germany based Regiments has been shaken. It remains to be seen whether time will allow another challenge before we leave BAOR. Pte Brown's selection for training with the British 'B' team marks the pitch we have reached, a long way from the outdated kit of two years ago to a thoroughly well equipped and trained team able to compete with the very best.



Novice Biathelte
Pte Paul Brown receives his prize for the Best Novice Biathelte in Britain

Hang Gliding

Since the last hang gliding notes, the Duke's have flown ahead in the air as far as units go in this field. We now have three pilot 1 fliers and three pilots that have done the course in the UK. We have now purchased a Vortex HG and have two which are owned by pilots.

Over the period of last year I was quite active with competitions and training with fellow Duke's. The first competition was held down in the Mosel at a place called Riol. I went down as a member of the Briforge, our BAOR club, and took a full carload of Duke's. 'A' team from the UK Folkestone /Dover Club and the local team made the field 28 fliers. The locals put on a wine festival in a huge wine cellar, with a film show of the finer arts of hang gliding, ie, loop the loops. My overall position in that event was 14th.

The next competition was held in the skiing resort of Winterburge. We had problems from the start, with the very short time we had to get there and the very low cloud base, which filled the valley, our landing area.

There we all were at the top of the world above the clouds and praying for the wind to shift the clouds. We all got one flight in, but this turned out to be a winner, within the Briforge team. I was the only member to score on that flight, the flight being as many as 360 deg or spiral turns possible and then do a standup landing on the spot.

The next event came about, because of the growing number of Duke's getting interested in the sport. We all got together and booked a course at the northern school of hang gliding in Sheffield. This course had to be done while we were on leave

and paid for by ourselves. To fly within Briforge we require a pilot 1 certificate, but they will also train you up. We all met at Sheffield station and set off to the site. The following soldiers turned up for the course: Lcpls Danny Wroe, Wally Walters, Ptes Adrien Sutcliffe, Tadge Sulitch, Shaun Dean and Mick Hargreaves. The lads progressed very well over the three days under not the best conditions. The snow drifts were up to 6ft in places and -2 deg C. The only accident on the course was by Pte Dean who must have been waiting for the press. He managed to do the ground loop and snapped the leading edge of the kite and put himself upside down. This pleased the press no end who photographed this odd way of flying. We had the video man from the training wing Kings Div to film everyone's progress. The final day, the wind blii up to gusts of 25mph, thus by dinner-time all kits had to tethered. This was a big help as everyone could just hover and go though the movements of turns. The film we now have and will be used as a training aid for newcomers. Well, who passed, Ptes Adrien Sutcliffe and Shaun Dean, while the others just need more flights.

Our next event is a return match at Dover with the local team, the Riol club and Briforge over the period of Whit. We are also hoping to get the lads that did the course and not pass, put through their test again. We will have three Duke's taking part, two of them having their first competition flight. I can see a further course or two being run again in August.

J.C.

Officers Location List

AS AT MAY 1, 1979

Major General (Retired)

D. E. ISLES, CB, OBE: Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Commandant the King's Division, Honorary Colonel 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers

Brigadiers

C. R. HUXTABLE, CBE: DMS(A) MOD.
D. W. SHUTTLEWORTH, OBE: Divisional Brigadier The King's Div.

Colonels

E. M. P. HARDY: Defence Adviser, Canberra, Australia.
P. A. MITCHELL, OBE: Col GS(W) PM, MICV, DGFVE(PE) in MOD.
R. M. HARMS, MC: DA Caribbean.

Lieutenant Colonels

E. PHILL, OBE: GSO 1 (Psy Ops) Joint Warfare Establishment.
J. B. K. GREENWAY, MBE: GSO 1 (DS) Staff College Camberley (to July 1979). For GSO 1 DPS B Team MOD, August 1979.
M. R. N. BRAY: CO 1 DWR (to August 1979). For GSO 1 (DS) NDC.
J. R. P. CUMBERLEGE: GSO1 (Trg) HQ North East District.
R. L. STEVENS, MBE: GSO 1 BF, HQ Belize Garrison.
M. J. CAMPBELL-LAMERTON, MBE: GSO 1 Fortress HQ, Gibraltar.
W. R. MUNDRELL: MA to C in C BAOR; for CO 1 DWR, August 1979.
T. D. LUPTON: GSO 1 HQNE Dist, for CO Warminster Support Unit, School of Inf, June 1979.
C. W. IVBY: CO 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.

Majors

J. D. P. COWELL: Adjut AAC Chepstow. Retires July 1979.
P. B. L. HOPPE: King's Div Recruiting Officer, Strensall for 1 DWR May 1979.
G. V. DAVIES (QLR): UFO 1 DWR (to mid 1979).
S. J. NASH: DAAG (Ops) HQ 1 (BR) Corps.
D. M. PUGH: Training Major 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.
W. F. CHARLESWORTH: British Instructor at US Mil Academy West Point. For Lieutenant Colonel 1979.
I. P. REID: GSO 2 (Sy A) HQ UKLF.
C. R. CUMBERLEGE: National Defence College Latimer May-December 1979. For Lieutenant Colonel 1979.
P. J. PUTTOCK: Depot HS; for OC Sup Div Sch of Inf (NCOs Tac Wing) July 1979.
P. D. D. J. ANDREWS: OC Junior NCOs Wing, Sch of Inf (NCOs Tac Wing).
C. N. ST. P. BUNBURY, MBE: 2IC 1 DWR.
E. J. W. WALKER: GSO 2 (Ops/Plans/NATO) HQ UKLF.
C. G. FITZGERALD: GSO 2 (Ops/Plans) HQ The King's Div.
A. R. WESTCOB: Depot HS (Att to Op DRAKE).
P. J. MELLOR: GSO 2 (D14b) MOD(A), DIS.
T. J. NICHOLSON: 1 DWR.
A. R. REDWOOD-DAVIES, MBE: DAAG (Org/PS) HQ North East Dist.
P. D. GARDNER: 1 DWR.
A. D. M. PALMER: 1 DWR.
J. M. THORN: Pakistan Staff College to December 1979.
A. D. ROBERTS, MBE: Staff College Camberley to October 1979.

Captains

M. P. C. BRAY: Coy Comd Depot King's Div (A/Major).
 C. J. W. GILBERT: Staff Capt (A) HQ UNFICYP.
 J. R. A. WARD: 1 DWR. For Staff College Camberley, October 1979.
 D. L. J. HARRAP, LLE: 1 DWR.
 T. J. ISLES: Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces to November 1979.
 M. S. SHERLOCK: 1 DWR.
 A. J. FITCHERS, B ED: Coy 2IC, IJLB Shorncliffe.
 K. BEST: 1 DWR.
 T. PICKERSGILL (SSCC): 1 DWR.
 T. C. SINCLAIR, BA: 1 DWR.
 C. F. GRIEVE: 1 DWR.
 A. D. MEEK: Adjutant 1 DWR.
 R. C. M. HALL, B SC: 1 DWR. For transfer to RAEC, August 1979.
 A. H. S. DRAKE: 1 DWR.
 M. J. STONE, BA: 1 DWR.

Subalterns

R. M. L. COLVILLE: 1 DWR.
 D. I. RICHARDSON: 1 DWR.
 R. C. STARK, BA (SSC): 1 DWR.
 W. A. N. ATKINSON: 1 DWR.
 G. A. KILBURN: 1 DWR.

G. D. SHUTTLEWORTH: 1 DWR.
 S. C. NEWTON (SSC): 1 DWR (for ROD June 1979).
 S. J. N. MORGAN, BA: 1 DWR.
 P. J. HARVEY: Depot The King's Div.
 M. J. B. DRAKE (SSC): 1 DWR.
 S. H. DIXON (SSC): 1 DWR.
 T. J. COBURN (SSC): Depot The King's Div.
 C. A. HARVEY (on Probation): Oxford University. For RMAS, September 1980. For 1 DWR January 1981.
 J. W. WOOD (SSC): 1 DWR.
 J. A. C. KILBURN: 1 DWR.
 N. G. BORWELL: 1 DWR.
 R. J. M. PUGH (SSC): 1 DWR.

Quartermasters

Lt Col (SQM) W. ROBINS, MBE: Quartermaster, RMA Sandhurst.
 Maj W. BURKE: Quartermaster, Depot The King's Div.
 Maj S. H. KIRK, MBE: Quartermaster, HQ 2 Armd Div & Sig Regt.
 Capt R. A. TIGHE: Quartermaster (1) 1 DWR.
 Capt A. J. WELSH: Depot HS, pending next appointment.
 Capt M. CARTER: Quartermaster 2nd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers
 Capt W. R. R. SYNOTT R IRISH: Quartermaster (2), 1 DWR.

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

NOTES FROM THE OFFICER COMMANDING

I thought I would begin by telling you that we are now the top recruiting company/sub-unit in the district. Everyone has worked exceedingly hard over the past few months to obtain the number one position and we are still recruiting at a very good rate. The Company now stands at 147 strong which is good by any standards. My biggest problem is getting experienced soldiers, NCOs and officers as we are developing into a very young company. I would like to make a plea to any 'Duke' whatever rank, who is coming out of the regular army to come and join us and let us have the benefit of your experience, training and skills. I would welcome you at any time and it is an ideal way to keep up your connections with the 'Duke's'.

We are continuing our sporting activities and my desire is to make everyone fit by holding runs and assault courses regularly. (I had thought to leave this out particularly in view of my plea for recruitment above—it may put some of you off. I hope not because we have a very good comradeship at Halifax at the present time).

Industrial disputes and the appalling weather has tested our resilience to a great extent and I am delighted to say that we have come through with flying colours.

Our shooting team is settling down to commence training with its sights firmly set on the Regimental and Bisley Competitions and we all wish them luck.

This is the year of the Regimental Soldier. Courses, Stamford PTA, training area are what we intend to do, leading up to next year's main exercise on Crusader II with 5 Field Force in Germany.

The Officers Mess is regularly holding its Curry Suppers which have proved a tremendous success and we are getting to know many of the local officials and dignitaries who can help the company.

On the sporting side, we have yet to come to

grips. Everyone is clamouring to play football and rugby but lack someone to pull them by the ears into a team. I have heard on the grapevine that Sgt. ——— will do something about a football team when he stops playing around with his son's bike and getting his legs broken. The Wednesday night sportsnight is going very well. The Karate Club, 22 shooting and badminton are well supported also on Wednesday nights.

I look forward to renewing my acquaintances with the 'Duke's' later in the year when I can express my thanks to them all for their assistance and support to this Company. We are looking in anticipation to the return of your KAPE team to us which will include the redoubtable RSM Hughes.

COMPANY NOTES

The New Year presented the Company with some changes, often—and perhaps due to—the excess of the Christmas season.

February sees the departure of CSM Berry, after some 20 years service with the Halifax Coy. An Assault Pioneer Platoon has been formed, but many of us think it will not be able to replace the CSM! CSM Berry joined the TA, as it was then, in 1958. He came to the Halifax Coy with the transition to 'C' Coy 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers in 1967. He is now leaving us to join the Battalion Training Team, giving them the benefit of his expertise and experience. Our best wishes goes with him.

Lt Col Ivey, the Commanding Officer, has authorised the formation of an Assault Pioneer Platoon at Halifax. Foremost in his mind, when making this decision, must have been the fact that Maj Garner, the Officer Commanding, is an ex-Sapper and that our CSM (PSI) WO2 Lowney is Assault Pioneer trained. This wealth of experience

will ensure that the new Platoon gets off to a good start.

With all these changes comes a number of moves and promotions. Csgt Carey becomes CSM (V), Sgt Ashton is promoted to Csgt and Sgt Kennedy becomes Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant. Cpls Bentley and White, both of whom have had recent attachments to the 'Dukes', get promotion to Sergeants of 8 and 9 Platoons respectively.

Training is progressing well and with all the courses that CSM Lowney is volunteering the officers and NCOs for, we should be the best trained TAVR Coy in Halifax—at least that's what

I think he said.

The Company is running a 'mini-camp' at Plymouth during the Easter period, with the accent on adventure training. This should be a welcome break for all.

Finally, we should like to extend invitations to any ex-'Dukes' in the Halifax area to come down to see us. We always have room for experienced soldiers and Tuesday evening is the time to visit. The Wellington Club bar is always open after training to give the potential recruits that extra incentive.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

It seems an opportune time to return to press. Since the last publication of our notes, things have been quite hectic.

We dutifully survived exercise 'Gryphons Galore' in BAOR. The success of the survival was, by consensus of opinion, in many ways due to the excellent hospitality we received from the Sergeants Mess in Minden. What a super break (thanks a million) to all concerned. As ever, reminiscing was the topic of the evening.

Since then quite a few changes have taken place. In fact one wonders at times if it is the 'C' Coy Mess. Sgt (Richard) Bailey joined us late in 1978 as did WO2 (Frank) Lowney. Welcome back to Halifax, Frank. Both joined us in time to enjoy a very successful Christmas Draw (food hampers seemed to be the attraction of the evening).

WO2 (Phil) Berry has left us for Battalion HQ and the newly formed training team. Good luck for the future, Phil. Hope that the experiment is a success. Our new CSM is Csgt (Denis) Carey.

Congratulations Denis, it will be quite a change from haversack rations.

The aforementioned move has meant the Sgt (John) Ashton has stepped up to CQMS. Best of luck John, it will be quite a change from the three 'Cs'.

The Company is in the process of forming an assault pioneer platoon and with that in mind Sgt (Mick) Kennedy has been designated to take command. In the near future we shall be losing the Anti-Tank Platoon, consequently Sgt (Jack) Simpson will be returning to the Signals Platoon. Back in the old routine, Jack. Csgt (Pete) Sugden has recently joined us from the 1st Bn to take over the role of Training Sergeant (PSI). Hope that you enjoy your stay 'Suggy' and congratulations on your promotion.

At the time of going to press two new members have joined the Mess. Sgt (Alan, 'Chalky' to his pals,) White and Sgt (Dave) Bentley (already a regular at the bar). A big welcome to you both.

Depot, King's Division

The steady turnover of Depot Duke's continues as ever. Since the last edition we have lost Cpls Wigglesworth and Williams to the 1st Bn and Cpl Dixon has left the Army.

On the for side we have gained Cpls Norton, Cooper, Coles and Pierce. 'Y' Coy now have a Duke's CSM in the form of WO2 'Herforder' Toplis. Of course we have a nother Duke's subaltern for the rest to joke about in the form of Mr Apres Ski himself—Lt Tim Coburn—minus BFG plates! There is a malicious rumour that the other one isn't really a Duke at all, but a disguised Blues and Royals officer!

The recent bad weather has hampered training somewhat but although unpleasant at times everyone has struggled through despite all but one

range being out of action.

There are plenty of new Duke's being sent over to Minden, the standard of these, I assure you, is high; so when you say, 'who on earth trained him?' just think about the ones that went elsewhere!

The latest Platoon to pass out has sent nine recruits to the 1st Bn including Best at PT, Best at SAA and all the marksmen from the Platoon—I wouldn't dare to disclose who their Platoon Commander was!

The Depot small-bore team of which Cpl Whitworth is a member are through to the NE Dist final against Leeds OTC.

Lastly, I might add, there is absolutely no truth (he assures me) that Maj Martin Bray is running a lucrative Alpine ski resort in Scotland!

FLOOD RELIEF SOLDIERS GET A 'PAT ON THE BACK'

Nine Army recruits who were the first soldiers to help with relief work when floods hit the city of York have been praised by the GOC.

The recruits, who had only been in the Army 10 weeks, were from the Depot The King's Div at Strensall, York.

Maj Gen Henry Woods, General Officer Commanding North East District, asked especially for

them to be brought to his York Headquarters.

There he told them their actions were a great credit to both themselves and their unit and that they had carried out their duties 'in an exemplary manner under appalling conditions'.

'The Army is justly proud' he said, 'of its reputation for giving emergency support to the civilian population in my District over the past years'.

'Your latest efforts have further enhanced that reputation. Well done and congratulations to each of you'.

The recruits—aged 17–19 years—were called out at 7am when the River Ouse rose to 15ft 10in above normal, on December 29, 1978, flooding roads and houses.

They manned 12ft aluminium assault boats, and with the York police as escorts, fought their way through the floods to the worst of the 200 homes affected.

In some streets they had to wade waist deep in icy water to reach marooned householders, many of whom were elderly people.

Their cheerfulness and stamina earned high praise from all those involved in the relief work, including Chief Inspector Jeffery Clark, a police spokesman, who told the press and television later that day the soldiers were 'bloody marvellous'.

Among those congratulated by the General were: Pte Graham Acklam (17) and Pte Andrew Bohannan (17), The Duke of Wellington's Regt.



York Floods

Among the recruits congratulated by the General was 17-year-old Pte Andrew Bohannan

Timothy Taylor Championship Winning Traditional Real Ales

KNOWLE SPRING BREWERY KEIGHLEY 603139

Wellesley Company

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

'Imprimatur' is our cry—and the Editor obliges
and says 'Yes indeed—let it be printed'.

Comings and Goings

A very warm welcome aboard to Tony Russell and Paul Briggs who join us in the rank of Under-Officer with a TAVR B Commission in mind. Paul previously served with us as both a cadet and SI whilst Tony was County RSM in Kent ACF and held the rank of 2 Lt with the SCC (we'll forgive him for that transgression). To Henry Peart we bid a hearty hello as he joins us at Skipton in the rank of SMI immediately following on from his service as Sgt Medic with 3 Bn Yorkshire Volunteers. Stephen Jenkinson joins us as an SI at Halifax and his impact has been very readily felt. On transfer from Oxfordshire ACF is Lt Douglas Woodhouse and he is posted to Halifax Detachment. What a boost for our establishment as we approach the cross roads of ACF development.

SI Tom Gibson transfers from Skipton to Keighley to accommodate his increasing business commitments and while all this movement occurs, David Chambers, our man at Thongsbridge, attains substantive Lieutenant—well done David.

With regret we must say farewell to our Admin Officer Capt John Evans who, due to yet more promotion in his banking career, has to call it a day. Capt John has been a tower of strength and a very good right arm for the Company Commander and the latter was last seen crying in his pint and practising one finger typing swearing that the whole world had turned against him.

Annual Visits

These are not inspections but visits by interested Commanding Officers who have to be satisfied that we are truly doing our job. What a marvellous trio of visitors were allocated to us in 1978. Firstly Lt Col B. G. Johnson, Green Howards CO The Kings Div Depot, visited Skipton and Keighley and was as keen as mustard, rejecting swiftly the Company Commander's definition of two rooms, being one room with a Works Order in for a partition (a story, the details of which we are not prepared to divulge). Halifax, Thongsbridge, Mirfield and Heckmondwike had the privilege of a visit from Lt Col C. W. Ivey, CO 1 Bn Yorkshire Volunteers during raging blizzards the snows of which were readily melted by the pleasing personality of this prominent 'Duke'. As these notes wing their way to the Editor, we have a visit imminent to our Huddersfield Detachment by the Divisional Brigadier, Brig Dennis Shuttleworth, DWR, the impact of whom we will report in our next set of notes. The outcome of these visits is not yet known, but whatever, we welcome this annual event because we are kept on our toes; we can grumble if we want; we get promptly hauled back on line if we wander; and the ACF benefits enormously.

Weekend Camps

Our own Cadet Training Centre at Strensall burst at the seams when we held our December weekend during the period 8–10 with an abundance of shooting, assault courses, field work, map reading, etc, all fused together with the Christmas spirit and lashings of SMI Bill Fitzgerald's turkey, Christmas pud, crackers and pop (all on separate plates). RQMSI Gordon Simpson was right royally seen off by being dined out at this popular weekend and a very convivial evening emerged. The standard of the .22 shooting whilst at Strensall prompted Capt Doug Bennett in his Area Shooting Officer capacity to enter an Area Team for the Country Life .22 Competition. We may not win but by golly they'll know that 'Dukes Cadets' took part.

Our very good friends the 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers invited a large party of cadets and adults to attend their January 13–14 shooting weekend at Hawkesworth. Further weekends are scheduled and we are grateful to Maj David Pugh for inclusion in his training programme.

Exercise Marble Tor looms on the horizon and Ssgt John Sidebottom, CSM Simon Bennett plus Cpls Julien and Simpson have been hand picked for this wonderful attachment to 3 Yorks with Gibraltar the venue. These four are devouring training manuals as if they were toning up for A Level History and we know that they will individually and jointly be a credit to the ACF. Thank you Col Ben Roper and Maj Andy Hardy for including us—we shall be forever in your debt.

The Company Band

A temporary setback due to our Bandmaster SI Brian Wood having fallen off a bus and seriously hurting himself, resulting in several months off duty just as he had been appointed. Nevertheless we shall soon be back in business and meanwhile the generosity abounds with 2/7th Bn DWR (TA) Appeal Fund Committee making a £50 grant to assist with our many capital purchases. We are extremely grateful to both Col G. Taylor and Maj Pat Haws, the Chairman and Secretary respectively together with their excellent Committee for this marvellous lift-up.

Remembrance Parades

Wellesley Coy featured prominently in parades throughout West Yorkshire. Keighley Detachment supplied a very sizeable contingent for the Silsden Parade and ensured a continuance of this small town parade which had dwindled in recent years. Halifax Detachment plus our embryo band should have been at Silsden also but a transport hiccup occurred.

A 2,000 strong parade at Mirfield had a Wellesley Coy Subaltern in charge in the form of 2 Lt Peter Cole—super for the ACF, super for the 'Dukes', super for Peter—well done. Capt Peter Turner dualled at both the well established Huddersfield parade and at Mirfield. The ACF will forever be proud to wield the poppy with pride and stand shoulder to shoulder with those who were there and those who were affected or just those who remember.

Sport

Lcpl Trusswell, Cpl Hosty, and Cdts P. and S. Cook took part honourably in the Yorkshire ACF Cross Country run in February. All from Halifax detachment, it is not surprising that Halifax are the current holders of the County Sports Trophy.

Again from Halifax, Ssgt Sidebottom, Cpl Hosty, Cdts Dillon and Haymer have been selected again for the Yorkshire ACF Rugby Team—we are delighted.

Conclusion

As the days grow longer and the weather grows kinder, all is well on the ACF scene. An excellent adults recruiting scheme has produced splendid results for Wellesley Coy and we shall shortly be able to make inroads into the 1979-80 Gen Travel Grant with more frequent weekend activities as a result. Our 1979 Annual Camp at Otterburn arises on the horizon and our training programmes will be orientated accordingly. Hello Spring and Summer—'Dukes' cadets will use you to the full.

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Obituary

Mrs M. Hinchcliffe

Mrs Mildred Hinchcliffe, widow of the late Col W. A. Hinchcliffe, died at Huddersfield on November 11, 1978, aged 74.

Mr G. T. Miller

Mr George Thomas Miller died at the Halifax General Hospital on January 1, 1979, aged 82 years.

The funeral service which took place at Warley St Johns Church followed by cremation at Park Wood was attended by many old comrades from the 4th Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regt. The Regiment was represented by Maj J. S. Milligan, Mr A. Wood and Mrs J. Fish. The British Legion contingent was headed by the Chairman of the King Cross Branch, Mr T. W. Mawson.

Tom Miller was a well known and deeply respected member of the Regiment. He served in the 4th Bn (TA) from 1912 to 1939 enlisting at the age of 16. He served in France with the Battalion in WWI and from 1920 to 1939 was Orderly Room Sergeant of the Battalion. He then joined the staff of Halifax Corporation ARP Department. After the war he worked in the Corporation Housing Department until his retirement in 1961.

Tom was twice Chairman of the former 4th Bn Old Comrades Association. He was a member of the King Cross and Halifax Branches of the British Legion and was for 13 years Chairman of the latter and a Vice-President.

In his later years he made a special feature of welfare work in the area.

Mr H. S. Wilkinson

Mr Herbert S. Wilkinson died at his home, 20 Stafford Avenue, Halifax, on January 6, 1979, aged 88 years. He was commissioned in the 4th Bn during the 1914-18 War and was Intelligence Officer for a period, until seriously wounded at Passchendaele in October 1917.

He was a former county councillor and prominent business man in Halifax.

Capt C. Mallalieu

Capt Cloudesley Mallalieu died on September 20, 1978, at the age of 90.

Capt Mallalieu was commissioned in to the 7th Bn in its formation in 1908. After a few years he resigned but rejoined on the outbreak of war in 1914.

He served in France with the Battalion and was

wounded on the Somme in September 1916, rejoining the Battalion in the November.

He was all his life a vegetarian and astonished his fellow officers by surviving on active service on the same food as the rest with the omission of meat.

In the Second War he commanded the Greenfields Company of the Saddleworth Home Guard and supervised the administration of the 7th Bn charities.

Mr J. S. Hall, MBE, MSM

Mr John Stanley (Garry) Hall died at his home, 13 Penleys Grove Street, York, on January 14, 1979, aged 67.

Garry Hall who enlisted at the age of 18 was a well known figure in the Regiment for many years serving with the 2nd Battalion in India and Burma and later with the 1st Bn. He was ORQMS of the 1st Bn at Strensall, in Germany and in Korea, finally leaving the Bn in Gibraltar in 1955 on promotion to WO1 IC Documentation Team at York Records. On completion of his service he entered the Civil Service. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1953 and the MBE in 1954 for service in Korea and was among those of the 1st Bn who received their honours and awards from HM The Queen at a special investiture held aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* in Gibraltar Harbour.

Mr J. Love

Mr Jack Love died suddenly in St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, on November 19, 1978, aged 76 years.

Jack enlisted in the Regiment in 1920 and was posted to the 1st Bn then in Ireland. In 1929 he was posted to the 2nd Bn in India remaining with them until he was posted to a Transit Camp in Malaya on promotion to RSM. In 1941 he was

commissioned and posted to the 1st Bn Loyals.

He was captured by the Japanese on the fall of Singapore and spent the rest of the time on the notorious 'railway'.

After release and repatriation he retired and settled with his family in Gosport.

THE LATE MAJ SIDNEY WHIPP

It is possible that the presumed death of Maj Sidney Whipp was reported in THE IRON DUKE sometime towards the end of the war—possibly not. We now have some unexpected news concerning it.

He had been gazetted to the 7 DWR in 1926, had served most of his time at Mossley and had, when the war started become OC 'A' Coy and served as such in the 1st/7th during its training in England and in Iceland. After the return from Iceland he was attached as an Infantry Liaison Officer to the RAF in Lincolnshire.

He asked to be allowed to go out with a plane and in fact went out on a night bombing sortie from which he did not return. So much and no more has been known since late 1944.

The news has now reached us that the plane had been brought down on April 29, 1944, at a village called Cheniers near Chalons sur Marne, where, thanks to the devotion of the villagers, the bodies of the occupants of the plane were recovered, buried with all reverence in the churchyard and the names of seven RAF men and of 'Maj Sidney Whipp, Duke of Wellington's Regt' permanently recorded over their graves.

We are much indebted for this information to the Rev R. Owen, Vicar of Bradshaw, near Halifax, who had visited the grave of his uncle, the pilot of the plane, and kindly got in touch with Regimental HQ.

Regimental Association

NEWS ITEMS—NOTES OF INTEREST

March 1979

After two months of cold, snow, ice and floods—like the snowdrops and crocus—we emerge—looking for the warmth and pleasantries of the coming seasons, helped in no small way by the comradeship and social activities of our Association.

Next week the Management Committee meet at RHQ Halifax to discuss and arrange the main events for our 1979 programme which is outlined below. After the meeting (Sunday morning) Association and Branch officials will retire to some outlying moorland inn—en-route to home locations—where ale will be supped, meat sandwiches scoffed and the bonhomie of old soldier friends (and foes

alike!) enjoyed. It is this small handful of men (including our London Branch officials which distance prevents from attending) that keeps the wheels turning (albeit at times slowly yet strongly). Rushing home to 'burnt offerings in the oven', with self satisfied looks on their faces—we're all set for another year's activities—Starting:

London and Home Counties Branch Dinner Saturday, May 12, 1979

Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Club, Marble Arch, London, 7.30 for 8.0. Tickets £4 and further details from Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9.

DWR Regimental Association AGM and Reunion Dinner, 1979
Saturday, September 29, 1979

Wellington Hall (Drill Hall), Prescott Street, Halifax, AGM in the Sergeants Mess, 6.30 pm. Dinner in the Main Hall, 7.30 for 8.0. Tickets £4, from RHQ DWR, Halifax or Branch Secretaries.

Regimental Service, York Minster, 1979
Saturday, November 3, 1979

All meet in St Williams College (behind East of Minster) at 10.30hrs for coffee and biscuits. Service in the Minster at 11.30hrs. Details of after-activities will be published in the August edition.

ATOP of HQ Association events, Branches too will be organising their own social functions from attending tattoos to betting on 'horses' pulled by string, on the floor of the drill halls. (This sub-editor prays for the enrolment of a 'scribe' for Branch notes). Old faithful 'Sax' has not been too well of later but still continues to marshal the

Northern contingent to the London Dinner with his usual thoroughness.

Bits and Pieces

From our December notes about Joseph 'Triguara' (from Malta) Jim Imray writes to inform me that the name should read Triganza, that his army number should be 4614529 and address should read Floriana and not Horiana. Jim remembers Joseph well, and of his often repeated statement of 'to hell with fiddle I go back to duty' when duty in the Band didn't agree with him. (This is what these notes are all about—old friends within the Regiment—a name, a place, a certain action bringing to mind time spent in far away places with characters that will forever be remembered and escapades relived—Have you any?).

Ex 4618530 Mr W. O. Gomer, one time stationed in Halifax later serving five years overseas before transfer to the Royal Engineers, writes from 20 Hillcrest Road, Cashes Green, Stroud, Glos, requesting information on Dukes scarves.

The Army numbers '460—', '461—', and even '462—' now have 'historical appeal'.



Where are They Now?

Malta 1935

One of a series of photographs sent in by Mr A. G. Dale, a former Bandsman in the 2nd Bn

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