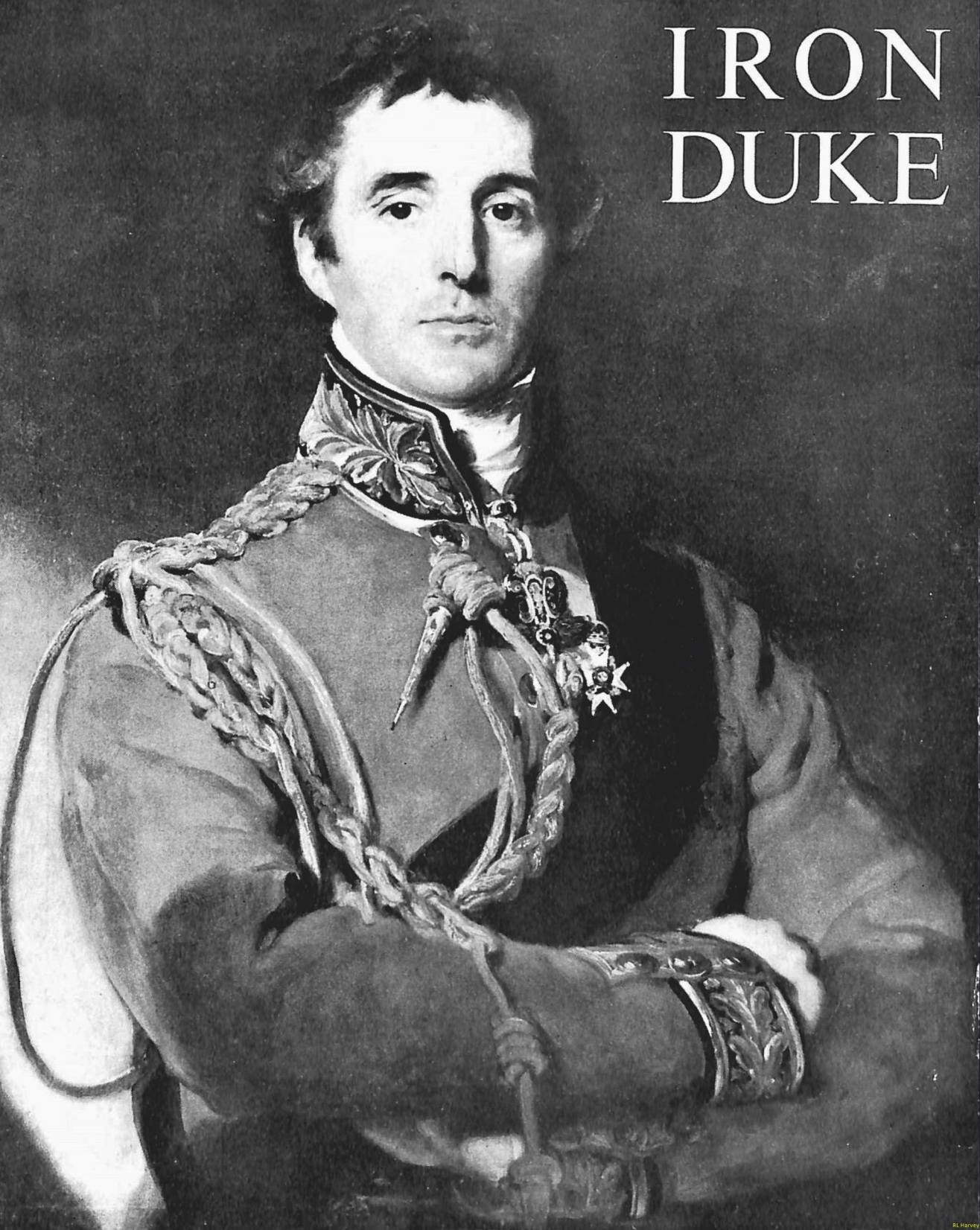


No.182 April 1980

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 Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53

Vol. LIII

APRIL 1980

No 182

BUSINESS NOTES

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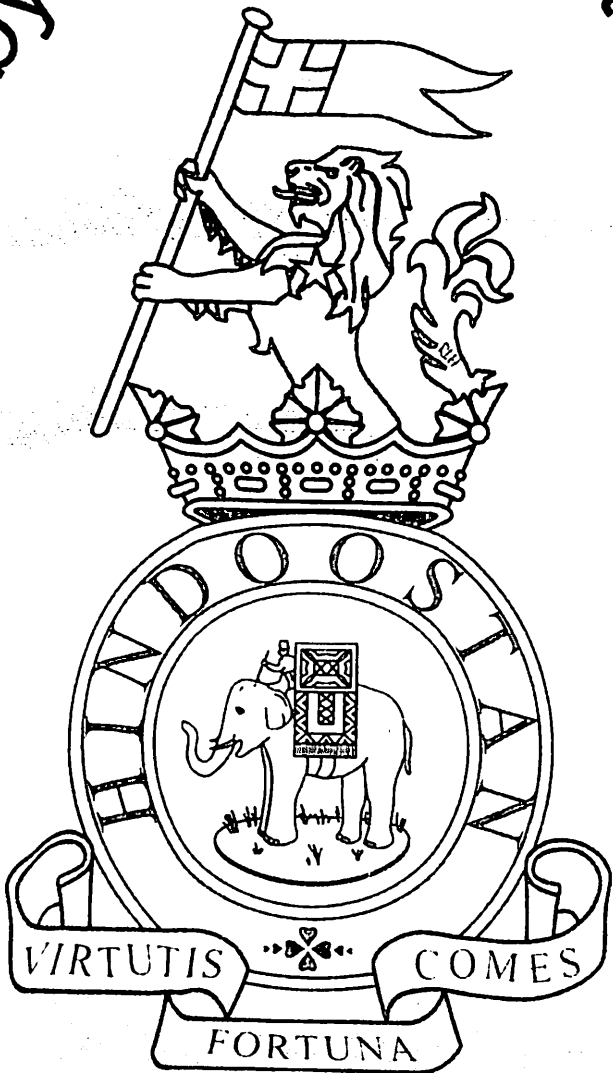
Acknowledgement

The portrait of The Duke by Sir Thomas
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House.

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Digitised by The Regimental Archives



THE REGIMENT

Colonel-in-Chief

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

Colonel of the Regiment

MAJOR-GENERAL D. E. ISLES, CB, OBE

The Laurels, Denton, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 1JZ

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellesley Park, Highroad Well, Halifax HX2 0BA

Regimental Secretary: Major G. C. Tedd

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major J. S. Milligan

THE 1st BATTALION

BFPO 29

CO: Lt.-Col. W. R. MUNDELL Adjutant: Capt. S. C. Newton

RSM: P. Robisnon

TERRITORIAL & ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

1st BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

“C” (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON’S REGIMENT) COMPANY

Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax HX1 2LG

Commander : Major T. R. Newcombe, LLB

3rd BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

“C” (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON’S REGIMENT) COMPANY

St. Paul’s Street, Huddersfield HD1 3DR

Commander : Major M. Hawley

ARMY CADET FORCE

WELLESLEY COMPANY

(THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON’S REGIMENT)

Huddersfield area ACF

Commander : Major J. K. Tyler, 37 Woodside Road, Silsden, Keighley

AFFILIATED C.C.F.

GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL CCF

CO: Major N. J. Mussett

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

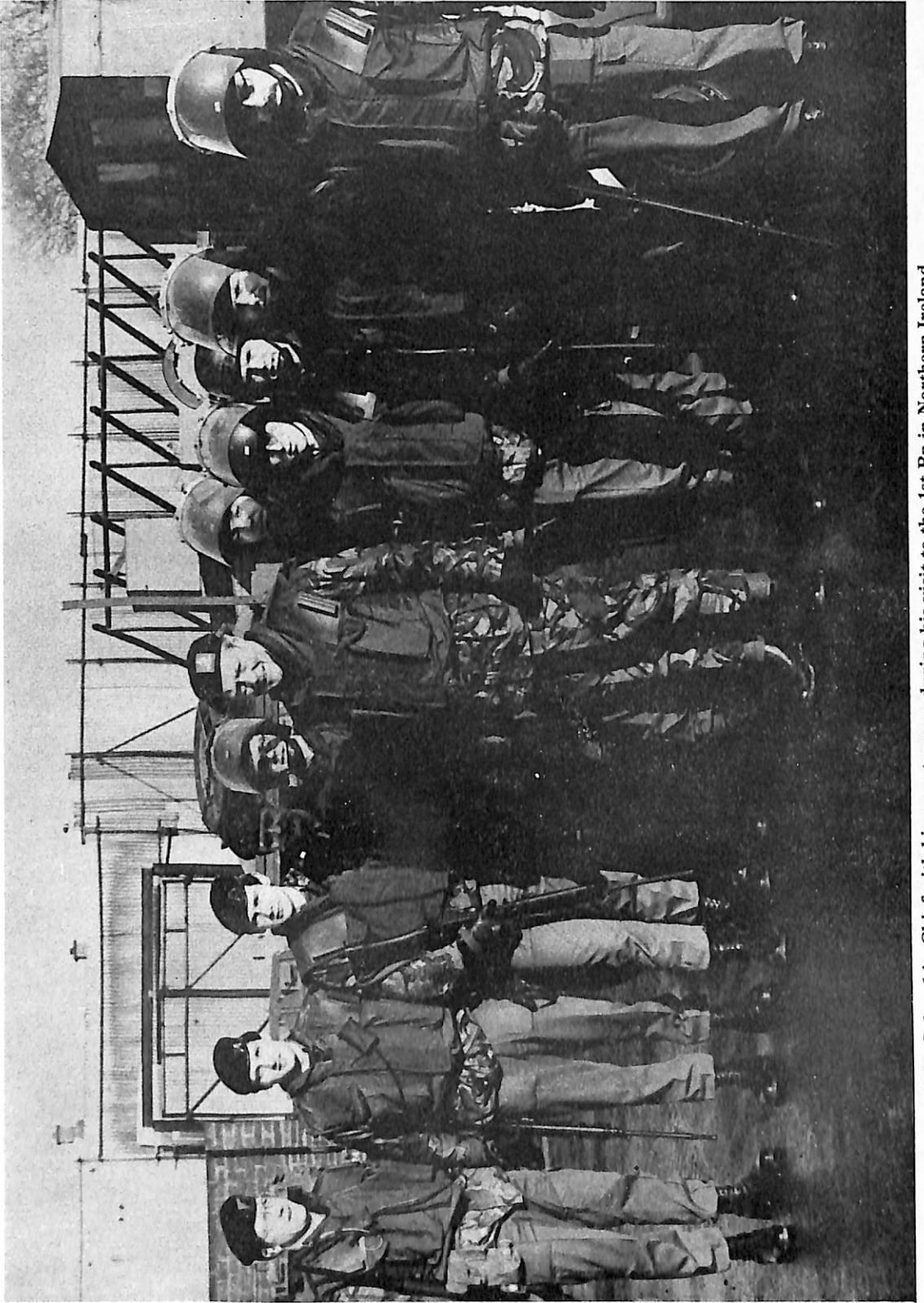
Patron

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

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

Vice-President : BRIG. D. W. SHUTTLEWORTH, OBE, HQ The Kings Div., Imphal Barracks, York YO1 4HO

General Secretary : Mr A. Wood, Wellesley Park, Halifax HX2 0BA



The Colonel in Chief with his escort group during his visit to the 1st Bn in Northern Ireland

Regimental Headquarters

Message from The Colonel of the Regiment

The 1st Bn returned to their Barracks in Minden in February 1980 after a most demanding and arduous tour in Belfast. During their time in Northern Ireland the Battalion lost two men murdered and two men suffered gunshot wounds. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of QMSI Bellamy, attached to us from the APTC, and Pte Pryce. We extend our sympathy also to Lcpl Tait and Pte Peat—who were wounded, but happily are now recovered and back with the Battalion, and to Cpl Lord, BEM who was struck by a missile, lost his right eye, and has been medically discharged after almost 22 years solid and faithful service in the Battalion.

Both the Colonel in Chief and I were fortunate in each being able to pay a short visit to the Battalion in Belfast and both of us visited all company locations. I know that I speak also for our Colonel in Chief when I say that the Battalion has, once again, carried out its task magnificently. It is a truly professional battalion and merits in full the high praise it has received from the Commander, Land Forces and other senior officers. As an example of this praise their Brigade Com-

mander concluded a letter to me by saying: 'But as always on these occasions, one must never forget the soldiers and I have been consistently impressed by their cheerfulness and their doggedness, which are qualities that I do not need to expand on to you. The end result has been a very good team work performance, in which the strengths of the Battalion have been exploited to the full, and I shall be very sad to see the Regiment leave. They go, however, with their heads justifiably held high'.

All of us in the Regiment are proud in the manner in which the Battalion has maintained our highest traditions in the tragedy which is Ulster today. We must also pay tribute to the wives and families of the Battalion who, by their steadfastness and continuing loyal support, did so much to maintain the morale of our men away on active service.

February 27, 1980

James S. G. S.

Colonel

Regimental Notes

EDITOR'S NOTE

We apologise for the late publication of this issue due to matters beyond our control.

Lt Col E. M. Liddell

The Colonel in Chief received the following letter from Lt Col E. M. Liddell, written in his own hand, after his 100th birthday last November.

46 Gerard Road,
Barnes
London SW13 9QQ
01-748 5686
Nov 7, 1979

My Lord Duke,

How kind of you to write your good wishes and those of your Regiment and for the splendid gift

for my 100th birthday from you all. Please accept my very great thanks. Lt Col M. R. N. Bray came on behalf of Gen Isles, and also brought a model of a Commando of the Regiment of today. His grandfather was a particular friend of mine. Although frequently seconded to Battalions of other Regiments during the World War, I have always belonged to your Regiment and am now glad to know that I shall fade away as such. Once again please accept my grateful thanks to you all.

I have the honour to be
obediently yours,
E. M. LIDDELL

Mr H. HORSLEY

In the April 1979 issue of the *Iron Duke* No 179, we wrote of the retirement of Mr Victor Prince, and in his place as Storekeeper the arrival at RHQ of Mr T. Widdop. Towards the end of 1979 Mr Widdop was offered the opportunity of more lucrative employment elsewhere and regrettably he left us. In his place Mr H. Horsley has joined RHQ as Storekeeper. Mr Horsley lives at Lightcliffe just outside Halifax and saw service with the RAF during the war, and with the Police Force for many years after. Although he did not serve in the Duke's, his father did—in our 4th Bn (TA) in Halifax from 1930–37. We welcome Mr Horsley to our staff.

Dates for your Diary

Officers' Dinner Club, London, Friday, June 20, 1980

Regimental Council, Apsley House, Friday, June 20, 1980

Regimental Association AGM, Reunion and Dinner, Huddersfield, Saturday, October 4, 1980

Regimental Association Trustees Annual Meeting, RHQ, Friday, October 17, 1980

Colonel's Autumn Reception, RHQ, Friday, October 17, 1980.

SCHNAPPS

Lt Col Kaj Tretaw-Loof and Maj Claes Frost visited the Battalion in Minden last summer at the invitation of Lt Col Bray.

Col Tretaw-Loof had commanded the Danish Life Regt with whom the Battalion was billeted on their visit to Copenhagen some years ago. As a subaltern he was decorated for bravery when commanding a Finnish platoon in the Finnish-Russian war.

Maj Claes Frost was the liaison officer on the Battalion's visit to Copenhagen and made many friendships which have lasted over the years.

Claes was to be presented with a silver ash tray first given to him in 1966 but withdrawn next day and substituted by another with his name correctly spelt. The mistake had lain among the mess silver until a conscientious PMC feared something seemed to have been overlooked and should even belatedly be put right.

Over dinner in the Officers' Mess, Col Tretaw-Loof and Maj Frost were asked if they had any particular wishes for breakfast to which the Colonel jokingly replied that his doctor had recommended that he start the day with a schnapps to get his blood circulating and added that Brondam Schnapps was his favourite.

At breakfast next morning the orderly officer appeared accompanied by a Mess waiter bearing a bottle of Brondam Schnapps that had fortunately been located in the Mess cellar.

As a sequel to this story Col Tretaw-Loof was heard one evening in Denmark to be talking about British Regiments he had met and their characteristics and that one in particular was quite outstanding in his opinion. J.H.D.

Colonel Commandant, The King's Division

The successor to Maj Gen Isles as Colonel Commandant is Maj Gen P. A. Downward CB, DSO, DFC

Maj Gen Peter Downward was appointed Colonel Commandant of The King's Division in July 1979. He was born in the Isle of Man in 1924 and educated at King William's College. He served in the School OTC, where he was a member of the Bisley Eights, and shortly after his 18th birthday in 1942 volunteered for service in the Rifle Brigade as a Rifleman, later to become Corporal before going to OCTU for commissioning into the South Lancashire Regt (PWV) in 1943. His first posting was to 4th Bn The East Lancashire Regt stationed in Norfolk, but this was short lived as he soon found himself in the Parachute Regt which he had volunteered for whilst at OCTU, and not unnaturally he elected to join the 13th (Lancs) Parachute Bn formed from the old 2nd/4th South Lancshires. He saw active service with the Parachute Regt in North West Europe, India and the Far East in 1944–46 followed by service in Greece

and Palestine. In 1947 he transferred to the Glider Pilot Regt flying Horsa and Hamilcar gliders, and in 1949 flew as aircrew as a second-pilot on York aircraft on the Berlin Airlift. In 1951–53 he flew as a reconnaissance pilot in Korea and was awarded the DFC.

After Korea, in 1953, he joined the 1st Bn The South Lancashire Regt (PWV) in the Canal Zone, Egypt, and after a short period with the Regiment in Barnard Castle returned to flying at the Light Aircraft School, Middle Wallop, before attending the RAF Staff College, Bracknell in 1958. This was followed by a staff appointment at the War Office, and a tour with the Lancashire Regt (PWV) at Plymouth and in BAOR as a Company Commander.

After a spell in 1964–65 as Brigade Major of 127 Brig (TA) in Manchester he took command of 4th Bn The East Lancashire Regt, but before completing his tour was given command of 1st Bn The

Lancashire Regt (PWV) in 1966-67. For the Regiment's part in the operations in Aden and South Yemen he was awarded the DSO.

In 1968-69 Maj Gen Downward served as a GSO1 at HQ Afnorth in Oslo, and from there was appointed as Commandant Tactics Wing at the School of Infantry prior to taking command of the Berlin Infantry Brig from 1971-74. He returned to the School of Infantry as Commandant for a period of two years immediately prior to assuming command of West Midland District on October 11, 1976.

Maj Gen Downward was married in 1953 after returning from Korea where he met his bride,

Hilda Wood, serving in that theatre as a member of the WVS. Mrs Downward, who was well known to many members of the Regiment, died suddenly in November 1976, shortly after moving with her husband to West Midland District. There are two sons.

The General has a wide interest in many sports and activities, particularly down-hill and cross-country skiing, beagling, shooting and sailing. He is Commodore of the Infantry Sailing Association and President of the Army Gymnastic Union.

In January 1979 the General became the Lieutenant Governor of The Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Love and marriage in the 33rd

Junior Officers Should Not Marry

I am entirely against officers having wives until they are in a post to be able to keep them from following them about. There never was a subaltern good for anything after he was married and very few captains. I have a notion an honest married man who loves his wife and children can't be so brave on any desperate attack or in any warm service as another man when he thinks as he goes on that his woman and children must starve.

Colonel Henry Hawley, May 1725
Colonel 33rd Foot 1717-30

Duty Before Love

... It is impossible not to feel for the unhappiness of the young lady, which you have so well described; but it is not so easy as you imagine to grant the remedy (*an application for leave*).

It appears to me that I should be guilty of a breach of discretion if I were to send for the fortunate object of this young lady's affections, and to apprise him of the pressing necessity of his early return to England: the application for permission to go ought to come from himself; and at all events, the offer ought not be made by me, and particularly not founded on the secret of this interesting young lady.

But the fortunate Major now commands his battalion, and I am very apprehensive that he could not with propriety quit it at present, even though the life of this female should depend on it; and therefore, I think that he will not ask for leave.

We read, occasionally, of desperate cases of this description, but I cannot say that I have yet known

of a young lady dying of love. They contrive in some manner, to live, and to look tolerably well, notwithstanding their despair and the continued absence of their lover; and some even have been known to recover so far as to be inclined to take another lover, if the absence of the first has lasted too long. I don't suppose that your protege can ever recover so far, but I do hope that she will survive the continued necessary absence of the Major, and enjoy him hereafter many happy days.

General Lord Wellington, 1811
Colonel 33rd Foot 1807-13

On The Other Hand

... wants to go to Lisbon, and I have told him that he may stay there 48 hours which is as long as any reasonable man can wish to stay in bed with the same woman.

General Lord Wellington 1811

Alls Well That Ends Well

I am told there is a vacancy of Lieutenant or Ensign in the 33rd Regt that a young man of 16, son to Capt Collins of that corps, now actually carries arms in it. If you had seen his mother, who is one of the handsomest women I ever beheld, and who does not seem above 20 herself, you would not have been able to refuse writing at her request such a letter as I now write. . . . Do not let Mrs Collins' reputation suffer by unjust suspicion. I never saw her but for one minute in my life, and probably shall never see her again.

Viscount Barrington, Secretary at War to Marquis Granby in Germany, May 29, 1760

Personalia

Major P. R. Faulks, MC, QC

We congratulate Maj P. R. Faulks, MC, QC, on his appointment as a Circuit Judge.

Major A. C. S. Savory MBE

Maj Tony Savory, who retired from the position of Chief Personnel Executive of Unigate Ltd, last year, has been appointed to the Board of FMC Ltd as a non-executive director. FMC is the largest meat company in Europe and own the brand names of Harris of Calne and Marsh and Baxter.

Mr E. P. Pennington

We have received a long and very interesting letter from Mr (late RSM) Pennington who is now living in Australia.

Unfortunately lack of space prevents us publishing in this issue, it is hoped to publish extracts in the August issue. His address is:

Post Office Box 26,
Karratha,
W Australia 6712.

MARRIAGES

Capt M. J. Stone and Miss K. A. Vernon

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 1, 1980, in the Memorial Chapel, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst between Capt John Michael Stone, The Duke of Wellington's Regt, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. J. Stone of Frederickstadt, Norway and Kay Angela only daughter of Mr and Mrs B. H. Vernon of Minden, W Germany.

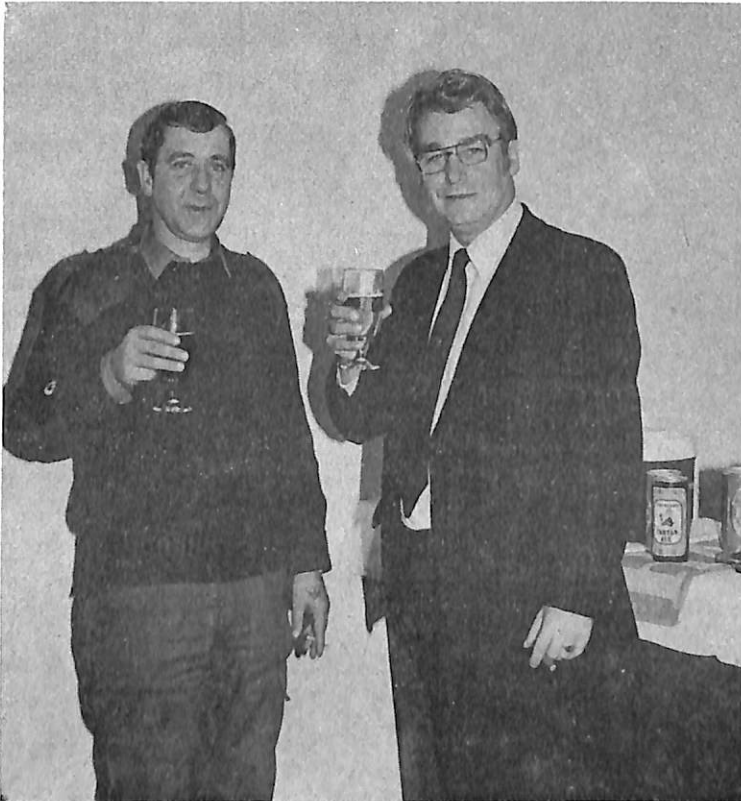
Mr P. J. Harvey and Miss E. M. Morgan

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 15, 1980, in the Regimental Chapel, York Minster, between Lt Peter John Harvey, The Duke of Wellington's Regt, eldest son of Wing Commander and Mrs J. D. Harvey of Barnard Castle Co Durham and Elizabeth Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. A. J. Morgan of Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

ENGAGEMENT

Mr S. H. Dixon and Miss S. Meggs

The engagement is announced between Simon Hugh Dixon, son of Mr and Mrs W. M. Dixon of Ponteland, Northumberland, and Suzy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. T. Meggs of the Dutch Barn, Framlingham, Suffolk.



The Mayor of Kirklees (Councillor Donald White) being entertained by WO2 Cookson during his visit to the Battalion in December 1979

REMEMBER PAUL MORRELL?

A surprise response to the 1st Bns appeal for a Regimental pin-up to visit Belfast came from Paul Morrell. In addition to offering the services of a lovely young lady, Paul wrote, 'I may say in passing that I served with the Duke's in Korea, attached to support "C" Coy when I was in the Royal Engineers 55 Field Sqn. The Duke's were grand lads and a credit to the British Army, as I am sure they still are.'

'I wish you all a happy, and God willing, peaceful 1980.'

It is always good to hear from old friends of the Regiment.

EXTRACT FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE**Regular Army
King's Division**

Maj Gen Peter Addcroft Downward, CB, DSO, DFC, Colonel The Queen's Lancashire Regt is appointed Colonel Comd The King's Division of Infantry in succession to Maj Gen Donald Edward Isles, CB, OBE, tenure expired (LG November 20, 1979).

Col Ronald Eccles, DSO, is appointed Representative Colonel The York and Lancaster Regt in succession to Maj Gen Michael Charles Kirkpatrick Halford, DSO, OBE, tenure expired (LG November 27, 1979).

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant Colonels December 31, 1979, with seniority June 30, 1979. W. F. Charlesworth (457129) DWR; C. R. Cumberlege (456624) DWR (LG June 29, 1979).

The undermentioned Captain to be Major December 31, 1979. J. R. A. Ward (484052) DWR.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains December 30, 1979. W. A. N. Atkinson (496347) DWR; D. I. Richardson (495573) DWR (LG September 10, 1979).

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants August 6, 1979. J. A. C. Kilburn (503853) DWR; T. J. Coburn (504439) DWR; N. G. Borwell (504429) DWR (LG September 4, 1979).

SSC

Paul Ronald Stewart Bailey (497882) to be 2 Lt August 4, 1979, with seniority August 4, 1977. To be Lieutenant August 4, 1979 (LG November 20, 1979).

Robert Bruce Laughton (509314) DWR to be 2 Lt (On Prob) (University Candidate).

Reg Comm

2 Lt (On Prob) (University Candidate) M. White (504856) DWR from Gen List to be 2 Lt February 9, 1979, with seniority August 9, 1975. To be Lieutenant February 9, 1979, with seniority August 9, 1977 (LG November 27, 1979).

Lt R. M. L. Colville (495151) DWR resigns his commission August 31, 1979.

Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Lt Col G. B. Roper, TD, to be Bt Col March 1, 1979.

Short Service Limited Commission

The undermentioned O/Cdt to be Second-Lieutenant on Probation February 24, 1980. Jeremy Charles Hall (510025) DWR.

POSTINGS—OFFICERS

Maj A. D. Roberts, MBE, appointed GSO2(W)A, BDS, Washington, January 1980.

Capt M. S. Sherlock, selected for GSO3 (SD1) HQ BAOR, April 1980.

PROMOTIONS—OFFICERS

The following officers have been promoted or have been provisionally selected for promotion.

Provisional selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1980

Maj S. J. Nash, during 1980.

To Major

Capt (QM) R. A. Tighe, wef April 1, 1979.

To Captain

Lt D. I. Richardson, wef September 10, 1979;

Lt W. A. N. Atkinson, wef December 30, 1979.

WO1 D. Hughes, granted SSC in rank of Lieutenant wef February 29, 1980.

EXTRACT FROM NORTH EAST DISTRICT ROUTINE ORDERS**ACF**

To be A/Major Lt W. Burke (484745) Yorkshire ACF, January 31, 1980.

CCF

To be A/Major Lt (A/Capt) N. J. Mussett (488080) Giggleswick School Contingent CCF, December 1, 1979.

To be A/Capt Lt I. Sherill (499293) Giggleswick School Contingent CCF, June 6, 1979.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Capt R. M. L. Colville, 15 Stamford Street Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8DL.

Maj and Mrs F. Nichols, 1 Cruckton Chase, Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Lt Col and Mrs C. R. Cumberlege, 69 Wakeford Park, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants.

Maj and Mrs A. D. Roberts, British Army Staff, Washington, BFPO 2.

Maj D. W. Wonson, 111 Provost Coy RMP BFPO 30.

Lt Col and Mrs R. L. Stevens, 10 Nell Gwynn Avenue, Shepperton, Middlesex.

Capt D. Batty, 127 South Park Road, Wimbledon, London SW19.

Lt Col and Mrs W. F. Charlesworth, 17 The Grove, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

Maj and Mrs M. G. L. M. Stacpoole, Tarrant Monkton House, Tarrant Monkton, Blandford, Dorset.

WO2 L. Wilson, 96 Bowman Drive, Gleadless, Sheffield, S Yorks.

Mr J. S. Bailes, 53 Harewood Way, Malling Estate, Lewes, Sussex.

Mr W. R. C. Miller, WS, The Priory,
Pittenweem, Fife, Scotland.

Maj C. D. d'E. Miller, 3 Brookvale Cottages,
Upper Standon, Henlow, Beds.

Mr R. C. Stark, 8 Woodvale Road, Sheffield S10
3ER,

Maj T. F. Huskisson, OBE, MC

In our 'Change of Addresses' column in the December issue we inadvertently gave Maj Huskisson's awards as MBE, MC, and not as shown above.

We apologise to Maj Huskisson for this error.

A Service of Dedication

For THE MEMORIAL TO GREAT SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR II

On November 23, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, attended a Service of Dedication for the Memorial to Great Soldiers of World War II in St Paul's Cathedral.

Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses were received upon arrival at the steps of St Paul's Cathedral by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor, and at the West Door by the Dean and Chapter, the Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Service was conducted by the Dean of St Paul's and the Memorial Plaques were dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Military leaders of earlier wars have been commemorated in London, sometimes in St Paul's Cathedral, sometimes in Westminster Abbey, and sometimes by statues in public positions, but not in a co-ordinated memorial for one war.

Commemoration of the military leaders of World War II has been much discussed since that War ended. In 1975 the Army Board, after consultation with the other Services, decided to plan a co-ordinated memorial to soldiers who had held great responsibilities in the Second World War and that these should be the 10 generals, who were promoted to Field Marshal during or shortly after the War:

- Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke
- Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis
- Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck
- Field Marshal Sir John Dill
- Field Marshal Viscount Gort
- Field Marshal Lord Ironside
- Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein
- Field Marshal Viscount Slim
- Field Marshal Earl Wavell
- Field Marshal Lord Wilson.

The memorial is intended to commemorate not just the 10 named Field Marshals but all who served them in War, and on one dedicatory plaque is written: 'The 10 memorials on the walls of the Chamber commemorate the Field Marshals who were leaders of the Military Forces of the British Commonwealth of Nations in the Second World War 1939-45. They represent as well a tribute to those who served with these leaders in the Victorious Armies'.

The Regiment was represented at this service by Maj Gen D. E. Isles, CB, OBE, the Colonel of the Regiment, Brig A. D. Firth, OBE, MC, Maj P. J. Mellor and Mr J. E. Horne, MBE and Mrs Horne.

It was a fine mild day and shafts of winter sunlight lit the magnificent interior of St Paul's and the glittering assembly—Her Majesty the Queen, the Pearl Sword, the batons of the surviving Field Marshals (only Sir Claude Auchinleck was absent). The choir sang Stanford's Te Deum in B Flat, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh read the lesson, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Donald Coggan, MA, DD, gave the address.

The Royal Artillery Band were supported by the trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music. They played 'I'm 95' as we filed out! probably for Lord Wilson and the Rifle Brigade, but we claimed it for our own.

Afterwards the Colonel of the Regiment entertained those members of the Regiment attending to lunch at the Army and Navy Club during which the conversation not only recalled the last war and its great leaders but even went back as far as Ambala and Kasauli in 1911, where the Firth and the Horne families served together, in an earlier generation.

A.D.F.

Command and Staff College Quetta—1979

The proposal to establish a Staff College in India was first made in 1875. It was, however, not accepted by the British War Office for want of suitable instructional facilities. However, in 1902, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, the then Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, felt that there was a need for a larger number of Staff appointments. He therefore proposed the establish-

ment of an Indian Staff College in Quetta. The proposal was accepted by the Government in 1905. The Staff College was temporarily established at Deolali until its permanent buildings at Quetta were ready for occupation.

The first Staff Course at Deolali commenced on July 1, 1905, with 24 students. The College at Quetta was formally opened on June 1, 1907. The



Maj J. M. Thorn presenting a Regimental Plate to the Subadar Major 10th Baluch who received the plate on behalf of his Regiment

original college buildings having suffered two severe earthquakes in 1935 and 1955 were demolished in 1971 and the present college buildings were built on the old site. The College has a justifiably proud record. Some of the most celebrated generals who took part in the two World Wars have been students or instructors at the College. Field Marshals Auchinleck, Hull, Slim, Montgomery, Ayub Khan, Manekshaw, the ex-President of Iraq—Rafiq Arif, all the Commanders-in-Chiefs and Chiefs of the Army Staff of the Pakistan Army and a long line of generals are just a few examples of its alumni.

The College has grown considerably over the past few years with 240 students attending the 1979 course compared with the 24 who attended the first course in 1905. Included in the 240 students are 23 Allied Officers, from all parts of the world including students from Australia, Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, PLO, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, West Germany and Zambia. The opportunity to meet so many officers of different nationalities has been one of the great assets of attending the Quetta Staff College. The course itself consists of four terms each of 10 weeks.

The method of instruction is very similar to that of Camberley with officers being divided into three divisions which are further subdivided into syndicates. The majority of the course instruction is carried out in the syndicate rooms generally in the form of syndicate discussions. There are, of course, exercises, tews, presentations, guest speakers and the inevitable papers to write. Two

strange aspects of the course are firstly that weekends are Thursdays and Fridays and therefore the new week starts on a Saturday. It takes a little getting used to. The other is that the working hours are from 0730 hours to 1420 hours, leaving most afternoons free for sport, work or meditation on one's bed!

I think that two of the assets of attending the course have been the opportunities to travel and play sport. The sporting facilities at the College have been excellent with every sport/activity being catered for, and with the afternoons free, the time to take part in them. I even began to learn to ride, but found that I had little aptitude for sitting on a horse and so to my shame I abandoned the idea. I am not sure who was more relieved, myself or the long suffering horse! On the travel side we have taken full opportunity during the Course Breaks to see something of the Indian subcontinent. We have visited New Delhi, toured the northern areas of Pakistan and stayed in Kashmir.

It has been fascinating to visit these areas and to actually see for oneself the Khyber Pass, the North West Frontier, the Taj Mahal and many other areas of historical importance. However, of all the places that we visited I think nothing can compare with our trip to Kashmir, it is truly one of the most beautiful areas in the world and I think we shall remember it for the rest of our lives.

The one major disappointment of the year in Quetta was that I was unable to visit our affiliated Regiment, the 10th Baluch Regt. Before coming to Quetta I was given a Regimental Plate by RHQ to

present to 10 Baluch on behalf of the Colonel-in-Chief, Colonel and Officers of the Regiment. On arrival in Quetta I was delighted to find that there were two Directing Staff and one student from 10 Baluch and therefore I thought it would be easy to arrange a visit to the Battalion. However, gaining authority from GHQ took much longer than we anticipated and it was not until September that we received the authority to visit the Battalion. I was then able to arrange a suitable date for my visit. This entailed me flying from Quetta to Lahore where I was to be met by a representative of the Battalion and then driven to Sialkot to see them. However, the visit was not to be because on the day that I was to travel to Lahore, and after waiting five hours at Quetta airport I was told the plane had been cancelled due to engine trouble! After that with the Battalion away on its annual training camp and with the shortage of time I was unable to rearrange the visit. To get so near to going only to be stopped at the eleventh hour was a big disappointment. However, I was able to present the Regimental Plate to the Subadar Major (RSM) of 10 Baluch Regt, who by chance visited Quetta. He was delighted to receive the plate on behalf of his Regiment. The presentation was carried out in the presence of Colonel Ajaz Shah, who was the late commanding officer of 10 Baluch and who is now a senior instructor at the College.

The lasting impressions of Quetta will be of the friendliness of everyone and the quite superb weather. Yes, without a doubt a most enjoyable year.
J.M.T.

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Ist Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

It has been, and still is, a busy tour in Northern Ireland. My second *Iron Duke* introduction is written in the RUC Station at Springfield Road, our joint headquarters with 'B' Division of the Belfast police. We have still two weeks to go; two hectic weeks before our return to Minden.

We arrived in October to a series of IRA attacks. We were lucky in our first two contacts: although Lcpl Tait and Pte Peat were both wounded. The former's quick and brave action undoubtedly saved the life of a REME driver attached to the KOSB. Our third was more tragic: QMSI Bellamy and Constable Davidson both being murdered in an ambush on Springfield Road.

WO2 David Bellamy had only been our APTC QMSI for six months. In that time he had established himself as a friend, an excellent instructor and a great asset to the Battalion. We all send his wife, Hillary, and her two children our condolences and hope that we can share her loss.

The storm was weathered, our soldiers settled down and dominated this area. The IRA targeted prison officers elsewhere throughout November and December and only returned for the odd, sporadic, raid. I am sure that our patrolling, our house searches (273 to date), our vehicle checks (8,939) and our vigilance kept them on the move.

Our relations with the police have been quite

excellent, indeed, great steps have been made in policing and in police confidence: much due to our co-operation and cover. We have also had several finds from the spectacular Armalite rifle at a Corunna snap road stop and the Woodmaster rifle at an Alma house search, to the many small but significant explosives and ammunition finds by all the companies. We have made over 80 arrests, some whom have been charged with murder, possession of weapons and other terrorist offences. The boys have done their stuff again.

I must mention Whiterock—the new base that is to dominate Turf Lodge and Ballymurphy. Started in November and built in a tricky and dangerous position, it required 4,736 man hours of protection from Burma Coy. This mainly as a result of the normal accredited design not standing up to the Black Mountain winds: we will remember Fort Jericho.

In January it was decided that 2 Armoured Division Engineer Regt, our neighbours in Andersonstown would not be replaced. The ensuing re-deployment has just been completed—it was complicated to say the least but suffice it to say our area has been doubled and we have three extra companies under command (one battery from 27 Field and two resident companies of 2 RRF). Our Echelon, who were more than busy giving us



The Colonel in Chief being greeted by the CO at Musgrove Park Hospital

the necessary support, have had to put in many extra late hours to make this possible.

We were delighted to be able to show our Colonel in Chief and Colonel around West Belfast; as well as several distinguished guests from the CGS down to Peter Andrews! Prominent among other visitors was His Worshipful the Mayor of Huddersfield, Cllr Donald White, who thoroughly enjoyed his short stay with us. Miss Wellie Mark 2 brightened up the scene a few days before Christmas and the rugger boys managed to do the necessary to stay in the Army Cup. I say again it has been a busy tour.

I must also mention the Rear Party. They also have been putting in the hours. I gather our 432 fleet is in better condition than it has ever been.

Our families have kept their chins up and I can't wait to see their performance of 'Minderella'.

We all look forward to three weeks well deserved leave and our final summer in Minden.

Sadly, as I write these notes, the gunmen have returned and have murdered Pte Errol Pryce of Somme Coy. He was killed on foot patrol in a hail of bullets fired indiscriminately down the White-rock Road by a Provisional murder squad. In spite of an instant and rapid follow up the gunmen slipped narrowly through our net. It is indeed tragic to lose such a fine soldier so near to the end of our tour. We send our sincere sympathy to his parents and brother. All of us have no greater wish than to bring the murderers of both Bellamy and Pryce to justice.



The Colonel of the Regiment and the CO with Mr Rowan Hamilton at the Springfield Road Headquarters

OFFICERS MESS

The period covered since the last *Iron Duke* has been spent entirely in Northern Ireland, where each base has had its own Officers Mess and the social life has been less than frantic. The Messes themselves have varied, depending on the available accommodation, the numbers involved and the role of the base. Alma Coy have necessarily led a somewhat restricted and spartan life at Moyard; every cubic inch of space is needed. Burma, on the other hand, lived, before they broke up, rather grandly in the Tac HQ Mess of 2 Armd Div Eng Regt at Monagh. Corunna officers, noted for their hospitality, perched near the top of North Howard Street Mill and dined in the glow of pink candles, and Somme's Mess was very comfortably and spaciously housed in a portcabin at McCrory Park. I must leave it to the Companies themselves to speak of their individual Mess activities elsewhere in this journal.

Tac HQ has the largest number of officers and also one on the smallest Messes. The anteroom permits eight officers to sit in armchairs arranged against the walls on three sides of a square, the open side being occupied by a television. Next door is a fairly roomy cupboard which serves as a dining room. Twelve persons can dine at one time, provided each is hoisted into position individually and on no account wishes to move until the meal is finished. There is a 'hall' in which a midget might, if he kept his arms well bent, swing a kitten, and a little bar, come kitchen.

A popular Mess activity is a dice game called Yatzy. Prominent among successful players is Denis Whittaker, Public Relations Officer ('Prophet' to his friends). There are those of us who suspect that Denis has loaded the dice to his advantage. Charles Bunbury exhorts his dice with piteous cries of 'Disastrous! terrible! I've really had it now', and frequently comes out a comfortable winner. Those lucky enough to be invited to one of Tac HQ's dinner parties have found themselves dragooned into a game of 'Call My Bluff', courtesy of Prophet's dictionary. Simon Newton is particularly good at winning; he works on the principle

that if no true definition is offered it cannot be guessed by his opponents. Heads he wins, tails we lose. A true gentleman.

There are more than 50 names in the visitors book, though these represent only a small number of the total number of visitors. Lord Mayors, MPs, the CGS and other senior Army officers, reporters and television men, local councillors and policemen, all have been to Springfield Road in the last three-and-a-half months. The Colonel of the Regiment, stayed for two days in mid January; (the photograph shows him with Lt Col Dick Mundell and Mr Rowan Hamilton. The latter is a former member of 145 Regt RAC/8th Bn DWR, and is now Chief Executive of the Ulster Bank. He twice very kindly invited groups of officers to lunch at his bank in Donegal Place); and the Colonel in Chief, was our guest on January 23. All have been very welcome, and we hope that they found their visits both informative and enjoyable.

I must record the Tac HQ officers' gratitude to Cpl Dalliday and Ptes Broughton and Acklam who have all worked with dedication and enthusiasm to keep the Mess functioning properly, despite many difficulties. They have served their turn in the guard sangars and been regular members of the CO's rover group and yet have always found time to see to the officers' needs.

Looking ahead to Minden, only two weeks away now, we have planned a curry lunch for the WOs and Sergeants on Friday, February 22, when the Rupert and Andy Capp awards will be presented. That same evening we will be the guests of the RSM and his Mess at the Paardeburg Ball, an eagerly awaited event.

Don and Gilly Palmer are in process of leaving the Mess. Don is posted to the staff of HQNI—it seems that Northern Ireland cannot get along without him. For the past several years they have both been ideal companions, both in and out of 'working hours', and they will be sorely missed. Best of luck to you both and, hopefully, we will see a lot of you in Catterick.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

During the past four months it has not been possible to run a centralised WOs and Sergeants Mess. With Companies initially in four different locations and Tac Headquarters and Echelon in two more places, we have been well spread out. Everyone has been thoroughly busy manning Operations Rooms, running intelligence cells, commanding platoons on the ground and providing all the administrative backing required in a operational environment.

Although each company base has its own 'Mini-Mess', Tac Headquarters and Echelon have been able to operate in the more traditional lines, except that the social life has necessarily been much quieter than that which we enjoy in Minden.

Relations with the RUC have been excellent. Certainly in the Springfield Road Mess the police have been regular and very welcome guests.

On December 19, the Mess hosted a joint Officers and Sergeants Mess dinner party to dine out Chief Superintendent Eddie Henry, Commander of the RUC's 'B' Division, whose headquarters is co-located at Springfield Road. The CO presented Mr Henry with a Northern Ireland soldier statuette. This was the first (and only) time since leaving Minden that all CSMs were together for a social function and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

On Christmas day, tradition was not neglected and Gunfire was taken round to all the soldiers by the CO, Adjt, RSM and all Officers and SNCOs.

On January 4, the RSM left for the UK to attend his MTOs course, and has returned full of knowledge on engines, clutches, gearboxes and POL accounts.

As we take on the challenge of 1980, all members are looking forward to our safe return to our families,



Chief Superintendent Eddie Henry RUC being presented with a farewell gift by the CO

and three weeks well earned leave.

Tragically, we have lost one of our finest Mess members during the tour. WO2 David Bellamy, our APTC instructor, was murdered by terrorists outside Springfield Road Police Station on October 27. A deep feeling of loss was felt by all Mess members. David will be remembered as a good friend, a fine man and a first class ambassador of his Corps.

Since publishing a request for items of militaria to be displayed in the Mess, we are delighted to

announce that we are now able to display two very fine cases of medals. The first has been loaned by RHQ and includes Crimea and Waterloo Medals. The second is a splendid display of the Kennedy family medals. This collection is mounted in a case depicting the family tree from the time of the Crimea War to the last War. There is a photograph of each member of the family with his set of medals underneath. We are very grateful to Frank Kennedy for the loan of such a treasured family possession.

ALMA COMPANY

General

The last time we wrote we were in the final stages of our Northern Ireland Training. This time we write of our last days in West Belfast. What has life been like during the past four months? Well, Christmas was different and the snow was not as deep as last year. We have been busy and the general view is that time has passed rapidly. Despite being away from homes in either BAOR or Yorkshire the spirit and endeavours of everyone remained high. Humour, as ever, abounded and time was found to give a few hours over to a

traditional Christmas Day, beginning with 'Gunfire' Old Alma hands of 1972 will still recognise the Henry Taggart Hall, although the base has much more accommodation, including the old flats. Real estate has been our main internal problem! Saracens continue to rumble through the patch as always, yet the occasional local might now pass a friendly word or two with a patrol. Gone are the days of gun battles and cries of 'Watch and Shoot'! Perhaps an article published in *The Times* after a reporter visited 'The Alma' sums up our present environment.

**THE TIMES,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1979
Ballymurphy's Bricks, Bombs and Bullets**

Belfast—the Ballymurphy ghetto is a horrifying place, the dirt, the smells and slogans, the boarded up shops and the overpowering sense of decay, all added up to an electrifying atmosphere of violence. Gangs of school aged children hurl bricks and abuse at Army patrols, they toss bottles of brightly coloured paint, and every armoured vehicle that patrols this catholic housing estate in West Belfast has been repainted countless times.

The local children are superb shots, many have learnt to bounce a brick off the bonnet of a 'Pig' armoured vehicle so that it enters the small glassless opening at the front and hits the driver in the face. Recently an open can of Heinz baked beans landed with breathtaking accuracy, and a lot of mess on the driver's lap.

The aggression is in the eyes of the 10-year olds, it haunts the streets, the broken down houses, the dogs and the people. The Ballymurphy dogs know a Saracen armoured vehicle as well as their own front gates, and they run alongside menacingly, totally caught by the fever that follows every Army patrol.

It is said that as soon as a Saracen or 'Pig' leaves the nearby Moyard Army base on the Springfield Road, itself a favourite and frequent target for sniper attacks, the dogs are snarling in expectation all over the estate. They roam like predators outside the fortified base, they lurk with the juvenile gangs on Kellys Corner, a favourite meeting place on the edge of this dreadful place, and they prowl every street.

This is where many of today's Republican extremists were nurtured, where nobody has to pay rent or rates, where normal society has come to an end, where many of the houses are so awful that an accurate description would sound hysterical. This is where you can see tiny children, tottering on fledgling legs, trying to lift a house brick to play the most popular game of all.

At night the Springfield Road slips into a surly silence as it passes the Ballymurphy and spreads out further west. It is the same with the Falls, the Whiterock, the Crumlin and all the other wide avenues made world famous by the bombs and bullets of a decade.

Few people go there after dark unless they live there. Only the lights burning at the frosted windows of the bars indicate that there is any life, and one wonders what the people are talking about.

Outside the Pigs and Sarcens rumble by with their inmates of young soldiers, swinging their rifles through the narrow apertures over the gloomy scene. They are on duty for 80 to 100 hours a week, but that is not what bothers them. The big problem is frustration. 'Imagine this', said one, 'I see this guy on the street and walk up to him, I know him because he is a killer, someone who perhaps shot a soldier and might be out with a rifle tonight. But we can't lift him because they say we have to have evidence, and how the hell can you get that if everyone's scared to death?'

As dawn breaks the people and traffic return,

and the ambiguitous rusting old black taxis are bulging with people, because few people go there. Soon the first shoppers are being frisked and the newspaper boards tell of last night's terrors.

And the war is just another day older.

(We are indebted to the Editor of *The Times* for his kind permission to reprint the above article.)

Towards the end of the tour a Brigade redeployment sadly caused Burma Coy to temporarily regroup with Alma and Somme Coys. To all members of 4 and 5 Platoon, who became C/S 14 and 15 for the last month, thank you for your excellent work. It was good to have you with us as our Turf Lodge experts. In the last two weeks of our tour we even boasted C/S 16, our 6th Platoon, in the form of 'C' Troop, 'G' Battery, 16 Lt AD Regt.

We now look forward to a good period of leave before returning for our final (did someone say busy?) year in Minden.

Arrivals

Welcome to: Lt Harvey from the Depot, Sgt Frear from Bn Int, Sgt Hanley from 'C' Coy, Cpl Wright from the Depot and Lcpls Dooler and Hepworth from the Provo Staff.

Departures

Farewell to Lt Borwell who departs for the Depot, Sgt Bailey to 'C' Coy MT, Sgt Fielding to Warminster, and to the following who are leaving us for civilian life: Sgt Huxley, Ptes 'Boggy' Markwell, Nelly Bland and Andy Greenside, we wish you all the best.

Thank you for your good work in Belfast to the following: Cpl Ingram, Cpls Sollitt, Holmes, Maddocks, Lcpls Palmer, Threllfall, Ptes Aston, Lloyd, Antcliffe, Oliver, Cfn McColl, Bdsm Fereday, Ralph, Mears, Mason and Cropper, who are returning to their respective companies.

Congratulations

Lcpl and Mrs Mace on the birth of their son Christopher David.

Promotions

To Cpl—Lcpl Wallace

To Lcpl—Ptes Hunt, Frear and Threllfall.

Pte Peet

On Saturday, October 27, 1979, whilst guarding two wounded soldiers and a policeman in the Intensive Care Ward of Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital, Pte Peet was wounded twice in the arm by gunmen. Disguised as doctors the gunmen were attempting to gain access to the ward in order to murder either the soldiers or policeman. Prompt action by Pte Peet caused them to panic and, firing at him, they fled. Pte Bacon, the second soldier on guard, returned fire at the fleeing terrorists. We are glad to report that Pte Peet, after hospitalisation and leave, returned to full time duty in Ballymurphy on Friday, November 30, 1979.

Home From Home

There are probably many reports of what we do on patrol, indeed through the media you will have a good idea of the problems which face a soldier in West Belfast—however, what you might not know is what we get up to inside our modern day forts. What exactly does a platoon do when it comes in after another rainy, foggy, abuse ridden patrol in the Ballymurphy? The truthful answer to this question is sleep, the pace of life on a four-month tour is fast and as a result most of the soldiers (and some officers) spend their spare time asleep.

However, there are other pursuits which can be found within our wriggly tin base. The multi-gym—a very nasty but extremely efficient gadget which if used correctly can be very effective at keeping the body in trim. Next to our multi-gym we have the all purpose Army Issue Sauna, which is also useful when trying to ensure the Northern Ireland bulge does not raise its ugly head. Both the sauna and multi-gym have had regular use on our tour and many will miss the facility it has offered. The opposition to the weight losing devices has been the cookhouse and the excellent food provided by the Alma company cooks. The food has always been good and is available 24 hours a day—rumour has it that the Moyard Cookhouse will appear in the next edition of Egon Ronay's 'Good Food Guide'.

The Platoon is accommodated in four-man rooms, in the same teams that work together on the streets. The rooms are all decorated by the 'Brick' that lives within, the pictures that go up range from BMW motorbikes to some rather explicit nude photographs all of which make the platoon commanders blush quite a lot. Most of the time between eating, sleeping and patrolling is spent watching television, although many problems occurred trying to get a good reception with the indoor aerials. As a result we now have a TV engineer section in the Platoon. It could be said that Northern Ireland is a good place for developing square eyes because on top of all the television that was watched there was also a film show each evening.

Moyard Security force base is not a Five Star Hotel and never will be, however, under the circumstances it is made as comfortable as possible. In addition we have benefited from welfare telephones, free washing machines, welfare books and occasional 'Gifts' from friendly locals. Another character who will be missed is Fred the butler, who is also leaving Ireland—to find his destiny on the Khyber Pass?

The Cordon

Through the early morning mist, three shady figures move slowly forward, their faces gaunt and haggard, staring watchfully ahead. The first of these figures flicks his hand and the back man vanishes into the night, through the garden and round to the back door. At the front the remaining two shrink into the hedges and behind low garden walls, their ears listening for the throaty rumble of the Saracen engine.

After five minutes of silence, with only the occasional shuffle of feet as one of the shapes changes its fire position, the stillness is broken by



Maj Palmer on patrol with the RUC

the bright eyed beast growling noisily round the corner and drawing steadily nearer until one of the figures leaps up with a small light aimed at the wheeled shape drifting slowly down the road. The Saracen stops and discharges its load of uniformed men with one man standing slightly to one side, and yet seemingly in command. Three loud bangs on the door . . . three more . . . then a shout 'Security Forces love, Open Up'. A light flicks on and then another and then the door is opened by a small, dishevelled figure and the men on the outside move into the light and the warmth and that stale, musty, familiar smell. As the door closes, the dark sentinel by the gate gives a short whistle and the two misty shadows from the back of the house reappear and move behind the whistling figure who has begun to move forward.

The house behind seems to be smiling at the retreating figures, wishing them well as they disappear into the mist, they will be back, by then everything will be visible, everything clear in two hours time. When they return, the small dishevelled figure will be dressed and will walk with his head bowed under escort. The uniforms, with cheerful men inside, will climb into the back of the Saracen and will drive off down the street. The remaining soldiers will turn and move off, back down the street, with the thought of steaming coffee and crispy bacon drifting through the back of their minds. The sun has just come over the crest of the distant hills and the city can now be clearly seen with only small pockets of mist obscuring certain parts. The figures turn the corner. Another cordon is completed and another terrorist arrested.

NORTHERN IRELAND—A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

It was 2 o'clock in the morning and everyone was feeling pretty drowsy after a hard day (and night) of patrols and checkpoints. These had been accompanied by the usual verbal abuse from the charming ladies of the Ballymurphy and Turf Lodge, Once again, day and night, the dogs had been very much in evidence, presenting a picture of intelligence only slightly higher than their two-legged counterparts. And they were always on permanent send as well.

Pte Smith sitting in his Sangar facing out onto the scenic Moyard flats noticed a stream of dense black smoke spiralling from the window of a downstairs flat opposite. Fire? Fire! Don't panic! Pte Smith told the Ops room, who in turn awoke Cpls Gale and Shinn from a deep sleep. With their six men they went out to see if they could help. When they reached the flat the fire was well under way. The owner was drunk and standing outside his flat minus his trousers—not an unusual occurrence in itself, but he had left his young children inside. A neighbour had the presence of mind to attempt to enter the house to get the children out but the smoke had forced him back. Cpl Shinn and Pte Bacon also attempted but once again the dense, choking smoke forced them outside just as the fire brigade arrived. Having reached the scene the firemen went inside with their breathing apparatus and brought out three youngsters, unconscious but still alive. They all recovered from minor burns and near suffocation after a short spell in hospital.

Meanwhile a 16-year-old had been seen jumping from the upstairs windows at the back of the flats in his underwear. A friend helped him, and took him away to get dressed. All in all he did not look too healthy so Cpl Gale decided to investigate. On reaching the pair of them we were assured that the young man would be fine with a little rest. He was smoke-blackened and in a daze so one man was sent to get an ambulance. Then he fainted, Cpl Gale and Pte Lodge gave him first aid and got him into a nearby house. Thanks to the prompt action of Cpl Gale in finding the youth he received medical attention and a night in hospital. Surprisingly the locals were rather grateful for our intervention. The next day, however, the hostility was still evident. The dogs were still snarling and so were the women. The streets were just as dirty and the opposition had been provided with another derelict in which to hide weapons or plant bombs. For us it was business as usual.

BURMA COMPANY

The handover between Burma Coy and 'A' Coy of 1 KOSB was an extraordinarily sudden affair. Our platoon and brick commanders came with the advance party and had time to learn the patch, so they had little difficulty when the great day to take over came. For the men it was different. They were turfed out of bed in Minden early, paraded, counted and checked; put on to coaches for the drive to RAF Gutersloh; channelled through the amazing RAF procedures which are deemed essential to any service flight, crammed together in string seats of a noisy and uncomfortable Hercules aircraft for four hours, put into a bus from plane to Airport Arrivals building at Aldergrove; shuffled through customs and immigration onto another coach into Belfast; taken off the bus and squashed into 'pigs' and 4 tonners for the final leg to Fort Monagh and home, (or so we thought then), for the next four months.

When the main body arrived they spilled out into the yard, bewildered and perhaps a little apprehensive. Journey over, tea then bed? No chance son! NCOs, like sheep dogs at a championship trial, rushed round and herded them to their accommodation. (Drop case and kit bag; sign for ammunition, flak jacket, helmet; look wistfully at bed; keep moving.) They were then whisked away to sangar or standby room to relieve the Jocks, whose wide grins and hearty cries of 'stag on the Dukes!' made it plain they were not too unhappy about leaving. Within 30 minutes the car park at Monagh was full again, this time with Jocks, strangely subdued by then and facing the anticlimax that comes at the end of every tour. And that was that. In under an hour, Jocks out, Dukes in, 'Stag on,' like the man said.

The Turf Lodge patch contains a wide mix of citizens. Those in the southern part have nice houses with gardens, jobs, and cause little bother. From time to time in the past, gunmen have taken

over an upstairs bedroom for a firing point, but on the whole it always seems like Sunday in the Norfolks and Granshas. In the North, several badly vandalised blocks of four-storey flats dominate litter strewn streets, abandoned cars and yelling kids. Republican feelings are strong in the North Turf—the dogs bite only soldiers.

The Company worked a simple 48-hour roster between the platoons to provide patrols, standby crews, escorts and Monagh and Tac HQ guards. Men quickly became expert at recognising local faces and perfected their patrol drills. In a day or two we felt we had been there for months. Men with a whole two weeks Northern Ireland experience began to think they knew all the answers and old hands like Sgt Dent, on his seventh tour, had their work cut out to contain misdirected enthusiasm.

In November work began on a new base within our patch; Whiterock to some, Jericho to others ('an de walls kep' tumblin' down'). We spent days and weeks protecting the builders.

Things started to happen. Stones and bottles became commonplace on the Springfield Road, and a few baton rounds had to be fired. Lcpl Sweeney and his brick, members of 5 Platoon caught a taxi driver carrying ammunition and rifle magazines; 6 Platoon brought accurate fire to bear on a fast moving car that nearly ran down two men; Cpl Teall and his expert band of searchers (4 Platoon's finest, do I hear someone say?), began to think that life was one long game of hide and seek. A bus driver parked outside the base and informed the guard that he had a bomb on board asking what were we going to do about it. No major incidents, but a continuing programme of scheduled and unscheduled events kept everyone busy and on their toes.

And then, in mid-January, Fort Monagh closed down, boundaries were re-drawn, and Burma Coy found itself without a home. The OC and 2IC

were booted out to fetch and carry at Tac HQ, whilst the remainder of Company HQ did its best to make itself comfortable at Jericho. 4 and 5 Platoons joined Alma at Moyard, 6 Platoon joined Somme at McCrory Park. Today there are two weeks to the end of the tour. Where the hell have the last four months gone?

Burma Coy soldiers have done what they always do. A good job. They have been enthusiastic, dedicated and professional. Some things have gone wrong, but not many. A Northern Ireland tour is hard graft, much of it tedious and repetitive, much of it dangerous. One thing is certain—the lads have earned that nice shiny medal with their name on it.

The Company congratulates Cpl and Mrs Williams on their togetherness in fetching a little boy into this world, and also Mrs and Lcpl (where's he been looking) Kerrigan who always knew that his wife would deliver him with a little girl, Taryn Louise. Congratulations to Ptes Hansel and Tattersall (newly weds) and a warm welcome to the Company to their wives. On the promotion side we congratulate Lt Wood (the only man in the Duke's with two cap badges) and Lt White on gaining their 'Second'. Promoted to the dizzy heights of Lance Corporal are Lcpls Bogle, Bracewell and the two Smiths, Lcpl Smith 92 and Lcpl (I'll never do a room job again) Smith 35.

4 Platoon

A Brick Commanders Story

The rain falls steadily on the roof of the portacabin as I put on my waterproof. I quickly check myself, boots, beret, torch, field dressing, notebook and pencil, yes that's the lot. 'Right lads, that's everything now, the boss wants us in the briefing room in two minutes.'

The last week for my four man 'brick' has been hard. The construction of a new military base requires round the clock protection for the Sappers building it, to neutralise the terrorist threat. It has been like that for the last five days. Three hours on patrol, three hours off. All three platoons have shared this laborious task.

'Out through gate 2, we leave after Sgt Ennis' brick. Jonah, brick mugger at the front. Danny, you keep an eye on vehicle registrations. Hanse, lamp-posts for explosive devices. When we do the house call, you chat up the son, Danny. OK, lets go.'

We run down the slip road and straight across the main drag. Immediately the brick spread out into formation, eyes peeled for a stolen car, gunman, or trip wire. We get among the houses, and cover both sides of the street, up and down. 'Watch out on that corner, those dogs are waiting for us again.' We know this street well, the local Provo shop on the corner, scrapped cars and vicious dogs snapping at our heels. We head north, amongst the high, tattered gloomy flats. Springfield Road runs away north to Kelly's corner. The school kids are coming out.

Jonah shouts 'There they are!' As usual a group of children are lurking behind one of the blocks of flats, armed with an assortment of weapons. Two

pigs roll towards us from Alma's patch just down the road. They are a prize target and the kids scramble up the bank with their weaponry. Bricks, bottles of paint and iron pickets smash into the rear pig. Call sign 21A, Lcpl Bogle and his men, run out at them and they disperse, to be back again in a couple of minutes, doing it again. It's a game to them.

We've been out for nearly three hours now. A lot of people have been stopped and checked out. We had to call out Coffeepot (WRMP) to search Mrs G's shopping bag. Cars have been pulled to the side of the road and thoroughly checked out.

'Hello all stations, 21 this 21L, Whisky Romeo, out.' The boss has given return to base. Let's go home. The rain has stopped and the moon and stars are very clear. An icy wind blows from the south. There are few people about now.

We reach camp out of breath and go through the debrief procedure, then just as we are about to sit down for a hot brew the intercom buzzes. 'There's been a contact in Corunna's area. You have been asked to help in the follow up. Move now.'

Afterthought: We got to know that icy wind well during our stay. It is the only wind we know that changed the name of a Fort from Whiterock to Jericho!

5 Platoon

After a hard period of training the Platoon looked forward to getting on with the job for real. We were a little apprehensive at the start, as over half the Platoon had never been to the Province before and it took a little while to get used to the new environment. On the whole we were expecting a higher level of 'aggro' and incidents, a little naive perhaps, but the picture had built up in our minds before leaving, and reality was somewhat disillusioning. In the second month Lcpl Sweeney and his men found two 303 magazines and several live rounds in a black taxi, which produced a great deal of propaganda in the Republican press, to the effect that we had planted them and the driver was innocent. Cobblers! Lcpl Sweeney also found, after putting his dirty washing and soap flakes into the tumble dryer, that the wash programme wasn't up to scratch. Nice one Sween! Pte Ingham found a quantity of explosives and cassette incendiary making equipment on some waste ground which was recovered by the experts, who deemed it necessary to blow up the hole where the stuff was found in case there was more. There wasn't. Still, this gave Ingham his incentive and from then on he was often to be seen up to his neck in mud or hanging by his ankles in deep shafts hoping for another find. The Platoon Commander was seen to put chocolate sauce on his roast beef, and old man Summersgill asked him if he wanted gravy on his ice cream! Sadly the Platoon will lose a few old faces on return to Minden, but good luck to all those who are going.

6 Platoon

Here you are folks, in dazzling black and white, all the way from the Emerald Isle, yes you guessed

it, Shiny Six's war notes. The last time we were in print was at Sennelager as the final preparations were being made for the four month tour in West Belfast. Now it's nearly all over and by the time you read this we will be back in Minden.

People ask you in hushed reverent tones 'What's it like in Ireland,' and the reply from all the lads is 'bloody hard work.' Not without its dangers I might add. The platoon commander personally found two ladies handbags and had to carry them back to base, and never mind the gunmen or the dogs who are particularly nasty. In fact 6 Platoon are firm believers in Pte Steadman's theory that all dogs in Ireland from birth, are beaten severely with various items purchased from the Army and Navy Stores, thus conditioning them into a blind hatred of the Army. We feel this is the most original piece of thinking to come out of Ireland since Winthrop.

Christmas for the Platoon was spent at the new Whiterock Base (Fort Jericho), and our very dismal, muddy surroundings were transformed by Cpl Meade's brick on who it was left to obtain a vast

quantity of holly whilst undergoing a heliborne mountain operation. The tree was bought from a very obliging local shopkeeper during a patrol. However, there was a certain amount of excitement when one of the sangars back at Fort Monagh reported that a Christmas tree was moving about in the Turf Lodge area (legs supplied by Pte Draper, who took time off from his favourite sport of being run over).

We would like to welcome two new arrivals to the Platoon, Ptes White and Kelly, and our 'ex-under 18s, 'Ptes Schneider and Kay, who had no sooner arrived than they were being filmed by an American film unit.

To conclude we should say that although life has been hard out here, it has not been without its funny moments. For example, whilst we were rummaging on some waste ground . . . Pte Steadman 'Hey Sarge, look what I've found'. Sgt Hepworth (Big Chief Yellow Horse) 'Mmmm, a new shovel, I wonder why it was thrown away'. Steadman 'Oh that's obvious, there wasn't any instructions with it'.

CORUNNA COMPANY

The previous edition of the *Iron Duke* anticipated our tour in West Belfast, and now, a short four months later, we are already able to look back and reflect on the various activities and events which have befallen the Company as we now prepare to redirect our interests towards BAOR. Our home and base has been North Howard Street Mill, which is a large, dingy building with high-ceilinged rooms, blocked-off windows and a multitude of steps which assist fitness to a certain extent. The present concept of operations dictates that the three platoons are always on either stand-by, patrolling or manning the observation posts; the latter duty being the only one which can be considered as a slight rest. We have had various other Units under command and living with us to assist with the commitments at different stages of the tour, foremost of which has been the Troop of Sappers who, with the exception of their cap badges, became Dukes for three months. Sincere appreciation for their assistance, efficiency and cheerfulness has been well earned. We have also had attached to us at all times a roulement platoon of Green Howards. Many old acquaintances have been renewed and new acquaintances forged which will continue when we meet again in Catterick at the end of the year. The most dramatic attachment of all is that of 23 (Gibraltar) Battery, 27 Field Regt RA, who are at present co-located with us in the Mill and assume total responsibility for the TAOR on our departure. The early departure of the OC, Maj Palmer, on posting has resulted in the Company being under command of the Gunners for the final six weeks of the tour, but hopefully the long handover period has facilitated their adjustment to the Infantry role and the situation in the area. There have, of course, been many other temporary

attachments in the form of visitors, Fusiliers and Close Observation Platoons—our thanks to all.

The operational side of life has been extremely busy. We have flooded the area to try and pre-empt terrorist activity. It is always difficult to judge what activities have been prevented due to the Company's operations. The terrorist does not usually operate unless the climate and situation are right for him, and the detailed knowledge of the area, the trends of the populace and familiarity with notorious personalities which the platoons have attained are reflected in the relatively low terrorist success rate. Perhaps our most tangible success has been the find of a loaded Armalite rifle in a taxi during a routine vehicle check by 9 Platoon and the subsequent arrests. Several wanted men have been removed from the streets and many others find they can no longer move about freely due to the high standard of terrorist recognition. This is an area which brings out previously unknown talents in soldiers and, when coupled with a good chat-up technique, it becomes one of the most important facets of patrolling. We have had to deal with our fair share of bomb threats, though only one has actually exploded in our area. There have been several shooting incidents, mostly in connection with stolen cars which have in fact occupied a great deal of our time. Patrols have spotted them and given chase, and there has been a definite decrease in this sort of incident due to our efforts in conjunction with the RUC. The continual fluctuation in terrorist policies and the sensitivity of such organisations as the Divis Demolition Committee and the various Sinn Fein establishments in our patch have increased the need for constant political awareness and understanding throughout the rank structure. As always, much of

the tour has consisted of routine tasks such as the twice-daily opening and closing of the many barriers on the roads into the area, vehicle checking, pub checking and house calls, but the soldiers have remained cheerful throughout. The details of particular incidents, both serious and amusing, will emerge again and again in the future and become increasingly less accurate and more embellished as time passes, but in this chronicle individual names are unimportant as the tour has been a Corunna team effort and everybody has contributed equally.

There were some slight changes in organisation just before the start of the tour which resulted in Csgt Peat assuming command of 8 Platoon and Sgt Hey returning prematurely from Shorncliffe to become 7 Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Hanley assumed the

mantle of CQMS and both Capt Meek and Capt Grieve have spent some time as Company Operations Officer. Congratulations are in order for Sgts Coroner and Elgar, Cpl Chapman and Lcpl Dobbs, Gale and Johnson on their respective promotions. The inevitable post-Ulster changes in hierarchy are pending on our return to Germany and our best wishes and thanks go to Maj Palmer, Capt Shuttleworth, Lt Kilburn, Csgt Peat and Sgt Elgar who are leaving the Company to be replaced by Maj Thorne, Capt Grieve, 2 Lt Laughton and Csgt Hogg.

Finally on a sad note, our sympathies are conveyed to Cpl Lord, BEM who is being medically discharged due to a serious eye injury which was received when he was hit by a brick whilst travelling in a vehicle on the Falls Road.

SOMME COMPANY

Somme Company HQ

It's a clear sunny day in February. We look out of Macrory Park our camp, on to Black Mountain, frowning down on West Belfast, symbolising our displeasure with the misdemeanours of the local population, and the firm but fair (some will recognise those words) grip we have kept on the patch.

The platoons have done the leg work for the tour but, not to be forgotten, Company HQ has provided the 'brains' and the administration, each department making its inimitable contribution. The Int/Ops marriage has been a stormy but healthily robust liaison. Capt Kilburn has led the Ops team with the battle cry of 'Go Green, go Green' down the telephone to the Bn Ops Officer before exchanging personalities with the Incredible Hulk. By his side have been the faithful signals detachment, manning the vengeful machine and the coffee percolator. The Int are different. Colour Sgt Craven has led the cell. He has shown a marked penchant for wanting to solve the war his way—'I can't understand your reasoning, but I shall do

as I am told'. In his concept of Ops, hot pursuit has a time lapse of four months rather than the current 30 minutes! Sgt Porter has spent many happy hours in the Int cell occasionally surfacing to pronounce 'I have just had this brilliant idea, how about . . . ' What's more they are good ideas. Some day we shall strike lucky.

Company HQ is not all Ops and Int. There are the inevitable 'A' and 'Q' sides to our character. CSM Basu's bark is getting fiercer daily and four months in Northern Ireland have honed his bite to a sharp cutting edge. Even the Mayor of Belfast was greeted or so the tale goes, with 'I crack your skull snow flake'. Lcpl Barker our Company clerk celebrated his promotion by mistaking the shredding machine for a photocopier, his first test of this strange machine was carried out on the company 21C's daily patrol programme.

Colour Sgt Exley has developed a second youth with the arrival of two WRAC girls now permanently based in the camp. We obviously haven't kept him busy enough but there is still the handover period to come. Lcpl's Davidson and Evans have done sterling work keeping us all supplied with our daily administrative needs though not without twice giving the Battalion a full length commentary on running the gauntlet of bottles, bricks, gas cylinders, washing machines etc, on the daily arm run to Flax St.

On a more serious note, all our soldiers are to be congratulated on the cheerfulness, hard work and dedication they have put into our tour in Belfast. Our NCOs, in particular have dealt with all the problems of Northern Ireland with maturity, tact and firmness.

Sadly we must report the death in action of Pte Errol Pryce. The Mortar Platoon were leaving Macrory Park for a routine Foot Patrol. The brick Pte Pryce was in was engaged from the Falls/Whiterock junction by several rifles and a machine gun. Showing great presence of mind and courage Cpl Jarman returned fire. Sgt Allen with his brick followed through and quickly



Miss Stephanie Payne, Miss Wellie 1979-80, with some of her admirers

sealed off the firing point and immediate area. Within a few minutes the whole area was cordoned by the rest of the Company. Despite extremely rapid reactions the murderers escaped. We will not rest in our efforts to bring them to justice. Errol Pryce will be remembered by us all.

Mortar Platoon

The Belfast tour has again seen Somme Coy transformed into a rifle company role, and this, if anything, has served to heighten the friendly competition between the mortars and the anti-tanks. The transformation was taken in our stride, no doubt due to the depth of experience that is to be found amongst our soldiers.

Our mighty hordes, radically depleted by 'loan service' to other departments of the Battalion, we began the tour with only 21 men. The anti-tanks managed to stay virtually intact by forming two platoons, however, we did manage to plant a spy in their ranks in the form of Sgt Sweeney, who has done an admirable job of converting the heathen masses of 11 Platoon.

The first month of the tour provided a real fillip to the Platoons morale in the form of four finds. The first, a find of bomb making equipment by Cpl Maillard's search team, led to a more than satisfying conviction. The bonanza also included two Mark 4, time and power units, 11 assorted 9mm rounds, and a replica Colt 45.

Our success on the streets, however, was not duplicated to quite the same extent on the sporting side. In the indoor league competition we were soundly beaten by the anti-tanks in darts, cards, dominoes and arm wrestling. It goes without saying that the Company 21C (erstwhile anti-tank platoon commander) had no ulterior motive in having the pool table removed the day before the event. Despite losing to 12 Platoon in the finals of the soccer our spirit was not sapped and we came back with a resounding victory in the volleyball competition.

The tour of course has been hard work but it has not been without its interesting and light-hearted moments—as Lcpl Dwight found when during a thorough search of a rather shifty looking individual, he lifted the characters hat which came away complete with . . . all his hair. Now in the last few weeks of the tour our eyes are turning more and more in the direction of Minden and block leave. Several members of the Platoon are getting married over the leave period and our congratulations go to Capt Stone, Cpls Lofthouse, Penaluna and Peace. We trust they don't get tied to the kitchen sink too soon and they don't forget their 'muckers'—the single lads.

11 Platoon (Anti-Tanks and a Few Strays)

The story so far . . . it is the Winter of 1979-80 and much evil doings are afoot from the Westrocks to the Rodneys. Months ago in the early days of August, Capt George Kilburn, OC Milan, divided his mighty hordes and all those under 5ft 6in found themselves under command of a rather tall Royal Army Ordnance Corps Officer and a rather round ginger haired Mortar Platoon Sergeant.

Thrown together in a field somewhere near Sennelager, the days and nights of instruction were patiently absorbed and practiced for the forthcoming 125 days in sunny Macrory Park, downtown Belfast.

Well, the rather tall RAOC Officer learnt how to understand the Yorkshire language and advanced to Belfast under the watchful eye of Cpls Able, Conlon, Craven and Pedley. Close to our new home, on the first expedition down the Falls Road, the subtle youths of the area said hello with a railway sleeper through the cab of our MK, nice place, downtown Belfast. After a week's navigation course with the KOSB, and a cadre on what the hoods look like in 3D, call sign 42 became a complete beast and so the story continues . . .

Impressions are that one day we will be there on the ground at the right time in the right place. Several times (contrary to viscious rumour) we've been on the ground, but as luck would have it at the right time but in the wrong place. Lcpl Sutcliffe and his merry men have set a new record for covering the shortest distance in the quickest time from the Westrocks to the New Beechmounts in response to cries for help from Corunna.

As the tour enters its last month it is rather premature to look back on our efforts, but without getting too many sandbags and letting the lamp swing a bit . . . Twice we've had the riot gear ready for the H Block marches and they've disappointed us. We missed a PIRA funeral because we were on Guard Duty, we've slept through Miss Wellies visit as we had just come off standby and proved that it only rains when its our turn to patrol!

On return to good old Deutschland some will understand fully the destructive properties of Choggyburgers, as fat foxhounds pound the pavements in a bid to burn excess calories; others will put to use the hours spent on space invaders as they re-learn their wire guiding missile trade.

The rather tall RAOC Officer goes back to take his B1 course, a lot wiser and hopefully with his Army Cup Winners Medal. And Sgt Sweeney, (he's not that round), returns to the sanity(?) of the Mortars!

Footnote

Within days of writing these notes the platoon's many efforts in the field of rummaging were rewarded with a number of finds, Lcpl Mullet and Pte Sladdin turned up some home made explosives, and five mortar tail fins were unearthed by Lcpl Sutcliffe and his brick (the search team finds something at last!)

12 Platoon

Having been produced from the Milan Platoon, 12 Platoon immediately showed its worth during training at Sennelager. The highlight of the period was the platoon commander's reaction to a booby trap in a back alley. Even though the device was only a small simulated explosion Sgt Butterworth still collapsed in a heap and spent the next few minutes trying to get his heart working again. Unfortunately the incident was captured on video and the whole Company saw it the following morning.



Christmas in the Sergeants Mess at Springfield Road

Sennelager completed, all thoughts turned to Northern Ireland. The Platoon and brick commanders got there without a hitch, however, the bulk of the Platoon were delayed for a day in Germany, bribery of the RAF has not yet been ruled out.

After only a few weeks it was decided to discard Flak Jackets. This was met with some joy by the old men of the Platoon (Sgt Butterworth, Cpls Harrison, Cockson and Hall) all of whom were beginning to think that their next sprint up the Whiterock Road would be their last.

Christmas and New Year were quiet. The Platoon found itself on patrol during the early hours of New Year's day. Lcpl Coles and the Company 2IC found a man drunk on the pavement during this patrol. After some five minutes of persuasion the man refused to get up. Cpl Hall arrived on the scene and told the man to get up and go home. To the intense annoyance of everybody else the man did just that.

Traffic out here has been a major problem. Lcpl Duffy had a fight with an Ulster bus and ended up spending several weeks in hospital. However, in

all fairness the bus didn't look too well by the time he had finished. The incident did prove that a bus can be stopped by head butting it. Nevertheless the practice is not recommended.

To close on a lighter note a sun bird came to visit us here at Macrory and after some persuasion agreed to remove some clothing for a photograph. One man from each platoon was nominated. The first choice was Pte Cutts, eventually he had to stand aside to let Pte Paul get his picture in the paper. The result was on page 5 of *The Sun*. Who knows, perhaps a star is born.

The end of the tour looms close. It has been a busy four months and we are all looking forward to three weeks leave which it seems will be the only respite, between now and November.

CLOSE OBSERVATION PLATOON (COP)

Our four-month tour in Belfast has finished, and the question on everyone's lips is, 'What did you achieve'. It has been voiced quite regularly by the rifle companies, feeling that we were a private army having a very lazy time.

Like all jobs it has had its high spots and its low,

but one outstanding feature has been the morale of the men. We came here uncertain of our deployment and a little nervous at the thought of working in such a notorious area. Any man who was not apprehensive would have certainly started on the wrong foot. But now, as we look back, we can sigh and say, 'We've made it', and take stock of the tour.

Our job can be broken down into phases. We manned sangars and kept an eye open for 'known players'. This can get tedious but it was only for a week at a time. We patrolled to get to know the area. We spent many nights trying to find observation points and finally we manned these selected observation points in an effort to spot and capture those wanted by the security forces or the police. We were lucky in being able to constantly change our work and so boredom was never a feature in our tour. Some of it was hard, some tedious, some nerve-wracking, but all rewarding.

MT PLATOON—FLAX STREET MILL

We are now starting our down hill drive with most of our battle scars healed. Pte 'Killer' Keeble who claims he fell out of his 4 ton vehicle cab and sustained two badly strained wrists managed to recover on R & R and is now 100 per cent fit. The Platoon has been kept very busy especially in the escort roll, but we have managed also to cater for all the 'Priority Transport' demands which do tend to become impossible to meet, but after some expert juggling by Lcpl Earnshaw (details clerk) we have been able to meet all the original requests. We are now in the midst of preparing vehicles for backloading, and although we are excused the 'Unit Equipment Inspection' for the Northern Ireland vehicles because of our redeployment, a lot of hard work must be done to ensure we return the 'vehicle pack' in good order.

ECHELON—FLAX STREET MILL

Echelon is able to maintain a Sergeants Mess bar facility where individual members from Company locations can take a break from the 'Front Line', enjoy a change of atmosphere, and have a good laugh at the Flax Street Drama Group which were formed to entertain the troops in the event of CSE shows being cancelled. The 'Trio' are Duke Lawrence, Colin Fleming and Bernie Crowther who have developed a unique talent for keeping us amused and our spirits high. We did have a fourth member of the group, Phil Kirkpatrick, RAPC, who took the easy way out and got himself posted. Phil had completed a two-year attachment from the RAPC, and we wish him and his wife the best of good luck.

Christmas was celebrated in all sub-unit locations

How does one judge the success of a tour? The number of finds, arrests or rounds fired? Each company could put forward an argument that they were the most successful. We look back and considering the job we were required to do, feel the tour has been a success. We worked hard towards a very high standard of terrorist recognition. This was achieved and put to full use in a very demanding job which is not without hazard.

The Platoon has now disbanded to the four companies from which they came. They return as better soldiers, more professional, more skilled and certainly more experienced and able to deal with the terrorist.

We say farewell to Cpl Nicholson and Pte Doyné who have gone to pastures new. One hopes that the camaraderie will remain when we recall this unique platoon and its short life span.

Thoughts are now turning to our move of base location, and kit and equipment is being checked and prepared for the short move up the road to Musgrave Park Hospital. Rumours that Cpl Peacock is tearing his hair out over the POL account because of the increased stocks he will have to hold cannot be true. But never mind Arthur we will all pool in for a new duster to keep the top surface polished.

All in all, with the various extra activities, the tour has gone quickly and we are all looking forward to our return to Minden.

To end on a serious note the MTWO would like to thank all members of the MT Platoon and LAD for what must be termed a very successful tour.

with Mess members serving Christmas dinner to the soldiers. Some SNCOs from Tac HQ were able to come to Echelon which made the day more enjoyable with some 20 Mess members sitting down to Christmas dinner together.

We would like to welcome into the Mess, Sgts Bernie Coroner, Rod Elgar, John Cockshott, Dave Porter, Taff Vance, and hope they enjoy themselves in the coming years.

Congratulations to Taff Breach on promotion to Ssgt, and farewell to Phil Kirkpatrick on posting. Phil you did a grand job.

The highlight of our return to Minden are the Padeburg Ball on Friday, February 22, and the changeover of RSMs, 'Welcome back RSM Robinson, Sir'.

Rugby

The season is now almost halfway through which has allowed the new faces (of which there are many, both on and off the field) time to settle down. There was a considerable re-shuffle at the beginning of the season with the departure of Maj Vernon Davies, Capt Tim Sinclair and Cpl George Gill who have all contributed greatly to the running of the team. On the coaching side it now seems certain that WO1 Peter Robinson will take over the main role although he is still eligible for selection! Lt Dixon is now skipping the team as Capt Charles Grieve has unfortunately had to stop playing.

The Northern Ireland tour has created difficulties in training and has restricted the number of games played, although we have still managed some excellent fixtures. Before departing from Minden we played a handful of games, the best of which we won 14-10. We also suffered two defeats at the hands of 7 Signal Regt and 3 BAPD but we hope to gain our revenge at the end of the season.

In Ireland we have had to concentrate on the Army Cup Competition. Happily, we became the Northern Ireland Champions, beating 40 RM Commandos 12-7 and the Green Howards 84-3. In the final we met Staffords on a rain soaked pitch at Lisburn and overwhelmed them with a final score of 36 points to nil.

We have also played three Irish clubs who have exposed our lack of match fitness and as yet we have not recorded a victory. However, the matches have all been close and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, February 27, we played 8 Signal Regt R Sigs in the UK Semi-final at Catterick.

Up until the last quarter of the game we held the Signals to a draw but then the greater match fitness of the opposition showed and the Signals ran out the winners. The final score 8 Sig Regt 16 points 1 DWR 6 points.

So ended our Army Cup run for 1979-80.



During his visit to the Battalion the Mayor of Kirk-
lees was told 'The only thing
we are missing is a pint of
Yorkshire beer'. On his return
he put the soldiers wish to
Tetley's Brewery in Leeds
who responded in this magni-
ficent fashion

Officers Location List

AS AT MAY 1, 1980

Major General (Retired)

D. E. ISLES, CB, OBE: Colonel of the Regiment; Honorary Colonel 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.

Brigadiers

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

Colonels

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

Lieutenant Colonels

J. E. PELL, OBE: GSO1 (Psy Ops) Joint Warfare Estb.
M. R. N. BRAY: GSO1 (DS) National Defence College.
J. R. P. CUMBERLEGE: GSO1 (Trg) HQ NE Dist.
J. B. K. GREENWAY, MBE: GSO1 DPS, B Team, MOD.
R. L. STEVENS, MBE: GSO1 'Live Oak'.
M. J. CAMPBELL-LAMBERTON, OBE: GSO1 Fortress HQ Gibraltar.
C. W. IVEY: CO 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers. For GSO1 (DS) Ghana Staff College July 1980.
T. D. LUPTON: CO Warminster Support Unit, School of Infantry.
W. R. MUNDELL: CO 1 DWR.
C. R. CUMBERLEGE: GSO1 (Ops/SD/Int/Sy) HQ SE Dist.
W. F. CHARLESWORTH: Student National Defence College. For a command appointment August 1980.

Majors

P. B. L. HOPPE: 1 DWR.
S. J. NASH: DAAG (Ops) HQ 1 BR Corps. For Lt Col in 1980.
D. M. PUGH: Training Major 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.
I. P. REID: GSO2 (Sy A) HQ UKLF.
P. J. PUTTOCK: OC Sup Div School of Inf (NCO's Tac Wing).
P. D. J. ANDREWS: OC Junior NCO's Div, School of Inf (NCO's Tac Wing).
C. N. ST. F. BUNBURY, MBE: 2 ic 1 DWR.
E. J. W. WALKER: GSO2 (Ops/Plans/NATO) HQ UKLF.
C. G. FITZGERALD: GSO2 (SD/Trg) HQ The King's Division.
A. R. WESTCOB: GSO2 (Air) HQ NORTHAG.
P. J. MISLOR: GSO2 D14b, MOD(A).
T. J. NICHOLSON: 1 DWR.
A. R. REDWOOD-DAVIES, MBE: DAAG (Org/PS) HQ NE Dist.
P. D. GARDNER: 1 DWR.
A. D. M. PALMER: GSO2 M10 HQ Northern Ireland.
A. D. ROBERTS, MBE: GSO2 (W/A), BDS Washington.
J. M. THORN: 1 DWR.
M. P. C. BRAY: Coy Comd, Depot The King's Division.
J. R. A. WARD: Staff College, Camberley.

Captains

C. J. W. GILBERT: Staff Capt (AQ) HQ UNFICYP. For Staff College October 1980.
D. L. J. HARRAP, LLB: (A/Major) 1 DWR.
T. J. ISLES: 1 DWR.
M. S. SHERLOCK: GSO3 (DS1) HQ BAOR.
A. J. PITCHERS, BEd: Coy Comd Royal Brunei Malay Regiment.
K. BEST: Adjt, 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.
T. PICKERSGILL (SSCC): UFO 1 DWR.
T. C. SINCLAIR: OC 10 CTT.
C. F. GRIEVE: 1 DWR.
A. D. MEEK: 1 DWR.
A. H. S. DRAKE: Int and Sy Gp (HQNI) for 1 DWR June 1980.
M. J. STONE, BA: 1 DWR.
D. I. RICHARDSON: 1 DWR.
W. A. N. ATKINSON: 1 DWR.

Subalterns

G. A. KILBURN: (A/Capt) 1 DWR.
G. D. SHUTTLEWORTH: (A/Capt) 1 DWR.
S. J. N. MORGAN, BA: 1 DWR.
S. C. NEWTON, (SSC): (A/Capt) 1 DWR. Adjt
M. WHITE, BA: 1 DWR.
P. J. HARVEY: 1 DWR.
M. J. B. DRAKE (SSC): 1 DWR.
S. H. DIXON (SSC): 1 DWR.
P. R. S. BAILLY (SSC): Junior Soldiers Bn, Taunton.
T. J. COBURN (SSC): 1 DWR.
J. A. C. KILBURN: Depot The King's Division.
C. A. HARVEY (on probation): Oxford University, for RMAS September 1980; for 1 DWR January 1981.
J. W. WOOD (SSC): 1 DWR.
N. G. BORWELL: Depot, The King's Division.
D. HUGHES (SSC): 1 DWR.
M. A. CHAPMAN: 1 DWR.
R. J. M. PUGH (SSC): 1 DWR.
R. B. LAUGHTON (SSC) BSc: 1 DWR.
A. J. BREAR (on probation): Durham University; for RMAS September 1982.
J. C. HILL (SSLC): 1 DWR.

Quartermasters

Lt Col (SQM) W. ROBINS, MBE: Quartermaster, RMA Sandhurst.
Maj S. H. KIRK, MBE: Quartermaster HQ 2 Armd Div and Sig Regt.
Maj R. A. TIGHE: Quartermaster (1), 1 DWR.
CAPT A. J. WELSH: Quartermaster (2) 1 Green Howards. Applied to retire May 31, 1980.
CAPT M. CARTER: Quartermaster, 2nd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.
CAPT W. R. R. SYNOTT (R IRISH): Quartermaster (2), 1 DWR.

CAPT B. GODFREY BUXTON, MC: LETTERS FROM THE WESTERN FRONT 1915-18

by Peter N. Farrar

There is a growing interest in the experiences and attitudes of individual soldiers of all ranks in war—their memories and their personal records, such as diaries and letters. The Keeper of the Department of Documents at the Imperial War Museum, Mr R. W. A. Suddaby, has expanded a remarkable collection of such records. Recently, he received from Capt Barclay Godfrey Buxton, MC and bar, a large number of letters written to his parents and other members of his family during the First World War. There is also a diary with generally brief entries. The Department of Sound Records has also interviewed him.

Reading Buxton's letters is an excellent reminder of the fact that popular generalisations about the attitudes of soldiers in the First World War crumble away when individual cases are examined in detail.

The letters tell us at least six main things: Buxton had a strong Christian faith which was unshaken by the events of the war; his morale was strengthened by the support of his family and of family tradition; he was firmly convinced of the justice of the Allied cause; he took enormous pride in the company he commanded; he had an extraordinary ability to deal with difficulties and problems lightheartedly, with a sense of 'fun'—a favourite word of his. Lastly, and importantly, he was a bold and enterprising officer, truly an 'amiable desperado' as he was described in 'Craven's part in the Great War'. The remainder of this article will try to illustrate these points.

Buxton was born on January 7, 1895, at Matsue in Japan, where his father was a Church of England missionary. His great-grandfather was Sir Thomas

Fowell Buxton, one of the leaders of the British anti-slavery movement. He absorbed the evangelical religion of his parents and ancestors and their pioneering spirit. After Repton, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1913. His decisions about his part in the war, which broke out in August 1914, show the dilemma facing a conscientious Christian. On September 2, he joined a Territorial Field Ambulance unit, telling his parents in Japan that 'it is better for us Christians not to use a rifle. I can only see Jesus in the firing line helping the wounded and speaking words of comfort to them'. Like many others, he thought the war would be a short one: 'it may mean missing a Cambridge term'. By January 1915, however, it was becoming clear that the war would be a long one. After much thought and discussion, and encouraged by his Cambridge friend Covie Barrett, he took a Commission in 1/6 DWR. He explained to his parents that 'I don't join to kill a German. I join because I believe that if we don't win, Christianity all over the world may be affected—we are fighting in a right cause and the only means now to get the right for ever is to kill'.

Injuring his foot, Buxton did not go with the Battalion to France in April 1915, but joined in June. After being a Platoon Commander for a year, he was put in command of 'D' Coy. He found considerable personal fulfilment in these positions, for the dangers and comradeship of the trenches drew men closely together, and gave Buxton the opportunity to influence their conduct and beliefs. In May 1916, he distributed New Testaments which had been sent out by an aunt. But the power of example by officers and NCOs was the chief means he relied on to encourage Christian conduct, discipline and efficiency. 'The discipline of a company is seen in its details.' On Christmas Day 1917, in the front line, 'I went round with Pte Haigh and a sandbag full of chocolate, as Father Christmas, and gave them all chocolate. Much pleasure'. It is not perhaps so surprising that he could write in March 1918, that he had enjoyed 'the happiest two years I ever have spent in my life. Nothing ever—Cambridge or Repton—touched it'.

His first notable exploit was a trench raid near Nieuport, Belgium, on August 9, 1917, for which he was awarded the MC 'I always enjoy a rough shop for you see how fine your men are and see new sides of man you once thought useless. I took them all over to the Boche lines and brought back five Bosche and a MG. It was grand fun'. On October 9, 1917, 1/6 DWR was flung into the battle of Passchendaele. Believing that 'the only way to save the attack which is failing is for somebody

to be willing to move on and so encourage others', Buxton and a small group established the most advanced post in the sea of mud. They were cut off for two days and nights without food and water. He was awarded a bar to his MC.

With one exception, Buxton quite properly avoided comment in the High Command and strategy. But during the great German breakthrough of March 1918, which did not affect 1/6 DWR in the Ypres salient, he wrote home: 'Haig has been marvellous for it needs great courage to steadily loose ground on your own initiative when you know how ignorant the public are of the reason and fine generalship employed'. In April 1918, the Germans made a second attempt to smash the British line and Buxton had to put his own 'back to the wall' in response to Haig's call. When 147 Brig was rushed to fill a dangerous gap in the line, Buxton was ordered to stay with 'B' Echelon and Lt J. Hart took temporary command of 'D' Coy.

The day after a battle in defence of Bailleul, Buxton wrote a hurried note home which ended: 'CO says 'D' was marvellous and left a huge pile of hundreds of Bosche dead in front and in rear of them. They were completely surrounded and fought their way back and dug in but many of my dearest old friends—three years' service out here and more—are gone but 'D' is immortal'. Very soon after writing this, 'B' Echelon found itself under attack and unable to stop British troops of another regiment retreating past them in disorder. Buxton grabbed as many men as he could and held a mile of front with small groups until eventually obliged to retire to the main battalion line. He came through unhurt but not in the final battle which stopped the German offensive a fortnight later. On April 29, he received multiple shell wounds, including a smashed hip joint. In hospital, his life hung in the balance for weeks, but he recovered.

The permanent necessity for a crutch put an end to his career as a 'desperado'. In 1919 he returned to Cambridge to complete his studies, after which he devoted his life to training men for pioneer missionary work overseas. He is Chairman of the Japan Evangelistic Band, the Missionary society founded by his father.

Buxton had three elder brothers. Murray served in the Norfolk Regt in 1914–18; Alfred was a missionary in the Belgian Congo when war broke out and stayed there. Both were killed in the London blitz in 1940. George was killed in action with 1 Sqn RFC in France in 1917.

The 'A' would be glad to hear from anyone who has records of the Regiment in the 1914–18 War.

Letters to the Editor

Cambridge

Dear Sir,
The Royal Horticultural Society's journal for November 1979 included an article on the wild flowers of Madeira.

In it I noticed a reference to 'the rare endemic *soxifraga maderensis*, of which a portion has recently been split off as *S Pickeringii* after a local resident and keen botanist'.

I think this local resident must be Maj Harold

Pickering, the elder son of Col Charles Pickering who was Colonel of the Regiment from 1939 to 1947.

I doubt if a botanical distinction has previously been recorded in the Iron Duke and the item will be of interest, particularly to those of your readers who remember the recipient.

Yours

R. G. TURNER

Life in Colchester

To the Editor,

The following is an extract from a Military History of Colchester in the Essex County Library:

The garrison continued to contribute to the life of the town, its officers joined in the social life, appeared in splendid array at gala nights at the theatre, gave dances like that of the 33rd in 1872 when 'leading gentry of the district' and the Mayor of Colchester were present, lent the regimental bands for sports days and other occasions and these activities were welcomed by the inhabitants. It was a different story when occasionally the men overstepped the bounds of law and order. In 1869-70 'the festivities of the Christmas season' were 'interrupted by one or two serious disturbances'. Men of the 18th (Royal Irish Regt) and 33rd (Duke of Wellington's Regt.) Regiments began a series of brawls which went on for two days and the police had to call out military pickets to suppress the fighting.

It can be reported honestly, that the members and ex-members of the Regiment now serving at HQ Eastern District/Colchester Garrison, Maj Toby Hirst and WO1 Fenn, are living a reasonably quiet, middle of the road, existence somewhere between these two extremes.

Yours

A. D. FIRTH

The late Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer KG, GCB, GCMG, KBE, DSO

Sir,

May I, through the courtesy of your columns, draw attention to the Society of Friends of the National Army Museum?

It exists as a Registered Charity to buy important material for that wonderful Museum, built in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital and which could otherwise have been lost to the nation.

A truly magnificent collection of many of the most priceless relics of the British Army from its inception to 1914 is housed in the National Army Museum. It was the inspired vision and quite extraordinary love of the British Army of the late Field-Marshal that drove him to work tirelessly for two decades and more to establish the Museum.

His selfless work must not cease. The Society of Friends of the National Army Museum is supported by more than 2,000 members. May I suggest that the many who may wish to pay some small tribute

to the memory of that soldier could do no better than join the Society?

Please write to me at the address below and I will be only too glad to send you a Membership form together with an outline of the objects and benefits of belonging to the Society.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID LLOYD OWEN
Major General

National Army Museum,
Royal Hospital Road,
London SW3 4HT.

Russian Language Wing,
RAEC Centre,
Wilton Park,
Beaconsfield,
Bucks
Tel: Beaconsfield 6121,
ext 214
January 22, 1980

The Editor,
IRON DUKE,
Wellesley Park,
Halifax.

Dear Sir,

Some years ago, readers of several regimental magazines helped me with a piece of research on which I am engaged in my spare time. As a direct result of their kindness and interest, I have assembled a vast amount of information, much of which has not previously been recorded.

However, the task I have set myself is a daunting one and further help would now be much appreciated, particularly as I have rather ground to a halt.

I am a member of the 'Forces Postal History Society' and am making a study of the mail that passed from and to POWs/civilian internees in the two world wars. I am particularly interested in the Japanese camps of World War II and was recently awarded a top national postal history award for an illustrated study of POW and civilian internee mail.

Briefly, what I am seeking is:

- (a) General background information on each of the camps.
- (b) Information re postal facilities.
- (c) Postal items both in and out of the camps—preferably not badly creased or folded—such as envelopes (not necessarily the actual letters!) Red Cross cards, air letters, postcards, notification of capture and release, telegrams, aerial leaflets and the like.

If any of your readers can assist in any way, however small, I should be delighted to hear from them.

Yours faithfully,

R. E. HURST, MA (OXON)
Principal Lecturer

(Any reader who can help is asked to contact Mr Hurst direct—*Ed.*)

**'HOUNDS ARE HOME'
The History of the Royal Calpe Hunt**

Gordon Fergusson—Springwood Books

The Royal Calpe Hunt—doubly royal with the Kings of England and Spain as its joint patrons, had its origins when the Garrison Chaplain had a couple of fox-hounds sent out to Gibraltar in 1812. A pack was soon formed and, kennelled on the Rock, continued to hunt foxes in the neighbouring Spanish countryside and cork woods until 1939, even during the Civil War.

The claim that the hunt had its origins in the pack of hounds kept by the first Duke in the Peninsular War is discounted. Nevertheless the Regiment's links with the Royal Calpe Hunt go far back into the 19th century. The hunt was only kept going by the efforts of the officers of the garrison in Gibraltar. In the October 1927 issue of this Journal there is an interesting article which indicates that Lt Williamson and Lt Mills of the 33rd were prominent in the affairs of the hunt, and there is a reproduction of a magnificent oil painting for which the original sketch was executed by Lt Mills, a gifted amateur artist. On the left of the picture Prince George of Cambridge is seen, galloping up on a bay. Those who served with the Regiment in Gibraltar in the early twenties will have more recent experience.

When hounds went out across the frontier early in the morning the huntsman took a brass tag from the Guard Room. When they crossed safely back, in the evening, he handed in this tag which was returned to its nail on the Guard Room wall. This tag was engraved 'Hounds are Home' and it is now in the Gibraltar Museum. This is typical of the way in which the history of the hunt is linked to the habits of the Garrison. It is more than a chronicle of hunting days.

Decade by decade, year by year, the social history of garrison life on the Rock is interwoven with a spirited account of the many ups and downs of this famous old hunt and the personalities associated with it. Much hitherto unpublished material has been collected from private sources and characters long since forgotten have been vividly and faithfully recalled. The influences and attitudes of the Governors of Gibraltar form a thread to the tapestry as the hunt's history unfolds. Nor were the Calpe Hounds royal in name only. There was scarcely a member of the Royal family who did not enjoy at least a day's sport with them.

There is a coloured map of the hunting country, many delightful line drawings by Gerald Hare and Madeline Selfe and numerous photographs integrated with the text. There are 8pp of colour plates, including five water-colours by the late Lionel Edwards, R.I.

This is strongly recommended as a book not just to read, but to have. If it is in the house you are likely to return to it, time and again.

A.D.F.

HOUNDS ARE HOME is published by Springwood Books Ltd, Freepost London, at £10.50.

Keeping in touch

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

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Company Commander's Notes

Well here we are into 1980 and I hope everyone will enjoy health and happiness in the year. Over the past few months we have been as busy as ever. If anyone thinks we are a part-time Army—forget it. Believe me the staff at the Drill Hall and members of the Company will tell you that a lot of hard work goes into the Company each week. Success only comes from hard work and persistent effort and I am delighted to report everyone is working flat out.

We were rewarded in November with our first success in the UKLF Driving Competition Ex 'Black Dragon', a cross-country, night navigation, motor maintenance test—270 miles in less than 13 hours over the Welsh countryside. This was our first time of entering and we won the Infantry Cup. Led by Cpl Collins with Sgt Neal as technical instructor the team did a wonderful job. Well done to all the team—Sgt Neal, Cpl Collins, Lcpls Barkham, Begg, Clay, Pte Harrow.

Our Assault Engineer Platoon is maintaining its fine record and constantly adding to its expertise. This was evident on the Watermanship weekend at Halton in the assault river crossing where the improvised rafting and assault boats were handled with calm efficiency.

Training has continued with vigour and variety; we have laid minefields, set booby traps, everyone has been through the sustained fire role of GPMG and many have classified in APWT. We even had

the local Olympic Health Club along giving demonstrations in fitness and the use of weights. A contest was held on the night and two of the company won a free course at the studio (names are being withheld for security reasons—their wives might find out).

I attended the Duke's Memorial Service at York and it was nice to see so many old faces. It was also a sad occasion as the service was also a dedication to Maj Sugden who recently passed away.

Remembrance Day Parade was revived in Halifax after an absence of several years and was a great success 106 officers and men being on parade. Members of The Regimental Association and RHQ led by Maj G. C. Tedd marched to the Parish Church with us. Our CO Lt-Col Ivey also attended along with Brig Tony Firth (ret'd), who is now secretary of the TA Sports Board. We had a bugler from our Corps of Drums to complete the occasion. After the march back all were entertained with and drinks buffet—we catered for over 250 people.

We shall be sending soldiers of the company to Norway for three and six weeks, Gibraltar for two weeks in April, to Kentucky in March, and all of us to Germany in September. Not bad for a TA unit is it? It does show what is happening and what can be done.

The Christmas celebrations went extremely well in every sense of the word. The traditional dinner was held at Warcop, 101 of the Company attended and during the day we fired Section-in-Defence,



The Mayor of Calderdale (Councillor Mrs Betty Wildsmith) presenting two silver fanfare trumpets to the Drum Major of the Yorkshire Volunteers on behalf of Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (Courtesy Halifax Courier)

84mm, 66mm, and Jungle Alley with SMG. The Signals section tried to co-ordinate the move around with skill and dexterity—ie when commanders were ready we were not. The dinner laid on by the cooks was first class with wine and beer to go with it. I must say the Officers, WOs and seniors made very good Mess staff. I have never seen a six-course meal served and eaten so fast. During the weekend there was a security leak—someone found out that the following day was the OCs birthday. A cake was baked with 21 candles (that bit was right) and, what was termed a very difficult decision, the selection of an appropriate present was made. The so-called ideal present—Action Man. I wonder why?

The all ranks dance went very well with over 300 people there and the Tombola Stall and Raffle made a handsome profit. The childrens party—80 children came—was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to all who helped in these functions especially our cooks under Lcpls Barwick and Broadbent (late of 1 DWR), to Csgt Ashton—good childrens games organiser, and to Mrs Sandra Ashton and Mrs Pat Lowney for their hard work wrapping and selecting the childrens presents.

In sport we are still expanding. With the laying of our new floor in February we are starting basketball and extending badminton. We have already started orienteering and cross-country teams and

the latter competing for the first time in the District Championships at Topcliffe finished sixth of 18 teams with Pte Sedgwick coming in a creditable 11th. Pte Silcox an ex-1 DWR PTI has now joined us and become Company PTI so perhaps we can improve in the future.

On January 12, we were presented with two silver fanfare trumpets by the Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council. At the ceremony in the Town Hall invited guests were given a demonstration of the 'Beating the Retreat' by the Corps of Drums. The photograph shows the Mayor presenting the trumpets to the Drum Major. The response to the Mayor was made by Col Chuck Ivey who made references to the Duke of Wellington and the volunteers going back to 1859 (I never realised that he was so old?). The traditional association with the Company and the Duke's was made very clear. We are indebted to the Council for the generous gift as we are equally proud to be associated with the Dukes.

Finally, recruiting—we have broken the 200 barrier and have now set a target of 250 in the Company. May I again make a plea for any Officers and all ranks of 1 DWR who are coming out to come along and join us. We do need experienced soldiers and with our new bounties the money is good as well. It can be over £1,000 a year depending on rank.

The Junior Soldiers' Battalion

The Junior Soldiers' Battalion has been established at Norton Manor Camp near Taunton, Somerset, to train Junior Soldiers for the Infantry, Royal Corps of Transport, and Royal Pioneer Corps. At present it comprises three Companies manned by Permanent Staff from Queen's Division, King's Division and Prince of Wales' Division, who are responsible for training Junior Soldiers from their respective Divisions/Regt. Each Company has six to eight Pioneer Corps Junior Soldiers and one Pioneer Corps NCO on the Permanent Staff. The present Battalion strength is about 350 Junior Soldiers with a Permanent Staff of 136. By May of 1980 the numbers in training will swell to over 800, and the Permanent Staff to about 200. The Royal Corps of Transport arrive in August 1980 to form two Squadrons.

There are a total of 13 Duke's Junior Soldiers in 7 Platoon King's Coy, who train with 11 King's Own Border and 1 Irish Ranger. 7 Platoon is commanded by Lt Paul Bailey, and includes Cpl Dave Oxley, plus 2 King's Own Border NCOs. Other Duke's on the Permanent Staff include Sgt Ken Harding in Training Support Wing, Cpl Dave

Benson as 'HQ' Coy Clerk, Cpl Steve Robinson on 'the coppers' and Lcpl 'Lofty' Coatesworth in the Ration Stores. All have now settled in, and there have been rumours of one or two of them extending, despite the hard work involved in establishing a new unit.

The first Junior Soldiers arrived in September 1979, and at the halfway point in Term 2, J/Sldr Peter Scollick has been promoted to J/Cpl, and J/Sldr 'Pip' England to J/Lcpl. On the sports field the Duke's have contributed to a strong Platoon Rugby team which has participated in numerous battles with the Welsh contingent. J/Cpl Peter Scollick has performed well on the wing in the Battalion Rugby side which looks all set to win the Army Junior Minor Units Rugby Cup. Peter Scollick and 'Pip' England also show potential as cross-country runners, while we are expecting great things from J/Sldr Peter Richmond on skis later this term.

The Battalion activities and especially the 'Op Banner Tour' are followed with interest by all Duke's here, and we look forward to the probable visit to the Battalion in May. P.R.S.B.

Wellesley Company

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

Personality Parade

To our Keighley Detachment, we are delighted to welcome SI Cedric Akrigg, whilst over at Huddersfield we have a very warm welcome to SI Brian Wood who returns to the fold after a prolonged spell of leave.

With great sadness we have said farewell to SMI Dennis Roberts who has now joined the ranks of the retired. A great stalwart from former WR DWR days as a WO2, Dennis served with the ACF since 1967 and has been a splendid example of discipline and bearing, we shall miss him. Also departed from our Huddersfield Detachment is SI Stephen Jenkinson who has been called to pastures new.

Visit to Minden

As these notes are penned, a flurry of activity and expectation surrounds the arrangements being made to visit the Battalion during the period April 9-20. This visit involves some two officers two instructors and 20 DWR cadets and the next issue will be full of our reminiscences.

Visits 1980

Lt Col 'Chuck' Ivey visited our Huddersfield and Thongsbridge detachments on January 15, and continued to inspire our boys with his great interest, as did the Divisional Brigadier, Brig Dennis Shuttleworth, when he visited Halifax Detachment one week later to see some 50 cadets at work in the splendid TAC Prescott Street.

1 Yorks Curry Supper

Cementing the comments in the earlier paragraph, a very kind invitation to the OC, Capt Terry Bonds, and Maj Roy Matthews to attend another of Maj Garner's famous supper evenings was very swiftly accepted.

Ladies Christmas Dinner Night

Maj Gen Isles, Colonel of the Regiment, and Mrs Shiela Isles, graced the table at our Ladies Christmas Dinner in the 3 Yorks Officers Mess at Huddersfield. With some 44 others in the very best of Christmas spirit, our Company policy of one dinner before camp and one before Christmas is now well established and are events to which we all look forward.

Col AQ NEDIST

We were more than pleased to be included in the itinerary of Col M. A. Aris when he visited 3 Yorks at TAC Huddersfield on January 22. In asking some very searching questions of our activities and being seen by the cadets to have more than a passing interest, it stimulated excitement within the

detachment and can but only add to the super military environment that greets our cadets in TA Centres.

Yorkshire ACF Challenge Shield

The interest that we continue reporting in THE IRON DUKE is also paying dividends; Keighley Detachment were placed fourth in a very long list of Yorkshire Detachments in the Challenge Shield assessed on overall efficiency. We look forward to the day that we really hit the jackpot, and we are convinced that it will not be in the too distant future. Well done Douglas Bennett and all at Lawkholme Lane.

Skipton Citizenship Exercise

Whilst over at the North end of our elongated area, we are delighted to report that Lt Steve Lancaster and his adults/cadets have played a magnificent part in constructing a public footpath over very difficult terrain from Petyt Grove to Devonshire Place behind The Ginnel at Skipton. Many weekends have been involved, along with other organisations, and Skipton Civic Society who have administered the programme have been delighted. Well done to everyone, this project is a testimonial to the activities of youngsters which included Scouts, ATC, and Rotaract.

Rugby

No Duke's notes can be complete without reference to rugby. Five cadets no less from Halifax have successfully gained a place in the county team, we wish them every success.

Annual Camp

Will this year be held at Thetford in Norfolk amidst magnificent training areas. The Colonel of The Regiment hopes to visit us, and meanwhile we gear our training to reach a climax at Thetford during the period August 2-9—goodness how the years roll by!

Battle of Castle Hill

'War' broke out on Castle Hill Huddersfield when 80 Duke's Cadets and Huddersfield Sea Cadets battled in Operation Mobat. An attempt to dislodge 'Terrorists' from The Hill was the highlight of manoeuvres on a damp November evening bringing into practice the theories taught at Huddersfield, Mirfield, Heckmondwike and Thongsbridge.

The exercise involved a radio link back to control TAC Huddersfield and mobile radio parties helped realism and assisted contact. Using Cadet NCO's fully as Section and Platoon Commanders. Adults formed the umpire element awarding points and declaring casualties.

Obituary

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

Col E. W. Stevens, MBE

Col Edward William Stevens died at his home at Woodbridge on December 1, 1979. He was educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst, being commissioned into the 1st Bn in 1925. During his first five years of service at Gosport and Devonport he made himself a thoroughly competent regimental officer. He was posted in 1930 to the 2nd Bn in India, but after a very short time was transferred to East Africa, where he saw service as Adjutant of 3 KAR and as Company Commander with 5 KAR. It was during this time that he was married, in Meru, to Sylvia Lynn Allen in 1934. He came back to the Regiment in 1936 and served in Malta returning with the 1st Bn to England at the end of 1937. When war broke out he was on the Staff in Palestine, but he was soon needed by the KAR and became DAAG of the 2nd East African Div and later AA QMG of the 11 East African Div. In March 1943 he joined the 2nd Bn at that time reforming and training at Ranchi in India after the First Burma Campaign. In the autumn of 1943 the 2nd Bn was selected to join the 3rd Indian Div (Special Force), the Chindits, under Maj Gen Orde Wingate. Boy took over command the following year. On Easter Day 1944, the Battalion, organised as two columns, part of 23 Brigade, was committed in the long range penetration role in the Naga Hills on the Burma border. Their task was to interfere with the L of C of the three Japanese Divisions then invading India.

In many ways this sort of operation suited Boy Stevens. His interests lay in shooting and the study of wild life. He was used to a Safari existence though not perhaps on quite this grim scale. On the other hand he was a meticulous Staff Officer having held senior appointments in other, larger, formations and theatres. He was an experienced regular infantry officer with all that implied in those days. Not all the cranky and flashy Special Force bits appealed to him. Orde Wingate was a unique character, but his idiosyncrasies, when aped by lesser men in the chain of command could irritate Boy.

There were few opportunities for spontaneous acts of special individual heroism, but there was a memorable incident involving the CO. No. 76 Column had dug themselves into a patrol base alongside the Japanese L of C some 30 miles east of Kohima. At dawn one morning they were shelled, then attacked by enemy infantry probing and prowling round the perimeter. In the midst of this confusion a Special Force light aircraft came over and ignoring red Very lights, dropped a message. Light aircraft were only used on very important

occasions. The platoon commander on that flank reported that the message had fallen outside the perimeter and thus could not be recovered. One soldier had already been killed and one officer wounded on the perimeter. Boy Stevens picked up his treasured .300 carbine, strapped on his .45 automatic and walked off into the jungle returning some minutes later with the message container. A simple unostentatious act of great bravery and a fine example to all those present.

A leader's life is ever lonely but particularly so for a Chindit Battalion Commander. Nevertheless he succeeded in dealing with almost impossible events and problems with a quiet sense of humour and a quality of calm which brought dignity to that wild scene and which inspired all who served under him and which they will always remember and admire.

After the war he held a number of appointments, in Egypt, East Africa, in command of the Northern Rhodesia Regt, Chester, and in Germany, finally retiring to Suffolk in 1958.

A memorial service followed by the scattering of ashes was held at St Peter's Church, Bruisyard on December 8, 1979. Brig A. D. Firth represented the Regiment.

Lt Col R. W. Nicholson

Lt Col Robert William Nicholson died in the Brook Hospital, London on January 14, 1980, aged 60.

He was born in Halifax and educated at Bridlington School, North Yorkshire.

He was commissioned into the Regiment in 1940 but spent most of his service on the technical side, being a specialist in small arms. After the war he served in the Sudan with 1 DWR and 1 Green Howards before returning to UK and taking up a posting at the Pendine Proof and Experimental Establishment, followed by a series of technical postings. He retired in 1971 and joined the staff of RARDE at Fort Halstead as a Higher Scientific Officer.

Capt H. Rowlands

Capt Harold Rowlands died in Halifax General Hospital on January 22, 1980.

'Sax'—soldier, officer, musician, bandsman, scholar, schoolteacher man of letters—loved, occasionally feared, but always admired and respected and a man who will long be remembered.

His colourful army career started on September

7, 1927, when he enlisted as a boy in Halifax and continued his service with both the 1st and 2nd Bns until he was transferred to the Indian Army in 1941. During his initial service with the 1st and 2nd Bns, apart from his musical and scholastic abilities he excelled at sports and kept goal for the 1st Elevens of both Battalions and boxed for both Battalions with particular success in the Indian tournaments.

During his service in the Indian Army, in which he was commissioned in 1943, we have learned through devious sources of service in the Middle East, of his ship being torpedoed; how his ability to find direction by reading the sun and stars saved an Indian Sepoy convoy who had been lost for over a week.

After demobilisation in 1947 and in the early 1950s Sax was one of the founder-members of the Regimental Association based on Halifax where he has held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for many years until quite recently. His flawless organisation of the north's contingent trip to the annual London dinner has been a major contribution to its success.

Over the years his educational, humorous but always interesting and entertaining articles for the *Iron Duke* will be sadly missed.

The funeral took place at Christ Church, Pellon, Halifax on January 25. Maj G. C. Tedd represented the Colonel of the Regiment and many members and ex-members of the Regiment attended.

Mr W. H. James

Mr William Herbert James died at Southport on January 18, 1980, aged 79 years.

Bill was born at Oldham in 1900. At the age of 16 he ran away from school and enlisted into the Scots Greys only to have his discharge claimed by his parents. This did not deter Bill and very soon he was off again to join the 1/7th DWR.

He went to France and claimed to be the youngest soldier in the Battle of the Somme where at a place somewhere between Avuloy and Thiepval he was wounded, as a result he was discharged and received medical treatment up to 1932.

He got back into contact with the Duke's after reading in the National Press of the Regiment's collection for the Flixborough Disaster Fund and became a staunch supporter of the Regimental Association attending all the reunions with exception of the last being too ill at the time.

In 1976 he was awarded the Anciens Combatant de la Somme by the French which was presented to him at Thiepval. He was very proud of this and must be the only member of the Regiment to receive this unique medal.

W.N.

Mrs N. Kennedy

Mrs Nellie Kennedy died suddenly at her home in Halifax on January 20, 1980, aged 76 years.

Nellie was the wife of Fred Kennedy who was well known in the Regiment where he served for 22 years mainly with the Depot and 2nd Bn, perhaps best remembered as the Provost Sergeant and through the Regimental Boxing Team, his obituary

appeared in the April 1972 edition. He married Nellie at the Depot in 1922 and she joined him with their daughter Dorothy at Singapore remaining with the 2nd Bn until 1942. In 1935 a son Patrick was added to the family and they were repatriated to the UK in 1944. Shortly after Fred took his discharge and obtained employment as a caretaker at Halifax. Nellie was a well liked woman and always very lively, keeping fit until her sudden death at Halifax on January 28, 1980.

W.N.

Col J. Bennett

Col Joseph Bennett died suddenly in Philadelphia, USA on January 24, 1980, aged 88 years.

Col Bennett joined the 2nd Bn in October 1914 at Rue d'Ouvert at the start of the first Battle of Ypres and was taken prisoner in mid-November. During his four years as a Prisoner of War he studied to be a barrister and learnt fluent German.

He was on the Control Commission in Germany at the time of Hitler's Putsch.

He served in the second World War in North Africa, Italy and Austria.

A Memorial Service was held at St Mary le Bolton Church on February 19, 1980.

Pte P. H. Mottershead

Pte P. H. Mottershead, a member of the Signal Section 'C' (DWR) Coy 1st Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers was killed in a motorcycle accident on February 22, 1980, aged 18 years.

Mr J. E. Finan

James E. Finan died in Halifax on March 7, 1980, aged 72 years.

He served with the 1st Bn in North Africa and Italy during the second world war.

Mrs G. Brenchley

Mrs Gladys Brenchley, widow of Maj (QM) Bill Brenchley, died unexpectedly in her sleep on February 26, 1980.

Chairman of the Executive Committee, National Army Museum

Gen Sir Jack Harman, GCB, OBE, MC, has been appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee, a post held by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer until his death in October.

Gen Harman was commissioned into the Queen's Bays in 1940 and was awarded the Military Cross in 1943. He has been involved with the museum for some years past, as Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst where the museum was founded and where it retains a substantial presence. Later, as Adjutant General, he served on the Museum Council. He became Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1978. Gen Harman is now Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, but like so many busy men he has still been able to find time for his work on behalf of the museum.

Regimental Association

NEWS ITEMS—NOTES OF INTEREST

London and Home Counties Dinner—1980

The Dinner took place on Saturday May 24, 1980, in the Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Club. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and 110 members attended.

Regimental Association AGM and Dinner—1980

Saturday October 4, 1980. Drill Hall, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield. AGM—Sergeants Mess 6.30pm. Dinner—Main Hall 7.30 for 8.0pm. Tickets £5 from RHQ DWR, Wellesley Park, Halifax. (Halifax 61671) or Branch Secretaries.

Regimental Service—York Minster—1980

Saturday November 1, 1980. 1130hrs. Further details will be published in the August edition.

HUDDERSFIELD BRANCH

In our appeal for 'scribes' our good friend Herbert Dyson has responded well and our thanks go out to him as must also those of a troubled fellow Duke to whom Herbert and his wife gave hospitality recently.

The good relationship that exists between 'C' (DWR) Coy 3 Yorks and our Huddersfield Branch at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield, brings to the fore the aims of service comradeship and how pleasant in these days of 'petty intolerances' to find the jovial, respectful and friendly atmosphere of the Regular soldier, the TA soldier, the ex-soldier and their friends all with a common purpose—to make life more interesting and enjoyable.

Since our last notes we have bid farewell to CSM Harding and RSM Stansfield and apart from our small tokens of appreciation for all their kindnesses and assistance given during their tour with 3 Yorks we would like to take this opportunity of recording our sincere thanks and to wish them and their families all good luck and good fortune in the future.

Many pleasant evenings have been spent socially and the latest Grand Social held jointly with 'C' (DWR) Coy 3 Yorks on February 2 proved the very capable organising ability of Secretary Phil Coward. This was a huge success and already there is talk of a Blackpool and Fleetwood outing during the summer.

During the social on February 2, a very pleasant event took place when a silver tankard was presented to Bob Wilkinson to show the appreciation of all members for the work Bob does as Treasurer to the Branch. Bob is not terminating his job as Treasurer, but members wanted to thank him now for what he has already done.

Joe Taylor recently returned after visiting relatives in Australia whilst Alex Haigh (2/7th Tpt) returned to Australia after a visit to Huddersfield. Alex emigrated to Australia about six years ago.

DUKE'S EVERYWHERE

We have received a very nice letter from Harry Smart (4608977) Pte 1st Bn 1936–1939 2 Inf Bde 1939–46—who longs to contact any of his old comrades. He is already in contact with ex-Cpl Bernard Sellars, 1926 Gosport now residing at 13 Coningsby Road, Fir Vale, Sheffield S5 7AD but where are all the others? Harry's address is The Gables, Banbury Street, Kineton, Warwick, Warwickshire.

RHQ DWR are also anxious to trace ex-Pte Whittaker who was discharged in 1949 and now lives in Sheffield. Any information to RHQ please.

Strolling in the village of Arncliffe, Maj John Davis met ex-Sgt J. Sutcliffe who was a Training Sergeant with 33 PTC 1946–47. Sgt Sutcliffe wishes to be remembered to his old friends and hopes to be at the Reunion in October.

An enquirer requests knowledge of a Mr Alec Poole of Hackney, London, who joined the Dukes about 1940. Any information to tel 098-07-716 please.

H and DAVA

On January 11, 1980, The Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association held their 69th Annual Dinner at the Princess Restaurant, Huddersfield. Near 100 Veterans, Committee and guests assembled under the Chairmanship of Maj Clement Davies, TD (Formerly 4 DWR) who has taken over the Chair from Maj J. W. Pyrah, TD (DWR).

This organisation, predominantly Duke's, was 'numbered off' by Mr Douglas A. Harpin (2/7th Bn) and were served with the usual splendid meal in this cosy restaurant.

Lt Col Colin Barnes, TD, JP (DWR) welcomed the Guests, particularly the Mayor of Kirklees (Councillor D. White (formerly DLI and RAOC) and the Hon Patron Maj Gen D. E. Isles, CB, OBE.

The Chairman said that Maj C. R. R. Mellor, TD. The President, was retiring through ill-health but was remaining on the Committee as a Vice-President. Maj Mellor's father, Col R. R. Mellor was a founder-member of the Association when it was formed in 1897 and another founder-member at that time was Mr W. Fillan, uncle of the newly elected President, Mr Archie Fillan. Archie, who joined the Royal Flying Corps as a boy in 1916 and now aged 82, was a grand old man and following in his footsteps, as third generation was Capt Ian Fillan (DWR).

Maj Gen D. E. Isles, CB, OBE, Col The Duke of Wellington's Regt, Hon Patron of the Association thanked Maj Mellor the retiring President for the work he had done during his 15 years as President of the Association.

It was a pleasure he said to meet in Huddersfield once again five of his service comrades—Maj C. C. Kenchington, MBE, Mr J. Horne, MBE, Capt Noel

Wimpenny, MC, Maj B. L. Ellam, TD, and Mr Hubert Lockwood. Maj Ellam was Gen Isle's 1st Company Commander when the General, then only a Second Lieutenant joined The Duke's in Anzio in May 1944. He said it gave him much pleasure to be in the company of such a fine body of friends and veterans. The spirit of comradeship amongst them all was one of the good qualities that was needed.

What better light-hearted entertainment than the songs and dances of Shirls Girls to conclude the grand evening and once again—Thank You, Girls.

FAMARS: A REVERIE NOVEMBER 1 1918, AND AUGUST 3, 1979

Gentle green valley
Can this be the battlefield?
Are there no scars
No single trace
Of a passing storm of war?

Oh God this waiting I cannot stand!
Twice to Caumont Farm have I trudged
To hear the CO's vexing news:
'The attack is postponed'.

'Oui, Monsieur', the lady spoke in French,
'The farmhouse was damaged badly
But was rebuilt of course;
For over a century in our family'.

How cold and dark it is!
My luminous watch creeps
Toward 5.15 ack emma;
This tot of rum we need,
Our business is grim.

Yes, here are secret scars of war
along the river's bank:
Stumps of trees felled
To quicken the enemy's retreat

The night is blasted apart
By our barrage:
It must be accurate
Or we are done for!

So this rough track
Was the startline of the attack;
The river cannot be seen from here:
Dead ground, the soldiers call it.

Is this Dante's Inferno
Of which I've read?
The cruel explosion of our shells:
This smoke will block out the dawn
If I live to see it

This must be the mound
On 'B' Coy's right flank
From where Tom Brighthouse
Spied the Jerries by the river

We've done it!
'A' Coy is across the river
And 'B' Coy too, I hear,
But Brighthouse hit in the eye

Old Brighthouse alone near Skipton
Wore his blackpatch like a pirate;
'I told my platoon so gingerly following
I'm not fighting this bloody battle on my own'!

The barrage lifts—what meticulous timing
We must carry on up the hill;
At last the sunken road, our objective!
Up with our Very rocket, signal of success!

An empty sunken road it proves to be
With banks near 20ft high
Which those 60 years ago
Was full of men with no fight left: Kamerad!
Kamerad!

Now it's 'C' and 'D' Coy's turn
To win the final objective;
What ill-news the runner brings
'D' Coy is in awful trouble.

In well-tended graves they lie,
The grass is England's finest;
And in a niche, the register of particulars;
Poor Cartwright, you volunteered in 1914
And died just 10 days before the Armistice.
Peter Farrar

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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

And you CAN help, by helping our Association. BLESMA (the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome the shock of losing arms, legs or an eye. It sees that red-tape does not stand in the way of the right entitlement to pension. And, for the severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.



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

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

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE — PLEASE'

SOS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During 1978, the last year for which complete figures are available, SSAFA branches in the United Kingdom helped a total of 24,203 financial, welfare and advisory cases concerning Army families at an operating cost of £82,840.

Of 11,448 financial grants amounting to £456,737 made to Army families, some 9,258 representing £415,511 were disbursed on behalf of the Regimental and Corps benevolent funds.

Those figures prove beyond doubt the practical efficiency of the good working partnership between SSAFA and the Regimental funds.

SSAFA is not primarily a grant-making organisation. Its role is to provide a service to the families of Serving and ex-Service men and women, to Commanding Officers and to the Regimental and Corps benevolent funds, all of whom use the SSAFA nationwide network of voluntary workers to visit and report on their family cases and distribute their generosity.

To do this SSAFA must continue to recruit new voluntary workers to replace the many dedicated people now retiring after many years of valuable work. The need is greatest in the urban areas, such as Greater London, Greater Manchester, Tyne and Wear, Merseyside—all favoured for Army recruiting and resettlement by ex-Service men. Inevitably therefore they are the centres where SSAFA is most needed but where potential volunteers are harder to find.

SSAFA representatives must be genuinely caring people, full of commonsense and willing to learn. Obviously, experience in the Services, either as an officer or senior NCO, or as the wife, widow or husband of either, is valuable. Training is provided, both in the field with an experienced worker and also at a SSAFA Induction Course either at Head Office in London or in the appropriate county. Expenses are paid and all necessary literature and stationery are provided.

Offers will be welcomed directly at the local County Office of SSAFA or may be sent to SSAFA Head Office, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BZ.

OFFICERS' PENSIONS SOCIETY

President—Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer, GCB, CBE, DSC

Chairman—Air Marshal Sir Harold Maguire, KCB, DSO, OBE

General

Secretary—Maj Gen L. W. A. Gingell, CB, OBE

Council Members include: Maj Gen D. A. Beckett, CB, DSO, OBE; General Sir Charles Harington, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC; Maj Gen J. H. Page, CB, OBE, MC
Maj P. T. Prentice, MBE.

Why should I join the Officers' Pensions Society?

The Pension world of today is a veritable jungle. For example, did you know there are now four different types of retired pay and widows pensions which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence let alone those for which the Department of Health and Social Security are responsible?

Do you know how and why the new method of applying the first pension increase after retirement can have a very material affect upon your retired pay and your widows pension and why you must therefore think very carefully before selecting your date of retirement?

Do you know how increases are applied to your retired pay and the conditions of eligibility? If you have a disability do you know how to go about applying for a disability pension? Do you know how your retired pay may affect a pension from a private occupational pension scheme? What do you know about commutation and its implications? In short, can you find your way around this labyrinth?

If the answer to this question is 'No', then that surely is the best possible reason as to why you should join the Society. For we are here not only to look after the interests of all retired officers and their dependants, but also help and advise our members on their pension problems. If you would like to know more about us, which I hope you will, please write to the General Secretary, Officers' Pensions Society, 15 Buckingham Gate, London SW1.

Membership is open to all retired officers and their wives, the wives of serving officers and widows. The subscription is very modest being only £4 a year and this includes both husband and wife.

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