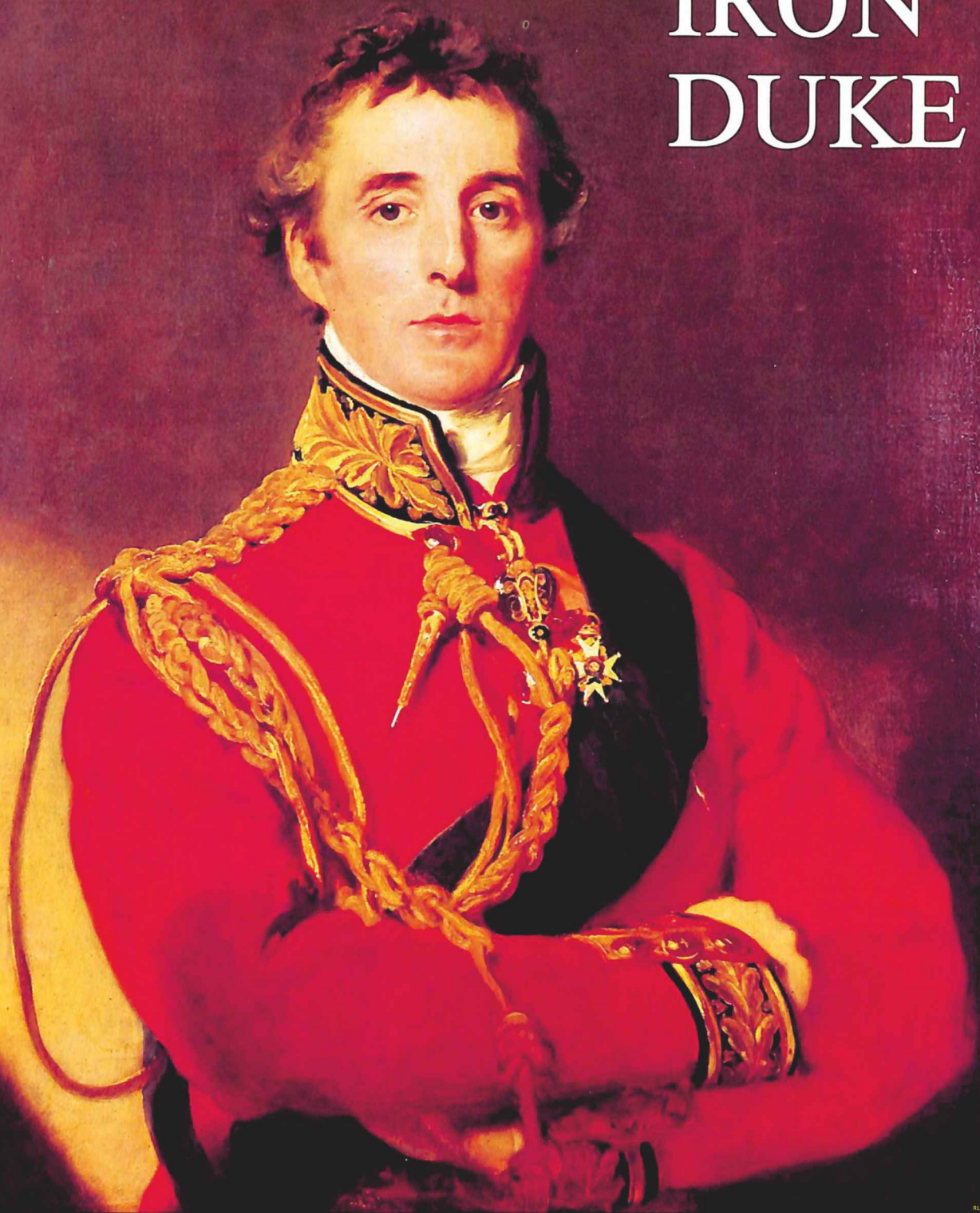


No.198 August 1985

THE
IRON
DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

*Dettingen
Mysore
Seringapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sebastopol
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 Suvla
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. LV

AUGUST 1985

No. 198

BUSINESS NOTES

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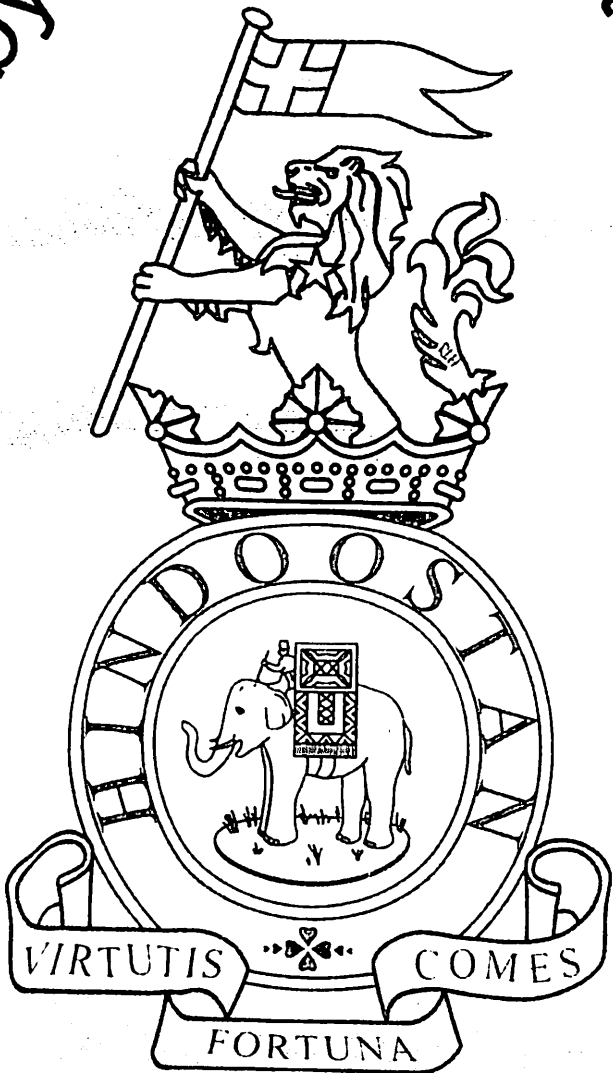
Acknowledgement

The portrait of The Duke by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A. (Canvas 1814), is reproduced on our cover, without fee, by kind permission of the Victoria and Albert Museum (Crown Copyright).

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Digitised by The Regimental Archives



THE REGIMENT

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Colonel of the Regiment

Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable, KCB, CBE
Ford House, Ford, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BL

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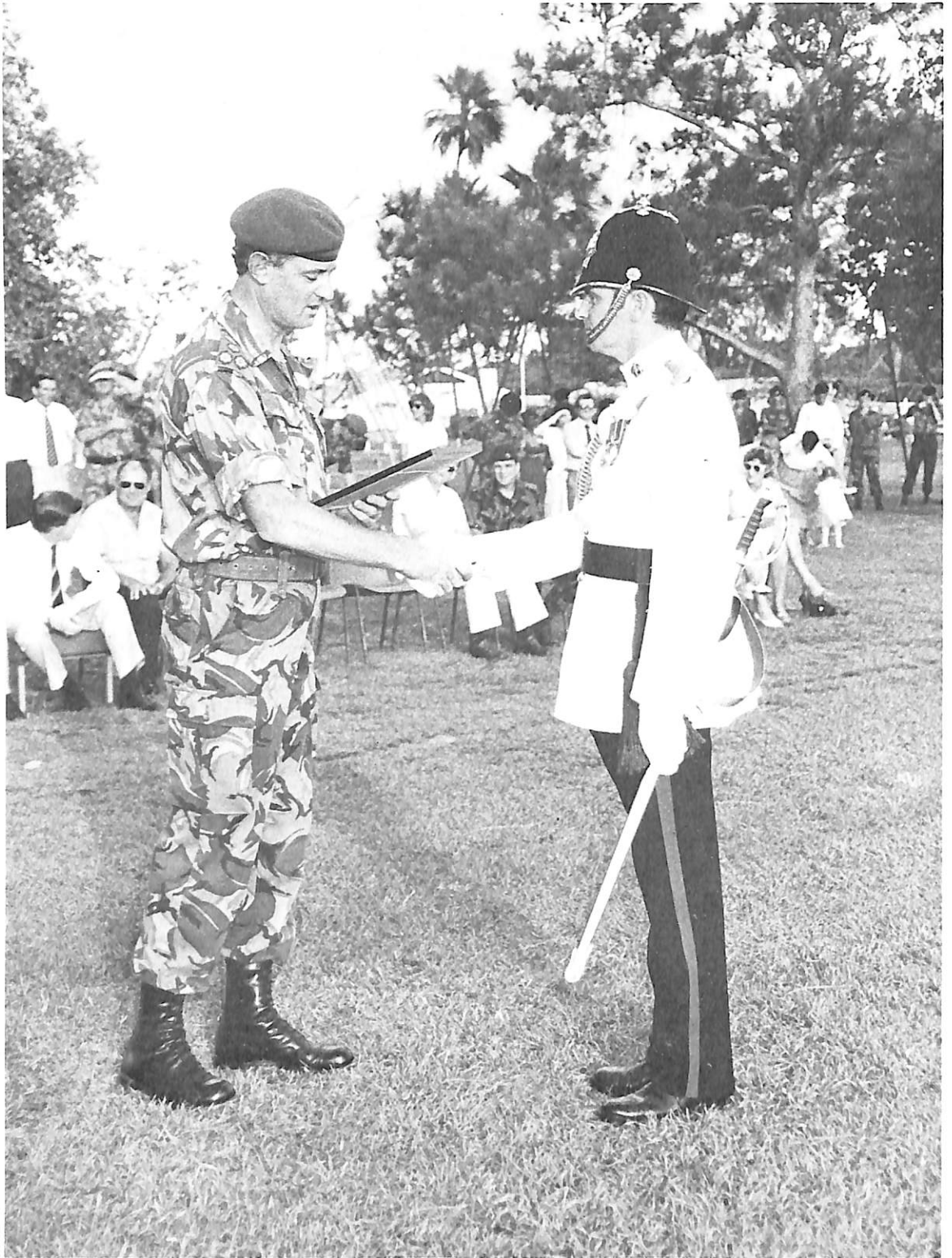
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THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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President: Lieut-General Sir Charles Huxtable, KCB, CBE
Vice-President: Brig. D. W. Shuttleworth, OBE
General Secretary: Mr. J. Russell, Wellesley Park, Halifax HX2 0BA



The Bandmaster, WO1 K. Taylor, receiving his Governor and Commander in Chief's commendation from Brigadier D. B. W. Webb-Carter OBE, MC

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

THE WILKINSON SWORD OF PEACE AWARD 1984

The 1st Battalion has been awarded the prestigious Sword of Peace for 1984 for its work in support of and association with the people of Gibraltar during the successful 1983/84 tour.

The Wilkinson Swords, referred to as the Swords of Peace, are awarded annually to the units of the three services which are judged to have made the most valuable contributions towards establishing good and friendly relations with the inhabitants of any community at home or overseas. They are presented by Wilkinson Sword Ltd.

The presentation is planned to take place on Thursday 5th December 1985 at Bulford. HE, The Governor and C in C, Admiral Sir David Williams GCB will receive the Sword from a representative of Wilkinson Sword Ltd. and present it to the Commanding Officer who will receive the Sword on behalf of Battalion.

The ceremony of the presentation and description of the work undertaken by the Duke's in Gibraltar which has been recognised through this award will be the subject of a special article in the December issue of the *'Iron Duke'*. A summary of the Battalion's effort will also be published in a Defence Council Instruction later this year.

RUGBY AND THE 'DUKES'

In July Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth was elected President of the Rugby Football Union for 1985/86, which will be a source of pride and pleasure to all members of the Regiment. As Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable is currently President of the Army Rugby Union it can be said with some certainty that the Regiment is making a unique contribution to the administration of rugby at the present time.

The connection between the Regiment and the administration of the game is a long one. Lieut Colonel Jack Dalrymple, after being an Army selector in the early 1950s, was Secretary of the Army Rugby Union for seven years (1964-1971). Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth and Colonel Michael Hardy were appointed army representatives on the Rugby Football Committee in 1962. In addition Colonel Hardy had been Chairman of the Army Rugby Union and Colonel Michael Campbell-Lamerton Chairman of the Selectors. The Regiment's contribution on the field of play is well known; but it is relevant to recall that between the Wars four members of the Regiment, 'Horsey' Browne, Jimmy Troop, Charlie Grieve and Jeff Reynolds, were between them awarded 18 international caps and that since 1945 a further 28 caps have been won by Mike Hardy, Dennis Shuttleworth, Mike Campbell-Lamerton and David Gilbert-Smith. The contribution by members of the Regiment to the Army XV is another and longer story illustrated by the fact that since 1950 no Army XV has taken the field in the Army v Navy match without a 'Duke' in the team.

ARMY RECORDS SOCIETY

The Army Records Society, patterned on the long established Navy Records Society, was founded last year in order to publish original records describing the development, organisation, administration and activities of the British Army from early times.

Sir Denis Hamilton DSO, TD, was one of those who particularly helped to establish an endowment for the Society. The Regiment contributed £100 to that endowment. Anyone wishing to join the Society should write to the Secretary, c/o The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT. The annual subscription, (currently £10 p.a.) entitles members to a copy of every volume issued. The first volume, "The military correspondence of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson 1918-1922", has recently been published.

LORD INGROW

Lord Ingrow, who was commissioned into the 6th Battalion TA in 1938, has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire in succession to Sir William Bulmer.

MAJOR GENERAL D. E. ISLES CB, OBE

Major General Isles has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the Leeds University Training Corps. General Isles and his father both served in the Corps.

COLONEL M. J. CAMPBELL-LAMERTON OBE

Colonel Campbell-Lamerton is to retire from the Army in September 1985. He will then take up the appointment of Bursar of Balliol College, Oxford.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Capt (QM) D. Hughes was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Colonel C. R. Cumberlege assumed the appointment of DCOS G1/G4 at HQ SW District in May 1985.

WO1 R. Heron has been selected for a commission and will be appointed MTO of the 1st Battalion in November 1985.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE 'IRON DUKE'

From time to time subscribers to the *'Iron Duke'* write to RHQ complaining that they have not received their copy. In nearly all cases the reason has been found to be that the individuals concerned have not informed RHQ of a change of address.

Serving members of the Regiment, in particular, are therefore advised to keep RHQ informed of any change of address. If for a relatively short period, the dates between which the change of address will be applicable should be stated.

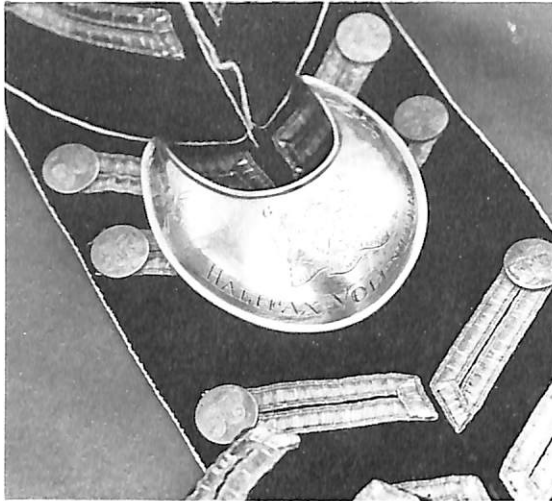
REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Dr Michael Blanch TD, B.Soc. Sc, PhD, AMA, Dip Ed, who as Director of Calderdale Museum

Services has been planning the refurbishment and new layout for the Regimental Museum, was appointed Director of Calderdale Leisure Services with effect from 1 June 1985. This is a new appointment arising from the merger of the old Amenities and Recreation Department and the Museums Department. His interest in the Museum will thus continue even though he may not be able to give as much of his time to the project as he has done in the past.

The Regiment recently purchased a silver gorget c1794 of the Halifax Volunteers for the sum of £450 of which half was paid for by the Army Museums Ogilby Trust. The Calderdale Museum already have a uniform of the Halifax Volunteers of the same period as that of the gorget. Both items will be on display when the Regimental Museum is re-opened.

The Regiment also attempted to buy the Standing



Silver gorget Halifax Volunteers 1794c

Orders of the 33rd issued by Lieut Colonel Arthur Wellesley in 1805. The Standing Orders have a note pasted inside the cover, which reads as follows:-

“Spanish Town, Jamaica
17th May, 1826

This book of the Duke of Wellington’s Standing Orders for the 33rd Regiment, to be repaired, covered and carefully kept in the Orderly Room, it being the only thing left which was issued by him during his tour command of the Regiment.

(sd) Wm Thain, Captain, Adjutant 33rd Regiment”

Despite the Adjutant’s injunction the Standing Orders became lost to the Regiment. However in 1892 they were sent to the then Adjutant of the 1st Battalion who besides having a copy made (now in the Regimental Archives) also recorded “there is no doubt of its authenticity”.

The Regiment was advised that it was anticipated that the Standing Orders would fetch around £200 at auction. The Regiment having noted that prices realised at auctions usually exceed anticipated prices decided to offer £300. In the event the Regiment failed to obtain the Orders, which were sold for £320.

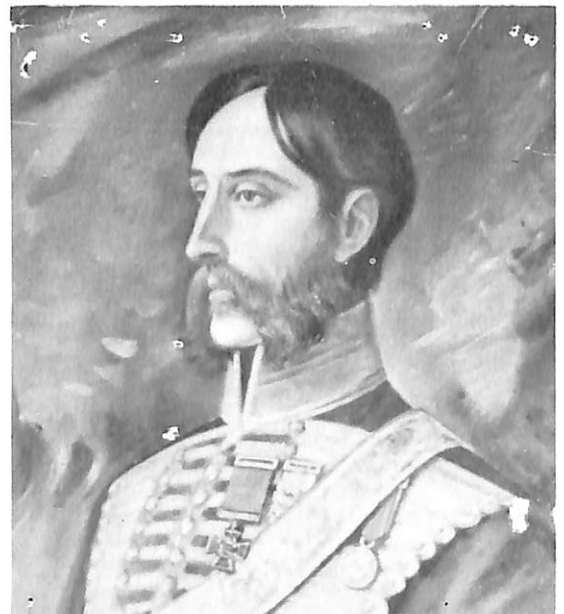
The Regiment was recently given a gun muzzle cover (Naval parlance; a tampion plate) of HMS ‘Iron Duke’ by Brigadier R. A. G. Nicholson CBE, DSO. The tampion plate came into his possession as a result of it having been given to his maternal uncle, Major A. A. Gordon CBE, MVO, JP, by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Beatty when HMS ‘Iron Duke’ was broken up after the end of WW II. The Regiment possess two other tampion plates which were presented to the Regiment in 1967. One, mounted as a fire screen, is in the Officers’ Mess at Prescott Street, Halifax. The other is in the Regimental Museum.

HMS ‘Iron Duke’ main armament consisted of eight 13.5” guns mounted in four turrets. The tampions were inserted in the muzzles of the guns to stop entry of sea water. The brass plates, embossed with the Duke on horseback, were added when the ship was in port.

COLONEL A. R. DUNN VC

In 1934 (‘Iron Duke’ No. 29) a photograph was reproduced of a case on display at Upper Canada College, Toronto, which includes Colonel Dunn’s portrait, sword and medals. Brigadier A. D. Firth has now provided the ‘Iron Duke’ with a photograph of the portrait by itself.

Alexander Robert Dunn, who was a son of Hon J. H. Dunn Receiver General of Upper Canada, was born in 1833 and was educated at Upper Canada College and Harrow. He was the first Canadian to be awarded the VC, which he won with the 11th Hussars in the Charge of the Light Brigade. He was the only officer to receive the VC out of the five that were awarded to those that took part in the Charge. Dunn’s VC, like the others that were awarded seems to have been on the general vote of the survivors; not an uncommon practice in those days.



Colonel A. R. Dunn VC

His service with the 11th Hussars came to an abrupt end when in 1855 he ran off with the wife of his Commanding Officer. He returned to Canada. Three years later he helped to raise the 100th (Royal Canadian) Regiment, the first unit to be raised in Canada as part of the British army establishment. It later became the 1st Bn The Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (disbanded in 1922). Dunn was its first Major. In 1861 he purchased the Lieutenant Colonelcy for £10,000. He held command for three years and then, under some pressure - there were rumour of excessive gambling debts - he exchanged into the 33rd as its second Lieut Colonel. The 33rd were then in India. According to a contemporary, "He was a handsome man 6' 2" tall and 30 years of age, a kind good natured dandy, a bad commanding officer and not a good example to young officers. . . he was very popular but nearly destroyed the Regiment". Perhaps his was the influence that later, in Abyssinia, led to one of the rare occasions when the 33rd was not noted for its good behaviour. At one stage, after a

particularly hard march, the C in C moved them from the front to the rear of his column "due to want of reticence in expressing their opinion on things in general" or, as another writer put it "cursing and swearing and abusing everything from beginning to end relating to the expedition - mentioning names too, I fancy, rather too close to some people". On the other hand Dunn may have been blameless and the trouble due to the ranks of the Regiment at that time containing a large proportion of Irishmen - "hard drinkers all". Be that as it may Dunn certainly seems to have been very popular, as witnessed by G. A. Henty, the correspondent of the 'Standard' when reporting Dunn's funeral following his death in a shooting accident. "He was the most popular of officers. Unassuming, frank, kind hearted in the extreme, a delightful companion and a good warm friend - none met him who were not irresistably attracted to him".

At the time of his death Dunn was the youngest Colonel in the army.

REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

A meeting of the Regimental Council took place at Aspley House on the 21st June 1985. Present were:- The Colonel in Chief; Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE Colonel of the Regiment; Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth OBE; Lieut Colonel T. I. Nicholson; Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE; Major K. M. McDonald TD, JP and Major A. C. S. Savory MBE. Major General D. E. Isles CB, OBE; Colonel J. B. K. Greenway OBE and Lieut Colonel E. J. W. Walker were unable to be present.

The following matters were discussed:-

The Friends of the Regiment Fund. The balance of the fund is now nearly £15,000. In this connection it was noted that the proceeds of the very satisfactory sale of the jewellery and silver left to the Regiment by Mrs M. V. Kirkland realised £8,450.

Old Regimental Colours. It was agreed that the three old stands of Colours (two of the 33rd and one of the 76th), which were no longer fit for display, would be placed in a suitable container beneath the altar in the Regimental Chapel in York Minster. It was also agreed that a plaque would be placed on the wall of the Chapel, to record the fact that all three Stands were previously laid up there.

Recruitment. The Colonel of the Regiment reported that officer recruitment was very satisfactory both in terms of numbers and quality. Recruitment of other ranks also continues to be satisfactory.

Regimental Museum. Progress on the refurbishment of the Museum was reviewed. The Council was informed that the official re-opening would take place on 17th May 1986. The Regimental Band would be present and it was possible that the date might conveniently coincide with a Yorkshire tour by the 1st Battalion.

Officers' Dinner Club. It was agreed that Dinner Club function would take place at Bulford late in 1986 and that wives would be invited. It was also agreed that the basis for membership of the Dinner Club

would be examined with a view to bringing the London and York functions into line.

The 'Iron Duke'. The steady increase of expenditure over income in the accounts of the 'Iron Duke' was noted. One possibility was to publish only twice a year. This and other options would be considered by the Regimental Trustees at their meeting later in the year.

A new Regimental history. A paper was considered setting forth the economics of producing a new regimental history, the three covering the period from 1702 to 1923 being out of print. It was agreed that a new history should be produced and the Trustees of the Regimental Museum were charged with processing the matter, once the Regimental Museum had been re-opened.

Dress-Stable belts. A new design of stable belt with a metal as opposed to a leather fastening was examined, following which the Colonel of the Regiment gave his approval for its introduction.

Dress-Cap badge. A cloth cap badge to wear with the khaki beret was examined. While the merits of a cloth as opposed to a metal badge were appreciated, the design produced for examination was not considered suitable. A new design should be produced though in this connection it was noted the approval of the MOD Dress Committee would be required before it could be introduced.

2nd Battalion Colours. The 2nd Battalion Colours in use at the time of the amalgamation with the 1st Battalion in 1948 have been at RHQ for some years. It was agreed that after any necessary repairs had been carried out they should be sealed behind glass and returned to the 1st Battalion.

Ex RSM Basu. The Council was informed that ex RSM Basu MBE had most generously donated funds to the Regiment for the purpose of purchasing a suitable prize for presentation to the Champion Company.

THE GRENADIER AND LIGHT COMPANIES

No account of the campaigns and battles of the 18th and 19th centuries is complete without some reference to the Grenadier or Light companies or, as they were collectively called, the Flank Companies. This is not surprising since they comprised the elite of every regiment.

The Grenadier companies came into existence in 1698 when an additional company of grenadiers was added to the existing 12 companies of every regiment. They took their name from the grenade, the new weapon with which they were armed. The hand grenade was simply a small shell of two inches in diameter, kindled by a fuse and thrown by hand. Hence it was trusted to the tallest and finest men, who might reasonably be expected to throw it furthest. They wore caps, instead of broad rimmed hats, to enable them to sling their firelocks over their shoulders. They were also equipped with hatchets for hewing down pallisades at the attack of a fortified place as they were nearly always required to lead the assault.

In 1770 the addition of a Light company for each regiment of Foot was announced. By that time there were nine companies in each regiment viz: eight battalion companies and one of grenadiers. The addition of the Light company brought the total to ten. The men of the Light company were employed on skirmishing and piqueting and for that reason were smaller in stature than the men of the Grenadier company. It is known, for instance that in 1775 the average height of the Grenadiers of the 33rd Regiment was 5" 10½' whereas there was no man taller than 5" 7' in the Light company. When a regiment was formed in line the Grenadiers took position on the right and the Light company on the left; hence the description 'flank' companies.

Although initially forbidden by King George III on the grounds that it was an undesirable Austrian innovation, the practice grew up of massing the flank companies into separate battalions. It was first adopted during the Seven Years War (1756-1763). In Germany at that time one of the best known commanders was Major Peter Daulhatt (1) of the 33rd, who commanded one of the two grenadier battalions. His battalion consisted of the grenadier companies of the 5th, 8th, 11th, 24th, 33rd and 50th Regiments. The other battalion was commanded by Major John Maxwell 20th Foot. Both battalions played a distinguished part throughout the campaigns and conspicuously so at the Battle of Warburg (31 July 1760), celebrated by a ballad of which two verses ran:-

At Warburg on the plain, my boys, the battle it
 begun,
 And about the hour of four o'clock the battle was
 done;
 So here's health to the Grenadiers, that was not
 afraid to stand,
 The French to fight was our delight, when
 Granby gave command.

Here's health unto Daulhatt, my boys, likewise
 to brave Maxwell,
 Who in the field of battle behav'd themselves so
 well,

Also to our noble officers that in the field do
 stand,

The French to fight was our delight, when o'er
 they gave command".

However that was in no way the first ballad about the Grenadiers. The famous and stirring march 'The British Grenadiers' in praise of their prowess and valour was probably written some time between 1695 and 1740.

Because the members of the flank companies were usually picked from the best men in a regiment, the practice of massing them together deprived the battalion companies of their benefit. The effect was bad enough when they were fighting in the same country; but compounded when the flank companies were sent to fight a campaign in a different part of the World. A very flagrant instance was when 28 flank companies were sent to the West Indies in 1794. This superb body of men was so ravaged by disease and the casualties of war that the effect was practically to



Grenadier 33rd Regiment 1768c
 Reproduced by kind permission of the National Army
 Museum



**Grenadiers 76th Regiment
Seringapatam 6th February 1793**

Reproduced by kind permission of the National Army Museum

destroy for some years the efficiency of the battalions from which they were drawn. Both flank companies of the 33rd went to the West Indies, although the Regiment itself was then fighting in Holland under its newly appointed Lieut Colonel, Arthur Wellesley. In 1809 the flank companies were again detached, this time to take part in campaign to capture Mauritius. At that time the Regiment was in India. These experiences may well be the reason why Wellesley (by then Wellington) did not detach the Grenadier companies during the Peninsular war. However he did continue to detach the Light companies, the need for which having been recognised by the formation of a rifle corps in 1800. Generals of the old school continued to favour the massing of the Grenadier and Light companies as it gave them a trained body of picked men, so it was not until 1858 that flank companies were abolished. Even so it was some years before the order was fully implemented. The 33rd still had flank companies as late as 1861.

Despite being selected for the hardest assignments and, very often, incurring the heaviest casualties, the flank companies could not earn Battle Honours, since to qualify the headquarters and at least half a regiment had to be present in the field. An example is the Battle of Warburg to which reference has already been made. The only British infantry present were the two grenadier battalions. The 12 cavalry regiments present were granted the battle honour 'Warburg'. The 12 infantry regiments (including the 33rd), who were only represented by their grenadier companies, received nothing.

"But of all the world's brave heroes
there's none that can compare
with a row, row, row, row, row, to the British
Grenadiers"
A.C.S.S.

(1) Major Peter Daulhatt, who later commanded the 51st Foot, was the son of Peter Daulhatt who was appointed surgeon of the 33rd in 1713.

JOURNEYINGS OF AN IMPECUNIOUS SUBALTERN: 1767-1769

Fragments from letters written to his parents by William Collins/Dansej

William Collins was commissioned into the 33rd Regiment in 1760. He was the son of Capt Dansey Collins, also of the 33rd. In 1768 the Dansey estate of his grandmother's family passed to his parents. Both Collinses thereupon changed their names to Dansey.

In November 1927 a large number of letters William Dansey had written to his parents between 1760 and 1783 were offered for sale. The Regiment made a determined effort to buy the letters; but they went to the Delaware Historical Society for the sum

of £850 - a considerable amount in those days. The particular attraction for the Delaware Historical Society was that the 'lot' included the Regimental Colour of the Delaware Militia, which William Dansey had captured at the Battle of Brandywine in 1777.

In 1950 the Delaware Historical Society presented the Regiment with copies of all the letters, which embrace three separate periods of Dansey's service, viz:

1760-1762; from Germany during the Seven Years War

1767-1769; mostly from Minorca. It is fragments from these which are published below.

1776-1783; from America during the War of American Independence. Extracts from these letters were published in the '*Iron Duke*' (Nos. 79-88).

William Dansey, who rose to the rank of Major in the 33rd, later commanded the 49th Foot (Royal Berkshire Regt). One of his sons, George Henry Dansey, assumed command of the 76th in 1839, but died the same year from yellow fever contracted while serving in the West Indies.

* * *

Early in 1767 William Dansey was under orders to re-join the 33rd, then in Minorca, where they had been stationed since 1764:

London, April 21, 1767

... Yesterday we met the Captn of the Ship and paid him £9 each for our Provision and part of the Passage for which we got his Receipt, he don't sail till Monday Se'ennight as the Holidays put him off doing this . . . I think I have been a great While in London, I want to get out of it very much, To Eating and Drinking I manage very well but Lodging is so expensive . . . As to my Breakfast it cost me always three halfpence, a pennyworth of Milk and a halfpennyworth of Bread. As to Dinner that young Officer and I always go together to an Eating House there we pay a Shilling a Piece for our Dinner and eat what we have a mind to and have a Pint of Beer, Porter or Twopenny Sack into our Shilling . . .

London, May 2, 1767

... We are four Officers and a Clergymen going to Minorca. One of the Officers I have not seen nor the Clergyman but the other two are Youngers and very agreeable . . . I hope to sail on Thursday for I think I have ben waiting a great While; we have all our Provision and Licquor found us by the Captn, and to be no further expense between London and Minorca except we stay above a week at Gibraltar . . . we shall be very lucky in sailing at a good time of the Year for having Fair Weather at Sea but it will be going at the hottest time to Minorca but I hope there is no Danger if one takes care to live regular and not eat too much fruit nor drink too much Wine and not over heat oneself . . .

Gibraltar, June 26, 1767

... the 2nd of June we set sail, but on Thursday the 4th we were forced into the Isle of Wight, where we lay opposite Ryde 'till the 8th when we got as far as the Needles. On Tuesday Morning we got thro' and

the Wind continued fair all the Way here changing just as we wanted it; and on Friday about Day break on the 19th we cast Anchor in Gibraltar Bay . . .

... Mr Moore and I lodge together at a Publik House near the Spanish Church, we breakfast and dine here when nobody asks us out and find it much Cheaper and genteeler than we could live in the same way in London; Butcher's Meat is very good and Cheap here being about 2½d English pr. Pound the dearest and most other Articles in Proportion. Gibraltar may now be called a very cheap Place to what most parts of England are; I think it is a very agreeable Place to what I thought it. I have never met with so much civility anywhere. Many of the Officers keep Horses and have unlimited Liberty to ride into Spain they keep a Pack of Hounds (*I*) here to go a Hunting into Spain at the proper Season.

I believe we shall sail for Minorca in about 5 days we hear from there that Captn. Beilby has killed Captn. Robinson in a Duel on the 13th of Last Month.

I think I have no more to say at present but to tell you that I am very well thank God and hope you are the same which I hope I have the Happiness to hear soon after I get to Minorca if you'll please to answer me this Letter direct for me in the 33rd Regt in Minorca and You'll please to pay the Inland Postage to London and 1s 11d more and take care that the Post master marks it; and it would not be amiss if you put (via Marseille) upon it . . .

Cindadella, Minorca, August 25, 1767

... My last letter was from Gibraltar of the 25th of June I think; Gibraltar you need no description of; I need only tell you that I was 13 days there and saw everything there except St Michaels Cave and I had a good Opportunity while I was there of seeing the famous Diversion of the Paniards called in England Tauranizing (or Bulls baited and fought by Men) as there was a Festival of this sort at Santa Rocque where I walked to see it and staid one Night in Spain.

Upon the 2nd July we past Europa Point about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and so took of Gibraltar and on the 14th about 10 o'clock in the morning we cast anchor oposite St. Phillips Town in the Mouth of Port Mahon we had a very pleasant passage from Gibraltar being hardly out of sight of land all the way but it was tedious as we were frequently becalmed and the most wind we had contrary after we were past Cape de Gata or we should not have been above 4 or 5 days with a fair wind.

We came all along the Spanish Coast as far as Alicant Bay and saw in our Way the remarkable high Hills in Spain called the Granadines which, altho' it was the beginning of July were covered with Snow; then we saw the Mouth of the Harbour of Carthage and all along the Coast of Spain till we got sight of Alicant the place where the English were blown up in the 1709. The story was in the News Papers I believe about a year and a half ago. There we left the Spanish Shore which we were within a Mile of and bore away for the Balearick Islands which is the name given to Majorca, Minorca and Ivica and two small Islands Fermenterra and Cabrera . . .

... the next Morning we had a contrary Wind which forced us into a small Port in Majorca called Porto Pedro in which we staid 24 hours. It is a very small

Harbour the Entrance so narrow that two Ships can't enter at once which is defended by a small Redout with four guns. The Harbour is not above ½ Mile over the longest Way; we were not allowed to land as we came from Gibraltar and must have performed Quarantine before we could land. The Country People watched us all Night and the Next Morning a Custom House Vessel came to watch us because we had Tobacco on board which pays great Duty in Spain.

It was Saturday afternoon we left Porto Pedro we were obliged to fasten a Rope to the Rocks and all Hands pulled to get the Ship out and we had the Wind contrary again . . .

On Tuesday the 14th of July as I said before we got into Mahon Harbour and lay Quarantine I saw Major Gore (2) who gave me a very genteel Invitation to his House while I staid at that End of the Island . . . on Sunday Morning the 25th July I joined the Regiment which this year is quartered at Cindadella by much the best Quarter in the Island. To give an idea of our Quarters you shall hear what a one I have. I have a House to myself you enter into a very good Hall, on the right is a very good Parlour, on the left the Stairs a Pantry a wide Passage to the Kitchen which is a very good one; and a good larder which I make my Servants Bed Chamber; I have Back Door out of my Kitchen into a Pretty Garden about the size of the Pigsty Garden. Up stairs I have a good Bed Chamber and two large Rooms I can make no use of.

Major Gore keeps an exceeding good House everything of the best of this Island I believe as good as the Governours; keeps a great deal of Company and very frequent Card Nights which Mrs Gore is very fond of she seems to be a gay expensive woman . . .

. . . The Way we live here is very agreeable the body of the Officers live at Colonel Oake's (3). Mrs Purser who has married Serjeant Ward who is now Serjeant Major, Brown being dead, provides for them and gives very elegantly Dinners and Suppers which make it very expensive. I mess with three others who only dine together we don't make it so expensive living for about 8 or 9 shillings a Week our common drink is Minorca Wine the best of it which is very good we get at the rate of 7 bottles a shilling. Meat is pretty good here at about 2p a pound and Bread very good and cheap enough; a Pennyworth serves me two or three Breakfasts very well; my Breakfast is generally Bread and Milk for Tea and Sugar is very dear here . . .

Cindadella Mar: undated

. . . I enjoy perfect health and I am in Corps remarkably for Genteelness, Sobriety and Amity amongst one another. Colonel Oakes shews me remarkable Civility and with every Officer in the Regiment I am upon a good Footing so that time goes on very agreeably . . .

Undated

. . . I can tell you a little News from Minorca which I suppose will be in the Papers which is that on Sunday the 25th of last Month we saw two Frigates belonging to Tuscany or Malta engage four Algarine Polacres about two Leagues from the Harbour's mouth, the Algerines were obliged to run for it, one of them lost his Fore Top Mast and Flag Staff, and the Frigates

would have caught him if he had lay close to the Wind . . .

I see the Non Effective Money is come at last which I give you joy of our Captains are quite in raptures about it especially two or three . . . Mr Yorke (4) of our Regiment is coming by sea to England . . .

Minorca, November 15, 1768

. . . An Accident has happened in this Regiment, the like is hardly in the Memory of anybody in it, which is the natural Death of an Officer; Captn. Hamilton died upon a Shooting Party out in the Country the 27th of last Month: his Death has prevented the scheme of the Adjutantcy, that I wrote to you concerning some time ago as Captn Creed gets Pay and the adjutantcy come to Mr Turner for Nothing; and if he should get a Company I believe Sir John Griffin (5) has got a Promise of it from Lord Cornwallis (6) for Mr Crane; besides it is prevented by Captn Gore's purchasing the Majority. I hope in a Packet or two to send you News a good deal of Preferment in the 33rd.

The 24th October I settled with the Paymaster and gave you Credit for my stoppages to the 24th December next, after that I suppose I may venture to draw my full Pay for which I am exceedingly obliged to you it will make me very happy by enabling me to live with the Corps again, who are quite another sort of people to what we were Years ago, for now I suppose there is not a more friendly Corps in the Army which Col. Oakes has been the means of making by his great attention in promoting Society and Unanimity and smothering all cabulling and Parties, by which we are all on the most amicable footing, as plainly appeared by the general concern shown upon the Death of our late Brother Officer.

Castle in Minorca: undated

. . . All the News we have in Minorca is that the Duke of Cumberland came here the first of this Month, he staid only two nights all the Officers of the Garrison were presented to him and kissed his Hand . . .

. . . rather too expensive, for I was run rather behind Hand with getting some Articles I found necessary for the country and by entering into Housekeeping . . . with a person I did not sufficiently know with has determined me never to keep House again but alone; I had a very good excuse to leave the Mess by my great Distance from it and the violent Heat of the Weather which has been extraordinary this Year; I shall live in this Way as long as I am in this Quarter by which means I shall be before hand when we change Quarters and be able to live with the Corps again; I spend the Morning in my Quarter in dishabille sitting in a Bannian and Trousers and read, write, draw or Net, just what happens to be my favourite at the time; about 3 o'clock I take my Dinner which is sometimes a little soup and Bouille, a little cold Mutton and very often this Hot Weather cold Ammunition Beef and always Fruit which is very cheap here: Toast and Water is my Small Beer and I generally drink a Pint of Wine which costs me about a penny reconing all expenses attending it; after Dinner I put on a clean Shirt dress and powder my Hair and walk up into Town to hear the News and somebody or other generally picks me up so that I seldom find my way to the Fort again till between 11 and 12 o'clock: I have

not supped above 5 times at my own Expense since we have been at St. Philips and have not gone without my Supper three; about once a Month I go over to Mahon to the Governors Rout . . .

. . . I had rather live upon Bread and Cheese in private than appear mean in publick; I hope you'll approve of that Conduct; I often reflect upon the different Way of Life I am now in to that I led in England; now I can't be easy to show my Face without a clean Shirt and Powder in my Hair and clean white stockings for we Military Gentlemen are very dressy in these Days and indeed it is the greatest Comfort one has in this hot Country to be clean . . .

Salisbury, June 12, 1769

. . . we are to be reviewed here by General Clavering on Thursday the 22nd of this Month after which we expect to march immediately to the Neighbourhood of London to be reviewed by the King; which will be exceedingly expensive if I may judge by what it costs us here; for in this unsettled Situation the whole Regiment lives together at a publick House and we all lay at our billets which you know is very extravagant Work as we are obliged to breakfast there, for there is no going without it for we are up on Harman Hill every Morning by Six o'clock . . .

. . . my Subsistence to the 24th of June, I assure you that it is with Difficulty that I shall make it last till then tho' I have not laid out 20s in anything but just lived with the Regiment being at the extraordinary Expense of Horse Hire from Gosport here as I was not well, indeed it does not signify my telling you anything about it for you know the Expenses of an Officer in England better than I do, and must know that five Guineas which I shall receive next 24th cannot carry me thro' the Month of the March to London and the King's Review interfere which they certainly will: As to my arrears they are gone for we have Regimental new Hats new Swords and new Sashes and Gorgets to get which not only take this year's Arrears but the next: what those are to do that have no Friends to go to I know not except they get something by Recruiting next Winter. I shall be much obliged to you if you'll let me know soon what you please to assist me with . . .

. . . Lord Cornwallis and Lord Ancram came down to the Regiment on Thursday . . . Lord Cornwallis has a great deal to do now to get us ready to shew before the King and all Morning have nothing but the Art of War going on one way or other.

After we are reviewed by the King I shall endeavour to come to Brinsop as the Regiment is upon their March to Darby and Leicester which are to be our Recruiting Quarters where we shall be one year.

Salisbury, June 17, 1769

. . . . Our unsettled Situation makes it very disagreeable here as well as Expensive for we have not a Hole to hide our Head but a publick House so that almost every Shower of Rain costs us Money if we go to sit down out of it, and if we go to our Rooms two of us can't sit down together they are so small, and we can't have a Book to read nor a Soul to speak to so that we find England very dull as we have no Amusement at all when we can't walk . . .

. . . In the beginning of this Week I took the Liberty to write to you for Assistance with Money, which letter I hope you have received . . . I have not a farthing to buy anything with for my whole Pay and more has gone in just eating and Drinking since I have been in England without ever going to the least Extravagance . . . before we have been in England a Month we are all run over head in Debt unavoidably and without our Consents but by the King's Order which is very hard upon us for it is next to impossible to live upon one's Pay here live as one will . . . You must be very sensible how necessary (your assistance) will be to enable me to live with the Regiment and I hope that my Conduct with it will be agreeable to you and merit any Indulgence you show me . . .

. . . I hope that by this time you have got your Wine which I advise you to bottle off as soon as you think it settled after Carriage, and take care not to put it in a Cellar that is cold and damp for the first Week after it is in bottles but after let it alone for Six Months and then drink it all as fast as you can: but I advise People to take Care how they drink much of it, tho' it is not a Wine that will hurt the Head but take care of the other End for it is of the very contrary Quality to Port . . .

NOTES

1. Presumably the forerunners of the Royal Calpe Hunt.
2. Major Gore (John): Retired in 1771. In 1778 became Lieut Governor of the Tower of London. Two of his sons served in the 33rd. One of them (Arthur) commanded the 33rd from 1802-1813.
3. Colonel Oakes (Hildebrand): Commanded the 33rd from 1762-1774. One of his sons (also named Hildebrand): served in the 33rd in the American War of Independence and became General Sir Hildebrand Oakes 1st Bt.
4. Mr Yorke (John): Commanded the 33rd from 1781-1793, when he sold out to Major Arthur Wellesley. Succeeded John Gore as Lieut Governor of the Tower of London. His son, F. M. Sir Charles Yorke, was Colonel of the 33rd from 1855-1863.
5. Sir John Griffin: Later F. M. Lord Howard de Walden, Colonel of the 33rd from 1760-1766.
6. Lord Cornwallis: Succeeded Sir John Griffin as Colonel of the 33rd in 1766.

1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *'Iron Duke'* sees us nearly five months into our tour of Belize with our thoughts very much towards returning home, a spell of leave, the first round of the Army Cup, and for the first time, settling into our parent formation 1 Infantry Brigade - the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF).

So far Belize has been all we thought it would be. The country is divided into two Battle Group areas for operations. Battle Group North is commanded by the Second in Command, Major Peter Gardner, from Airport Camp, and has an area of responsibility of approximately 1200 square km. The constituent companies of Battle Group North are Alma Company, commanded by Major Tim Isles also based at Airport Camp, and the Corunna Company Group commanded by Major Andrew Drake, based some 70 miles from Belize City along the Western Highway, at Holdfast Camp. Major Drake's command has a strong all arms flavour in that he has a Life Guards troop of Scorpion and Scimitar light tanks and a troop of 105mm Light Guns under command in addition to our own Mortar and Anti-Armour weapons.

In Battle Group South the Commanding Officer commands Burma Company (Major Keith Best) based at Rideau Camp near Punta Gorda, and Dettingen Company (Major Tony Pitchers), the fourth rifle company, situated in the heart of the jungle at Salamanca Camp.

While we have "recced", exercised and prepared all our war plans, day to day life is spent patrolling in the jungle and providing a presence on the border with Guatemala. Support to the Police and the locally raised Belize Defence Force is a secondary role, and much of the time is spent manning static observation posts which overlook Guatemala. All this runs concurrently with breaks for everyone of two weeks R & R and a week's Adventure Training on St Georges Caye (Key), where our own regimental instructors teach sailing, scuba diving, canoeing or windsurfing - the expertise from Gibraltar is invaluable. There have been some adventurous trips on R & R, but the Orlando Naval Base in Florida and

the Cancun resort in Mexico appear to be the most popular. As on so many occasions before, the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums carry the banner for us, with a small parade on St Georges Day and a fine celebration of Waterloo Day, including the now familiar musical re-enactment of the Battle, being the principal events to date. The Band is much in demand and helps us considerably, be it as medics on training, playing concerts in Indian villages or company bases, or even at a Dinner Night for the Chief of the Defence Staff.

There is a strong Joint Service flavour to operating in Belize and much of our own training and operational patrolling is carried out with the RAF Harriers and Pumas. This month the highlight of the tour is going on in the Baldy Beacon area with each company conducting a weeks live field firing with Harrier, Artillery, Scorpion/Scimitar and our own Mortar and Milan support. Only in the Falklands can a battalion train with similar support. Belize is a true challenge to the Infantry soldier and junior commander and it would be a tragic loss were we to withdraw from the country.

While here we have received news of two awards which have pleased us all: first, the award of the Governor and C in C's commendation for the Bandmaster WO1 K. Taylor for meritorious service in Gibraltar and more recently the marvellous news of the award to the battalion of the 1984 Wilkinson Sword of Peace for work on the clearance of the Northern Defences of Gibraltar - known as Operation "Steep Slope". This news was received with universal pleasure as everyone of the battalion contributed so much to the project over a period of nearly a year.

Looking ahead, our return to England in October is on the horizon, and 1986 holds so much for us. With our fortunate release from Operation Spearhead duties next year, and despite a heavy programme of commitments within 1 Infantry Brigade, we are planning a longer visit to Yorkshire next May, which will include the opening of the refurbished Museum.

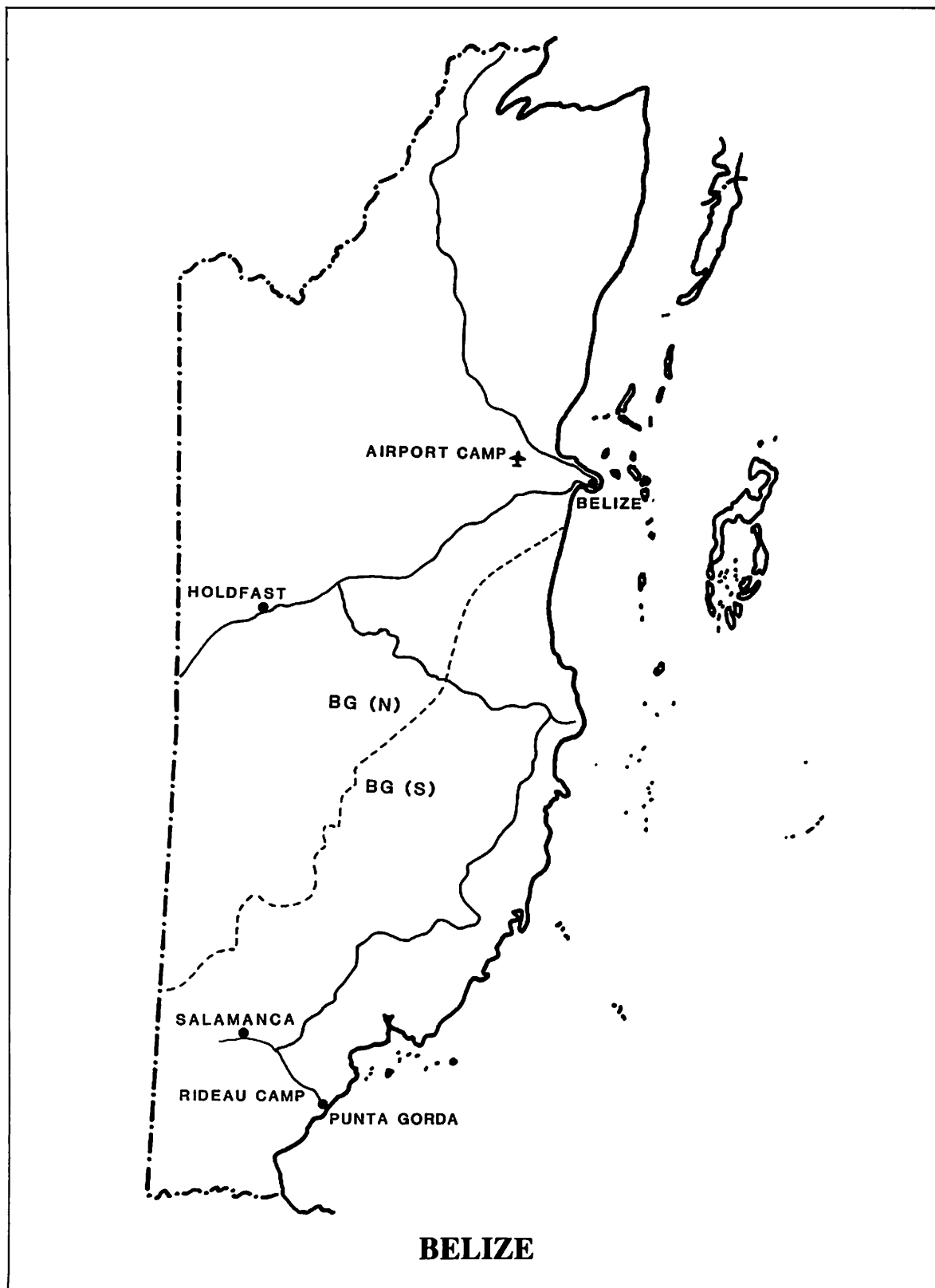
OFFICERS' MESS

During the Battalion's short stay in Bulford life was very busy. The Mess had not been used for a while, however a determined army of painters and decorators, picture hangers and carpenters soon set to work to prepare for the Regimental weekend. Fortunately the Mess property arrived safely from Gibraltar with the exception of one or two slightly damaged picture frames. These were quickly repaired.

The Regimental weekend included a cocktail party followed by supper and then a curry lunch on Sunday. The cocktail party was an ideal opportunity for the Mess to say hello to the officers and their wives from

South West District and 1 Infantry Brigade. A large number of Dukes from the South of England then stayed for the remainder of the weekend and it was a great treat for all of us to enjoy the company of so many friends.

Here in Belize each of the Company Messes have been active housing and entertaining various visitors to Belize including the CDS Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall. The high spots have been our arrival party on St Georges Day when Mrs Webb-Carter the wife of the CBF, presented our white roses and the celebrations of Waterloo Day, when the now familiar musical re-enactment of the battle was well received.



WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

After bidding farewell to Gibraltar we began a hectic period of re-adjustment and settling in to Bulford.

The Mess in itself is quite pleasant and the building, although rather small, has some character about it, no doubt because it once was an Officers' Mess.

Prior to our departure to Belize we were able to hold two major Mess Functions. The first was a Regimental Dinner Night on 28 February when we were able at long last to dine in the Commanding Officer. The second function was the pre Belize Ball held in the Tidworth Garrison Theatre and marked the beginning of the Regimental weekend celebrations. The Ball was a glittering affair and we took the opportunity to call in all Duke's Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs who were away from the Battalion for our final fling before departing for warmer climates.

The Mess was overflowing on the following Sunday lunchtime, there were too many guests to mention them all but we would like to thank all those who visited us during the Regimental weekend for taking the time and trouble to do so.

On arrival in Belize the Mess was divided between the four locations. In this issue we concentrate on Holdfast Mess otherwise known as Ceasars Palace and Airport Camp Mess commonly known as DIFFERENT!!!

Airport Camp Mess

Life in the Mess at Airport Camp is certainly different with members from Army and RAF and occasionally the Navy, as they sail around the world. Many friendships are being formed that will last long after our departure from Belize.

This month the 1 DWR members of the Garrison Mess are responsible for the entertainment and have already proved beyond all doubt that Yorkshiremen know how to enjoy themselves with a very successful CARIBBEAN Night, which included a Steel Band and brought to light the, until now, undiscovered talents of WO2 Geoff (YELLOW BIRD) Hunter! Every now and then Mess members from Rideau, Salamanca and Holdfast visit us here and it is always good to see them. WO2 (TQMS) Pete Coates has acquired a Parrot, which answers to the name of 'Orville'. Orville is marched to work every morning on trusting shoulders, screeching "Pieces of Eight" and other pirate like phrases. Rumour has it that measurements have been taken for a wooden leg!

Mess members have been bitten by a new sport,



Sgt Meade receiving his White rose from Mrs Webb-Carter on St Georges Day

GOLF, WO2 Terry Butterworth is responsible for the upsurge in interest. Every evening a gathering is seen around the practice nets. The bad news is that the price of golf lessons is going to increase due to "lend me another ball Terry!"

Holdfast Camp Mess

The Mess has had a very busy and successful last few weeks with most Mess members taking part in patrols and jungle training. Most of us are now well on our way to becoming highly trained jungle veterans.

Working alongside us we have members of the Life Guards, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, REME and Ordnance Corps.

On the entertainments scene we have had a games night with our Corporal's Mess. It was a very successful night in which we came out easy winners. For the future we are planning various activities, one of which will be a Regimental Dinner Night when we shall be inviting some of our members from other locations.

ALMA COMPANY

OC
2IC
CSM
CQMS

Major T. J. Isles
Capt S. H. Dixon
WO2 T. Butterworth
CSgt P. J. Sugden

1 Platoon
Lieut J. C. Hill
Sgt P. Maltby

2 Platoon
2/Lieut A. J. Adams
Sgt A. Williams

3 Platoon
2/Lieut H. A. Kelly
Sgt A. L. Jackson

Drums/Mortars
Sgt C. J. Meade
D/Maj K. Shinn

Airport Camp

With some 27 cap badges in an area of one kilometre Airport Camp is a real hotch potch of the

forces. Organisations range from RAF technicians to RCT drivers, from a complex intelligence network to the RMP. There is also the Belize Defence Force



An unwelcome visitor, with Ptes Harrison, Wilson and Wales of Alma Company

(BDF) whose camp is just around the corner. There are Harriers and helicopters constantly overhead and a large civilian contingent including the very helpful local Belizeans as well as the P.S.A. Getting to know who's who and where everybody is, is quite a task for a newcomer.

The main function of the infantry company in Airport Camp, which is Alma Company, is to defend the Belize International Airport. Airport Camp is a base used to resupply and assist the other outstations and areas of Belize. Prepared for either a gradual progression or a surprise attack, Airport Camp also serves more generally as a training base for jungle training.

The main duties of Alma Company necessarily revolve around the airport with one platoon constantly on standby and another platoon on guard. The rest of the time is spent either on patrol in the jungle, training or on the much looked forward to R&R.

The soldiers prefer to be out in the jungle, combating the elements rather than being in camp on the more mundane duties. Dealing with snakes, spiders and an incredible variety of mosquitoes seems preferable to camp life where avoiding the rats and cockroaches soon loses its appeal!

On a lighter side, many varieties of sport are available. Ball games of all sorts abound with

football, rugby, squash and tennis among the favourites. Company Sergeant Major Butterworth has managed to find a nine hole golf course.

Trips to the nearby idyllic cays are possible, the nearest being English Cay and St Georges Cay. They have superb beaches and good leisure facilities, and if that doesn't provide any attraction then a simple dip and a sunbathe by the camp pool is always a possibility.

R&R (Rest and Recreation)

Each individual serving six months in Belize is entitled to two weeks R&R. A great deal of talk in Belize is about the forthcoming R&R or the various stories from R&R just taken.

The destination chosen for R&R is finally governed by the individual's purse as the choices are almost limitless. The more money is available the greater are the possibilities, such as going as far afield as Canada and North America. However, to have a good time does not necessarily mean you have to travel miles away from Belize. Good company, comfortable accommodation and plenty to do makes for an enjoyable and relaxing R&R.

There are hotels in Belize but they tend to be expensive and are not of very good quality. Those who choose to holiday in Belize have mostly gone to the battalion R&R camp on the 4 mile lagoon. This is a low budget holiday in a tented camp near to the Mexican border.

Its attraction is its cost and the 'get away from it all' atmosphere around the beautiful clear waters of the lagoon just off the coast of Belize. There are a string of desert islands known as cays (pronounced keys) where the slightly more adventurous spend their two weeks. San Pedro is one of these cays where an individual can soak up the sun and do the odd spot of fishing. Accommodation here is as plush as you like it to be ranging from hostel type dormitories to individual exclusive chalets.

For those who need a more lively two weeks the place is Can Cum in Mexico. This is a new resort along the same lines as Acapulco or Marbella. High rise hotels, fast food restaurants, discotheques, long white sand beaches and plenty of American girls! It is reasonably easy to reach being at the other end of a 10 hour bus journey. However the drawback of Can Cum is the expense as some things are overpriced, but if you want to have a good time you have to pay for it!

The final main option for R&R is two weeks in America. Florida is a short air flight away boasting resorts such as Miami, Orlando and Tampa. Further around the coast there is the Jazz Centre of New Orleans in Louisiana. Soldiers can stay in US forces bases making their accommodation cheap but not particularly comfortable. For those who require a softer bed motels and hotels abound run by Americans who just love the sound of the Yorkshire accent.

BURMA COMPANY

Burma Company's contribution for this edition is a look at the surrounding country. We are based in the Southern region at Rideau Camp only a few miles from the local regional centre, Punta Gorda. In the few months spent here, the company has had a good

chance to explore and patrol the surrounding countryside, and these are our impressions:—

A place called Punta Gorda (Toledo district)

Punta Gorda, or PG as it is commonly known, is

bottom right as you look at a map of Belize. It sits on the coast, astride a small point which has a sandy bay to the north and a rock strewn one to the south. Though small it is the main town in Toledo district and as such plays an important role in the lives of the population of the district. The border with Guatamala is a mere 20 kilometres to the south and much trade in local farm produce and in clothing takes place in PG market, notably at weekends. Boatloads of Guatamalans make the 2 hour journey from Porto Barrios to PG but rarely do many of the locals go the other way.

PG can only be described as a scruffy place. It certainly has character and even boasts a Mayor, who is a colourful and bouncy little man. But most of the housing is basic in the extreme, with wooden buildings built on stilts to keep well off the ground which gets soaked by about 175 inches of rain a year. Gardens, heaped with all kinds of scrap and junk, spill over into the large drainage ditches which run alongside the grid network of dirt tracks that serve the town as streets. Strangely, even in the extreme heat and humidity, the crude drainage system does not produce the overwhelming stench that one would expect.

The amenities of PG are few, and apart from curiosity value, there is nothing to attract the tourist or traveller. Thus there are none of the garish trappings of modern commercialism and the locals go about their business in a flurry of feverish inactivity.

In spite of their natural lethargy, presumably born of a weariness of contending with the harsh jungle environment and the high humidity levels, the peoples of PG and outlying areas are warm and friendly. Some do still harbour anti colonialist feelings but most are forward looking and are enjoying their relatively new found independence. Thus in PG and particularly the Indian villages, our soldiers are made to feel welcome, especially by the kids who will run any errand for a bar of chocolate or a packet of 'compo' biscuits.

Numerous picturesque and remote villages have sprung up alongside the rivers that wind their way eastwards towards the sea from the foothills of the Maya mountains. It is among these that we patrol, largely to ensure that there is no Guatamalan incursion or interference from across the border, which is close and ill-defined on the ground. There is considerable local traffic, on foot, both ways across the border though generally the local Indians are suspicious of Guatamalan intentions. Traders and indeed families come across looking for areas in which to set up shop and to farm. This is a growing problem for a small Belizian police force which is heavily reliant on us for information and support.

The Mayas were the first settlers of Belize and though their society would appear to have collapsed at the end of the 9th Century, many of their descendants still remain throughout Belize. Although these original Mayas were confronted by the Spanish in the 16th and 17th centuries, there was never any true Spanish occupation of Belize. Spanish influence and the language was largely imported from neighbouring countries that had been colonised.

It was in the middle of the 17th century that the British showed any interest in the country; interest was commercial and centred on logging and timber.

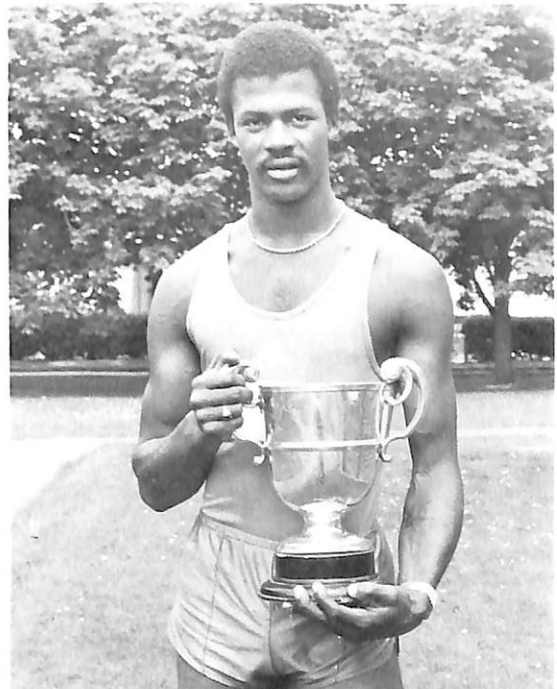
To provide the necessary manpower the British settlers introduced black Jamacian slaves who soon outnumbered the whites. Such slaves originally came from Africa and, of course, were allowed to play no part in governing the settlements. By the end of the 18th Century the settlement was made up of African slaves, British and indigenous Maya. These were joined by the substantial number of slaves evacuated from the Mosquito Shore under a convention of 1786.

By mid 19th Century, the population was even more varied with the immigration of Caribs, Mestizos and Asians. Many of the Caribs arrived after being on the losing side in a civil war in neighbouring Honduras. The Mestizos came mainly from Mexico, also fleeing from a war.

No country would be complete without its share of Asian Indians. Belize is no exception and many arrived here to work on the sugar plantations in the Toledo District. They have since diversified and are now involved in every kind of business, including inevitably, running all our Naffi shops and canteens.

Thus there are several different, ethnic groups who coexist in the district. Their cultures are different and fascinating. However they all share a common difficulty, namely that of making a living from a land that yields few natural resources and that is cultivable only with difficulty.

Punta Gorda provides a meeting point for many of these people who come in from the villages to trade their wares and to buy whatever essentials they can afford or can find. An amazing place that can have changed little for a long time and which will probably continue to struggle into the 20th Century long after most of us are into the 21st.



Private Samerson 1 DWR with the Army Triple Jump Trophy, which he won at the Army Athletic Championships held at Aldershot on 12 June 1985.

CORUNNA COMPANY

OC	Major A. H. S. Drake
2IC	Captain S. C. Newton
CSM	WO2 T. E. Cooper
CQMS	WO2 W. Logan

7 Platoon

Lieut M. A. Lodge
Sgt H. S. Taylor

8 Platoon

Lieut C. S. T. Lehmann
CSgt M. A. O'Garra

9 Platoon

2nd Lieut M. Tinsley
Sgt S. P. Conlon

Corunna forms the nucleus of a Company Group based at Holdfast Camp with a Troop of The Life Guards, a Troop of Gunners and elements of Support Company. The area of responsibility is the Cayo District of Belize, largely jungle covered with a flat open plain in the middle. Holdfast is situated on the plain about 15 kilometres from the Guatemalan Border on the Western Highway, one of the few metalled roads in Belize.

The Platoons soon met the jungle as patrols and platoon jungle training courses started. We learnt to live and work in the jungle very quickly, indeed many soldiers preferred it to camp life. The wildlife alone is fascinating. It was not long before Cpl Whiteley shot a lethal snake and Lieut Lodge and Cpl Sellars sat back to back expecting an attack by Baboons. Others learnt that it is easier to get lost in one hundred metres of jungle than ten kilometres of Salisbury Plain.

The Patrols Platoon sends patrols North and South and provides commanders on two OP's. We work closely with the Belize Defence Force who man the OP's. In return they provide guides and interpreters. The patrols keep to the border area watching for Guatemalan incursions, observing civilian movement, liaising with villages and doing invaluable mapping work. One OP observes the main border crossing point, whilst the other is situated in Arenal, a small primitive village divided by the border. Some commanders become very integrated with the local community, L/Cpl Falcus was described as the village Mayor by one of the many visitors.

Whilst the Platoons enjoyed the jungle, preparation was in hand for the Battle Group exercise which was based on an aggressive delay scenario. The whole Company Group then deployed on the exercise and it proved very valuable training with the different arms involved, including support from the Royal Air Force Helicopters and Harriers.

R&R has now started and in addition many soldiers



Cpl Grogan, Corunna Company, on patrol during exercise 'Cayo Express'

are able to get away for adventure training. 9 and 7 platoons have both undertaken projects, 9 have built an Atap Hut at a local tourist spot and 7 are helping to complete a clinic to help improve local medical conditions. All were delighted to hear the news of Pte Samerson's victory in the Triple Jump at the Army Athletics Championships. In addition L/Cpl Lawrence and Pte Beaumont raised £172.00 for the Bradford City Fire Appeal. The tour is passing quickly and we are all looking forward to returning to Bulford.

DETTINGEN COMPANY

OC	Major A. J. Pitchers
2IC	Capt R. J. M. Pugh
CSM	WO2 E. D. Atkinson
CQMS	CSgt G. J. Walker

10 Platoon

Lt McNeilis
Sgt Chapman

11 Platoon

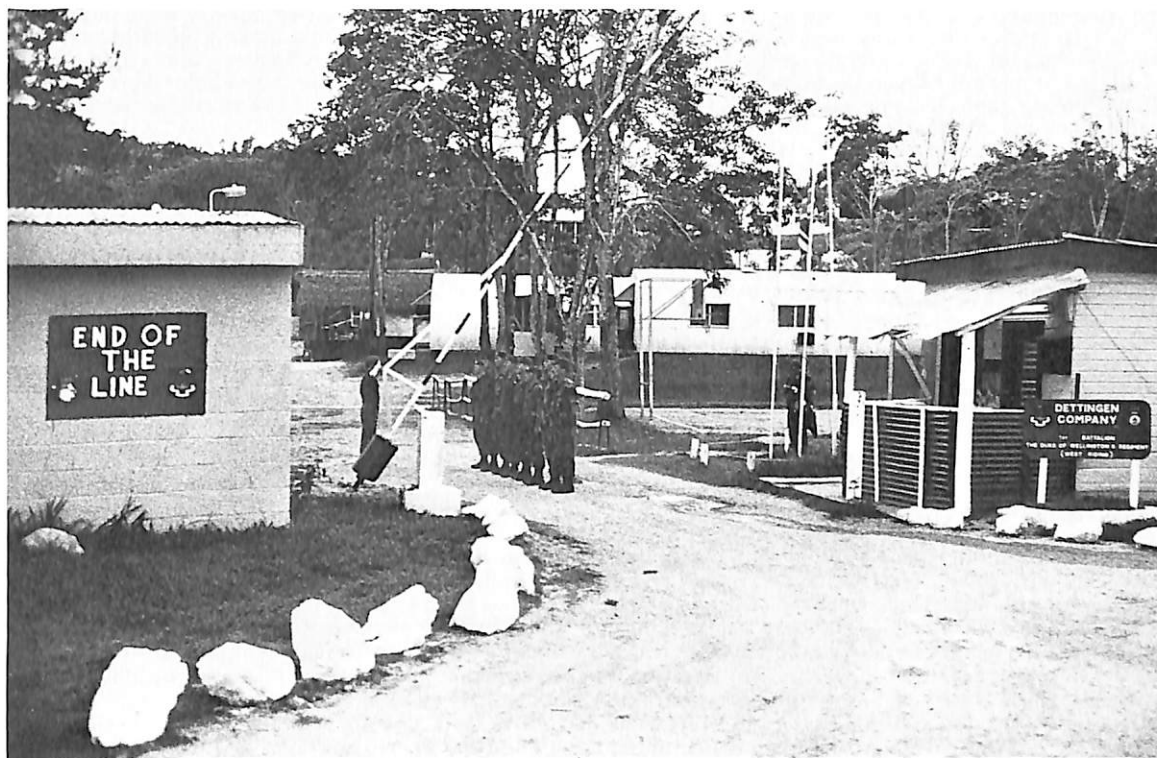
Lt Downes
Sgt Smith

Recce Platoon

Lt Preston
CSgt Campbell
Sgt Irving

SALAMANCA CAMP — THE END OF THE LINE
Somme Company left Gibraltar in January 1985 for Bulford Camp and arrived on a rainy, windswept

night to go straight on leave. In February they returned but went off to their various companies and outside the company office was a brand new board



Guard mounting at Salamanca Camp - 'The end of the Line'

displaying the words **"DETTINGEN COMPANY"** — the fourth rifle company had arisen once more! As usual on these occasions the first parade of the complete company was a heart stopping sight — old and bold from the depths of Hook Company, mess waiters, brand new soldiers from the Depot and, in one corner looking very pleased with themselves, the Recce Platoon. But despite the raised eyebrows of the OC and CSM the enthusiasm displayed by all ranks quickly pulled them into shape which was a good thing as no sooner had we formed up than we were packing for Belize and preparing for embarkation leave!

On the 1st and 5th April the advance party and main body flew out to Belize in some trepidation as to what was to follow. In the building up for the tour we had been told surprisingly little about Salamanca — except for the negative sides: There is electricity in all the camps except Salamanca" and "There is plenty of fresh water available except in Salamanca" and "Each camp has a swimming pool or dip tank except Salamanca". Where were we going, was it really going to be like a POW camp? CSM Atkinson had already been re-christened **"TENKO"** by the Sgts Mess — would he have to live up to the reputation? Not surprisingly the other other companies were smirking quietly (!?) while we pondered our fate.

At last we touched down at Belize International Airport and were greeted by a blast of hot, humid air-pullovers were removed rapidly but still we sweated. (New arrivals or "Moonies" as they are affectionately known - are easily recognisable: pale white skin, red

faces and sweating profusely!) The lucky ones boarded a helicopter for the one hour flight to Salamanca - rank definitely has its privileges! - and the unlucky ones boarded the Ramp Powered Lighter (RPL) for a 12 hour journey to the coastal port of Punta Gorda which although the main town of Southern Belize is probably smaller than Bulford. But still the journey was not finished for now 4 ton vehicles had to be boarded for a one hour journey along what Belizeans call a road but is only a dusty, pot ridden track. We were now beginning to understand why Salamanca was called "The end of the Line".

As we pulled into camp puzzled frowns appeared on faces - were we in the right place, perhaps this is Rideau. After all we could see brick buildings and nissan huts, there was even a NAAFI. Worse was to follow - there were beds and sheets for each man yet surely at Salamanca we sleep on the ground, and electricity with even a TV. No, it must be wrong. But the shock treatment was not finished - was it possible that that large tank was a swimming pool? CSM 'Tenko' Atkinson quickly put us right - it was the emergency water supply! (or at least that was what we had to tell the wives!).

In fact Salamanca turned out to be a well equipped and well designed camp in the middle of the jungle. It was originally built by the Gurkhas in 1978 on the site of an old logging camp. It is surrounded by hills which are covered by thick secondary jungle and there is a reasonable sized river flowing down one side which in the wet season frequently breaks its banks and floods

the surrounding area. Belize itself is a mixture of all races and cultures yet in our area 99% of the locals are Mayan or Kechth Indians and therefore descendants of the great ancient Mayan civilisation. The way of life of these people has opened a few soldiers' eyes and makes the conditions of living and working in England seem like absolute luxury. Each family lives in a small one roomed hut called an ATAP. The framework of these buildings is made from tree trunks and branches which are tied together by a strong flexible vine, the roof is made from a spiky leaf which is best described in English terms as thatch and the walls are made of planks of wood with rectangular holes cut for windows. Very few of the villages have a generator and therefore there is no electricity. Lighting comes from paraffin lamps and cooking is done over a wood fire. Again for the majority of the villages the sole water supply is the river although some are more fortunate and have a well and hand pump. Nearly all the villages are connected by dirt tracks that, in the dry season at least, are motorable. However very few Indians own vehicles and so foot power is the order of the day. Some villages though are not connected by road and all movement is cross country either on foot or mule.

Life is at the subsistence level and each family will own some pigs and chickens and have a small plot of land which he has carved out of the jungle in which they grow corn, rice and beans. However after about three years the earth is exhausted and they move on to another piece of jungle and start again, leaving the old plot to become covered in thick secondary jungle. Little money exists amongst these people and barter is often the means of purchase although this is changing as the demand for a larger workforce persuades local men to take jobs outside the villages. The day begins in the village at approximately 0400 hours with a meagre breakfast of tortillas and at first light certainly the men, and often the women and children as well, can be seen walking to their fields which on average tend to be about five miles away. The day is spent in the field and from 1600—1700 hours the trip back to the village is made. This time however they are laden down with sacks of corn or rice which weigh on average 60-70lbs.

Western women will be pleased to know that in this matter at least there is complete equality — they carry 60-70lbs as well!! Unlike Westerners who carry bergens on their backs the Indians strap the load to their forehead which looks thoroughly uncomfortable but obviously works. Their form of

dress is rather westernised but few wear shoes. The life of the women would make women libbers have heart attacks — not only do they work in the fields but it is their job to do the household chores as well. Severe punishment can await those who try to disagree!!

On the military side Dettingen Company's roles are fourfold:

- a. To patrol the border with Guatemala
- b. To man a permanent OP in the border village of JALACTE
- c. To carry out 'Hearts and Minds' partols in the Indian Villages.
- d. To carry out training up to platoon level.

In addition obviously the camp has to be guarded and routine administration carried out. Thus each platoon spends one week either on training, guards or patrolling and manning the OP, and on average a platoon will spend two weeks, less the weekend, out of camp and one week in. For everybody the jungle has been a new and fascinating experience with some liking it more than others and I am sure that tales of the first night in the jungle will be told and re-told many times on return to Bulford — from rough tough tommies sitting around a camp fire all night because of inexplicable jungle noises to the story of the snake with four legs!!

The jungle environment has provided the platoons with unlimited opportunities to learn and improve personal skills, to work together as a team and to be self reliant. Commanders at all levels have had the chance to gain confidence in their own leadership skills and to carry out unit training without others looking over their shoulders. There is no doubt that for the majority the jungle is a physically and mentally demanding environment yet once the patrol has been successfully completed there is a tremendous feeling of satisfaction. For a composite company the enthusiasm and determination of the soldiers in carrying out their tasks has been outstanding and morale is high and time is passing quickly.

However it has not been all work and many have taken the opportunity to visit the Cayes (Islands) and sample the delights of snorkelling and Charcoal Rum. Each man will hopefully get to the adventure training centre for a week and all have still got two weeks R and R to look forward to. So after the initial doubts as to how we would survive 6 months in Salamanca POW Camp we have found that we are actually enjoying it.

HOOK COMPANY

To say that Hook Company is spread out over six and a half thousand miles is perhaps no exaggeration when one remembers that the Families Staff and members of the rear party are 'Keeping the home fires burning' in Bulford. The Welfare and Maintenance work done by Capt Whittaker, the Families Officer and his staff are vital to the morale on both sides of the globe, and form a solid link with home and family.

As always, with diverse fingers in every pie. Headquarter Company struggles to maintain a corporate identity, particularly over the hills and

mountains that separate the camps in Belize. The departmental notes reflect the varying experiences across the board, but the company can perhaps best be described as the cement that unites the bricks of the rifle companys together into one unit. In Belize the cement takes many more forms than is usual. The RPL link to the South is controlled by the Quartermasters staff; the Corps of Drums functions as a rifle platoon attached to Alma Company when not on ceremonial duties and helicopters are bidden for and landed by Hook Company personnel.

QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT Battle Group North

*The QM's Dept are a hard working bunch
We only have 1 hour for our lunch
Some days our work is really heavy
Thats why at night you need a bevy
From bino's to a tin of beans
We work like slaves or so it seems
But to say we are a happy crew
Either that or go loopy loo
So when you want something next from us
We will get it to you without a fuss.*

After an early morning start in UK to catch a VC10 to Belize we were tired and longing to get there for what we thought would be a couple of days off and plenty of sleep, how wrong we were. After being met by movements staff we were shuttled from the plane onto the now famous "Batty Buses". A quick briefing in the cinema and then told to get into uniform. One month later and we're still working.

The mode of life is certainly different from what we are used to. The QM and TQMS still haven't

perfected the perfect swing with a golf club. Meanwhile C/Sgt Budden is still trying to work out where most of the demand sheets are coming from and where there are going to, whilst L/Cpl McKnight runs around trying to get kit fixed. On the clerical side, L/Cpl Benson and Pte Alexander who at the moment seem to have just come over for the flight, assist the Ramp Powered Lighter (RPL) team and other odd jobs that require doing. Cpl Davison is still issuing ammo, that's when he is not panick tanning. The RPL team consisting of C/Sgt Hanley, Cpl Marland and Cpl Sharp are the most pressed for work. If its not receiving kit for different locations then they are taking kit for other locations to the RPL at some strange hours day and night. Cpl Preston has certainly made his mark in Belize by re-furbishing most locations with new signs, name plates and the like. L/Cpl Edwards is a lot happier now that L/Cpl Oliver arrived to assist him. I think the rats and cockroaches are still getting more food than us.

Battle Group South

The pre-advance party arrived safely at Airport Camp, completed the initial callover, split into two main groups and while we moved south to the front line the remainder stayed behind to improve their golf handicaps.

We moved south by Chopper all breathing a sigh of relief at escaping the dreaded overnight trip on Sgt Baz Walkers Sea Ferries (RPL). The exception to this was Sgt Geoff Bailey who flew by the Mayan Airways, who did not need to ask why it is called the "White Knuckle".

The handover from 2 Gren Gds went well and by the time the main body arrived the department had become accustomed to the procedures at Rideau.

An outloading exercise was carried out east of Punta Gorda, this involved all the elements of A1 and A2 echelon which were deployed and set up by lunchtime. To continue the motion, the afternoon was taken up with a radio exercise to practice Batco

and Brevity codes. Two hours of continuous Batco revealed three weary looking operators the TQM, RQMS and SQMS until the TQM having completely mastered the heart of Batco encoded a lengthy message that brought the exercise to an abrupt end. One must use one's imagination to say exercise control did not argue.

On the Battle Group South exercise the department were given an additional task of acting as enemy for the Royal Artillery. The first attack was made easy once Sgt Baz Walker got his hands on some PE however, problems started to arise on the second when after attacking three gun positions at Salamanca to avoid being captured the RQMS gave the order to withdraw only to find two men from the patrol missing, Cpl Tich Mullett and Cpl G. A. D. Deaville, where were they? In the cookhouse having a cold drink.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT PLATOON

MTO
MT WO
MT Sgt

Capt P. Robinson
WO2 P. Hutchinson
Sgt M. Turner

Overheard in the cookhouse. "Where's the MT".
"Airport Camp, Holdfast, Rideau and Salamanca, who wants to know!"

After a hectic period in Bulford, where it was all courses and cadres, we are now established in Belize. The platoon, being split into sections in support of each company, sees very little of each other.

The roads in Belize leave a lot to be desired and

cover all classes from mud path to 'A' roads. There is even a 500 metres stretch of dual carriageway, albeit in the middle of town with a speed limit of 25 mph. There is one particular junction which has earned its self the auspicious name of "Kamakazi Junction". It has four entries and six exits. There are no signs, no white lines and the locals believe in the rule of biggest is best.



The Drums platoon on their way to a jungle patrol

The road conditions and the long lines of supply mean that the vehicles spend many hours in workshops, the drivers are now on first name terms with the fitters.

The platoon characters are exerting their personalities around various locations. Parrots

appear to be popular. Cpl Trev Collins and "Roger" spend hours having a one sided conversation and Pte Dave Burnett is raising two yellow head chicks.

Cpl (Office worker) Stewart is hitting the limelight as an ever popular DJ with our local BFBS radio.

REGIMENTAL BAND

Bandmaster
BSM

WO1 K. Taylor
WO2 T. P. Byrne

The first part of our tour has provided the band with some varied and unusual engagements including the Belize Agricultural Show held at Belmopan when we stayed with Corunna Company at Holdfast for the weekend. Other engagements have been performed at Corozal, Belize City, Rock View Mental Hospital and an unusual one for the band when we provided ten members for the British Forces Guard of Honour for the Queens Birthday Parade, held at the National Stadium in Belize. It is a very rare occasion when any

members of the band have to go on a ceremonial parade with weapons and do arms drill: the ten members concerned produced a very high standard of drill and turnout.

Finally we would like to congratulate BdsM Tony Sidwell on his marriage and S/Sgt Wally Wallace, Cpl Ely Dyas and L/Cpl Dick Pogson on their recent promotions. Sadly S/Sgt Wally leaves us to take up the appointment of WO2 (BSM) with the band of Royal Irish Rangers.

SOCCER

Soccer Officer
1st Team Coach
2nd Team Coach

WO1 (RSM) Bob Heron
WO2 (RQMS) Brian Sykes MBE
CSgt Mel Smith

The 1984/85 season for the soccer squad came to an end on Wednesday 20th March with the South West District Cup Final, played on the Tidworth Oval against 16/6 Lancers. It was also the day the Battalion departed on embarkation leave prior to our Belize tour. The Commanding Officer decided that the coaches taking the boys to Yorkshire on leave would be diverted to the Tidworth Oval before proceeding North after the game.

The first half of the game was quite a hard period with both teams trying to dominate. The score at half time was 0-0.

In the second half The Dukes started quickly with a goal almost immediately after the interval from Pte Baz Barratt. From that point on the Dukes fitness started to tell and we really dominated the remainder of the Final. Further goals from Cpl (TP) Stead (2), Pte Barratt (2nd) and L/Cpl Bob Easeman made the

eventual score 5-1 with The Dukes very worthy winners.

At the time of writing, in our second month in Belize, soccer although very popular, has been restricted to Company level mostly against local teams. With the Battalion spread as it is throughout Belize, it is unlikely that we will be able to bring the Battalion Team together.

Looking forward to the 1985/86 season and a settled period in Bulford we are hoping to enter all the competitions that we were unable to enter during our last two seasons in Gibraltar. The Army Cup, Infantry Cup, District Cup and League.

We proved last season that we have a young fit team, who with a little more experience, can compete with the best in the Army. It looks good for the future of Duke's soccer.



The football team: Winners of the South West District Cup

TRAINING FOR BELIZE

Preparations for the Belize tour began in mid 1984 with selected Pl Comds, Pl Sgts and a patrol from the Recce Pl attending specialist courses at the Jungle Warfare School, Brunei. Others were sent on courses which included Helicopter Handling, Projectionists, Medical Assistants, Rodent Control and Water Duties.

Training began in earnest on return to Bulford at the end of January when the Battalion re-organised into the Belize orbat of 4 Rifle Coys, Support Weapon Pl's and, of course, Hook Coy. Fitness and load carrying were given prime consideration - a major aid to acclimatisation. Despite the snow and cold winds of a winter Wiltshire a considerable amount of good low level training was achieved which included jungle tactics, environmental training, map reading, shooting the Armalite and M79 Grenade launcher, health lectures and fitness. Support Pls were able to hold short cadres and the Mortar Pl conducted a days firing at Larkhill. Collective training at Coy level was also a feature of this period which culminated in a Battalion Study Day, followed by two Battle Group CPX's. Additionally RAF Odiham kindly agreed to run a series of Support Helicopter (SH) familiarisation training days for JNCO's and above. This was most useful as most members of the Battalion had not trained with SH since September 1982. To keep us all on our toes during this period we also unpacked from Gibraltar and then repacked for Belize!

On arrival in Belize further 'in theatre' training was

carried out and included a specialist jungle course for Pl Comds followed by the establishing of Pl and Coy base camps from which operational patrolling and jungle training was conducted. Suddenly Kiwi Hill and the UK weather was replaced by dense jungle, high humidity and even higher temperatures - never the less the fitness training of Bulford carried us well over this initial hurdle. All the skills learnt in Brunei and Bulford were now being put into practice in a jungle environment.

By the end of April each Pl had spent at least one week on patrol in the jungle, re-learnt the value of SH, HF radio and could feel rightly proud of the standards achieved in such a limited period of time.

During May operational training was carried out at Coy and Battle Group level and included TEWTS, CPX's, Study Day's and culminated in two separate and successful all arms (incl FGA) Battle Group Exercises.

As these notes are being written the Mortar and Anti-tank Pl's are conducting their own live firing concentrations. This will be followed, after the Force exercise, by Coy Group field firing exercises which will include light gun, CVRT(T), and FGA support. A far cry from Beefsteak Range and Windmill Hill flats in Gibraltar!

Belize affords good live and dry training facilities at Pl and Coy level and Kenya will provide an ideal vehicle for continuity of Battalion dry training and live firing.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DJ

The day I was introduced to broadcasting started like any normal day. I was clearing my paperwork and when the phone rang, I answered it in my usual brisk tone:-

"MT Cpl Stewart Sir"

"This is the BFBS station manager" better known to us as Cpl Geoff Earnshaw.

"As you've volunteered to be a part time presenter, can you do a show for us?"

"Er, possibly, when for?"

"This afternoon at 4.00 pm"

"Well, I'll have to ask MTWO if I'm needed"

"Right, if you're not, we'll see you at 2.00 pm"

Click, the line went dead, fear and an awful sense of foreboding filled me. Why did I volunteer to work at BFBS. Thoughts flashed through my mind, thoughts like, will I be good enough, will I be tongue tied, will the listeners be able to understand my Yorkshire accent. More important still with the MTWO let me off for the afternoon?

Two minutes later, in walked the MTWO. Now I had to ask him while he still had a smile on his face.

"Sir, I've been asked by BFBS, if I am available to do a radio show."

"Have you anything resembling work to do?"

"No Sir I replied, I've just cleared my desk"

"Right you can play at being the Duke's answer to Tony Blackburn"

"Cheers Sir"

I rang BFBS and confirmed I would be able to do the afternoon show and that I was their man.

I had a light lunch, I had to, the butterflies were like Harriers in my stomach. I had one eye on the clock, 1.00pm came and went, 1.30pm drew near, I reported early (Army Training) and I was greeted cordially by everyone present.

The guided tour came next, here is the studio, the record library and the filing index single records here, LPs over there.

Next came an intensive cadre on how to cue up and PF (Pre Fade) a record on the turn tables. So much so soon. I was beginning to wonder whether I had done the right thing. Then I was shown how to cue up the pre recorded tapes. "Right, your turn now", and off I went, nearly right but I'll get by I hoped.

"Are you happy with the set up?"

"Yes it looks easy enough, shouldn't have any big problems".

"OK then we're off but we will be listening to the show"

Away I went I found all my records on the library, and I put my playlist in order of merit.

Not long to go now, 30 minutes to go and I was out live, Check all the sound levels Turntable one OK, turntable two OK. Microphone OK Jingle OK. All checks done and ready for live transmission. Now it was time for the last sound and voice check.

One minute to go, final pre-programme checks, load jingle, time, 10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1, Cue jingle, voice over on cue, first record out bang on 4.00pm. I had done it, I had arrived, I was a BFBS DJ.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Revd E. G. Semple CF

From: Colonel W. A. Waller
8 St Georges Place
The Mount
York
22 May 1985

The Editor
'The Iron Duke'
Sir,

The photograph of the Revd E. G. Semple CF in the last issue revived memories of school days at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, where I was boarder from 1919 to 1925. During part of that time Padre Semple was the School Chaplain. Although a 'left footer' I was expected to remain in class when the Padre conducted his weekly RI sessions. My abiding memory is of his grasp of

humanity and of the manner in which he credited his pupils with the commonsense and understanding appropriate to their years. I well remember, for example, at one of the instructional periods, the discussion turned on the length of gestation for animals such as dogs, cats etc: Padre Semple then invited questions. Somebody asked 'How about horses?' - 'six months', he replied. Another questioner then asked '- and elephants?' . . 'Oh, about three years' said the Padre. Finally one erudite questioner asked 'and fleas, how long?'. Instantly the Padre replied 'a few minutes' - and after a silence 'so get rid of such creature from your person if ever you encounter them!!'.

Yours sincerely
Swazi Waller

YORKSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE Wellesley Company

Lieut Glenn Baum has joined the Thongsbridge detachment, on transfer from Lancashire ACF. We also have a new sergeant, Simon Spendelow, at Keighley. On the other hand we have lost our 2i/c, Douglas Bennett, who has been promoted to Major and taken over as Commander of Leeds Area ACF. Our loss is their gain. The Mirfield detachment, under Lieut Joe Ashworth, have spent much time in the Lakes District on adventure training. They have also found time for another week end at Giggleswick School; as have the Skipton detachment, who practically lived on the ranges. We are most grateful to Major Nigel Mussett of Giggleswick School CCF.

The success of Douglas Bennett in winning the TAVRA Silver Medal and Sir Montagu Stopford Trophy inspired S/Sgt D. James, Cpl Malone and L/Cpls G. Reid and S. Stanley of Mirfield when, after a nail biting finish, they just failed to win the Falling Plate Competition at the County SAA Meeting.

Lieut Colonel Robins, the Regimental Secretary, has just completed an intensive tour of the seven Duke's cadet detachments. He spent several hours at each and thanks to his interest the cadets now know a great deal more about the Duke's and everything they represent.

OPERATION 'RALEIGH'

by Major Alan Westcob

Operation "Raleigh" is a four-year Round the World Expedition designed to provide opportunities for over 4500 young men and women from over 50 nations aged between 17 and 24 to work together on projects of high adventure; to increase their awareness of the needs of others; to achieve worthwhile scientific research and community task objectives and by doing so, to improve their self-confidence and to discover within themselves the qualities of leadership.

The expedition will last from December 1984 to December 1988 and it expects to mount 16 land phases in the Bahamas, Central America, South America, the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Sri Lanka, Oman, Kenya, Zaire and Brazil. The flagship "Sir Walter Raleigh", which is a converted stern trawler donated to the expedition by Hull County Council, will be accompanied by the brigantine "Zebu" throughout the 4 years and by other sailing vessels which will be

joining the expedition at various stages of the operation.

This vast project was masterminded by Colonel John Blashford-Snell (late RE) who, in his capacity of Director of Operations, has been responsible for the co-ordination and planning of the whole expedition. He also spent many long hours drumming up support to raise the required £4.5 million from the United Kingdom through sponsors and individuals willing to support this worthwhile and exciting venture. In March 1983 I was asked by Colonel Blashford-Snell to command the opening phase of Operation 'Raleigh' in the Bahamas.

After a two week settling-in period prior to Christmas and New Year on Grand Bahama, the northernmost island in the Bahamas, the 91 venturers and 47 directing staff from 10 different nations set off on the various projects which I had fixed up on my reconnaissance. The programme consisted of two subphases which allowed everyone an opportunity to



Operation "Raleigh"
The abominable cave diver - Major Alan Westcob about to descend to the bottom of Stargate Blue Hole

change projects at least once. The first subphase concentrated on the islands of Grand Bahama, New Providence and Cat Island. Each team of venturers and DS moved either by local mail boat service or on "Sir Walter Raleigh".

In the Bahamas, the expedition concentrated its efforts on a scientific marine programme and community tasks. During the 3 month period the directing staff and venturers undertook 17 projects on 5 different islands.

On the marine side an extensive underwater programme included surveying a proposed national park off Paradise Island, Nassau, a coral reef study in Grand Bahama and South Andros, a seagrass mapping project in Grand Bahama and a Blue Holes exploration study in Cat Island and South Andros. Many of the 700 islands which make up the Bahamas resemble a sponge and Blue Holes abound either inland or just off the coast. These complex underwater caves often have openings which are no more than a few feet wide and the initial entry shaft can go down some 100-200 feet before one starts working along the complex twists and turns, parallel to the ocean floor. In all, twenty-two Blue Hole sites were explored and some startling new scientific discoveries were made.

The community projects, which took place on Grand Bahama, New Providence, Cat Island and Greater Inagu proved to be equally challenging to the venturers. Many of the projects seemed daunting but they were all completed by a combination of hard graft, ingenuity and skill acquired on the job. Perhaps



Operation "Raleigh"
This map was supposed to be waterproof:- Capt Huw Parker RE leading a recce party across Gold Creek, Lucayan National Park

the two projects which stand out were the construction of the Lucayan National Park in Grand Bahama and the complete rebuild of an old colonial type house known as the "Retreat". A 40 acre piece of primary jungle and mangrove was converted into a magnificent National Park. A total of 4500 metres of pathway was cut out, paths laid using fill and pearock, two spiral staircases erected into the Blue Hole caverns and 1400 metres of raised walkway and bridges constructed over the mangrove swamp or archeological sites. At the "Retreat", which nestles in an 11 acre plot in the middle of Nassau, the construction team managed to repair the concrete foundations by lifting the wooden bungalow, re-roof the house completely in Bahamian shingle tiles, rebuild several walls, re-floor most of the house, re-wire, re-plumb and finally re-paint the entire house. Both projects only employed 24 venturers and directing staff and were completed in 55 days - a remarkable feat.

There is little doubt that the Bahamians were

amazed at our ability to get things done in such a short space of time and it has certainly encouraged the Government to take a keen interest in how the Bahamian youth could be involved in similar projects in the future.

On this opening phase of Operation "Raleigh", there were 23 servicemen and women from all three Services. All contributed to the success of the phase either through their ability to administrate in the field or through their expertise in expedition work. We definitely need many more servicemen to come forward and join the directing staff. Our help is invaluable to the success of the expedition and it would be wonderful to see some young officers and junior NCOs of the Duke's taking part. The opportunities offered on the expedition, whether they be in South America, Australia or Papua New Guinea provide unique "once in a lifetime" experiences in some remote part of the world.

THE FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENT APPEAL

The Friends of the Regiment Appeal was launched in the "Iron Duke" of August 1980 by Major General D. E. Isles, with the object of raising funds for a wide range of Regimental activities and causes that cannot be supported from public or Regimental Benevolent Funds. Examples of the type of activity requiring support are; refurbishment of the Regimental Museum, purchase of items of historical interest for the museum, the repair or preservation of Colours, publication of a new Regimental History, financial support for major Regimental events or parades.

As many serving soldiers and all serving officers already subscribe a day's pay per year to the Regiment the appeal is aimed mainly at retired officers, senior ranks and soldiers. Support to date is encouraging but it is felt that there are still many retired members of the Regiment who may be able to give some support to the fund but have yet to do so.

Subscriptions and donations from readers of the 'Iron Duke' who have not been serving members of the Regiment, but who are interested in helping to maintain its standards are also invited.

All retired members of the Regiment are therefore requested to consider making a donation, or annual subscription; the latter preferably by Banker's Order

under Deed of Covenant so that tax paid may be reclaimed. A blank Banker's Order and Deed of Covenant form is enclosed with this edition of the "Iron Duke". Donations no matter how small should be sent to the Regimental Secretary at RHQ. Cheques or postal orders to be made payable to DWR Central Funds Account (Friends of Regiment Appeal).

W.R.

The state of the Appeal

Annual income from subscribers (including tax recovered) =	£1010
Anticipated income from investments/ bank deposits =	£1250
Current balance =	£15040

During the year the Appeal benefitted by a sum in excess of £10,000 from legacies and donations.

The following have become subscribers since the last list was published in August 1984. E. M. Goodman-Smith Esq., Colonel R. M. Harms; Major P. B. L. Hoppe; Major S. A. Kirk; Major D. R. D. Newell; Lieut Col J. E. Pell; Lieut Col W. Robins; Captain M. J. Stone and Major G. C. Tedd.

V.J. DAY

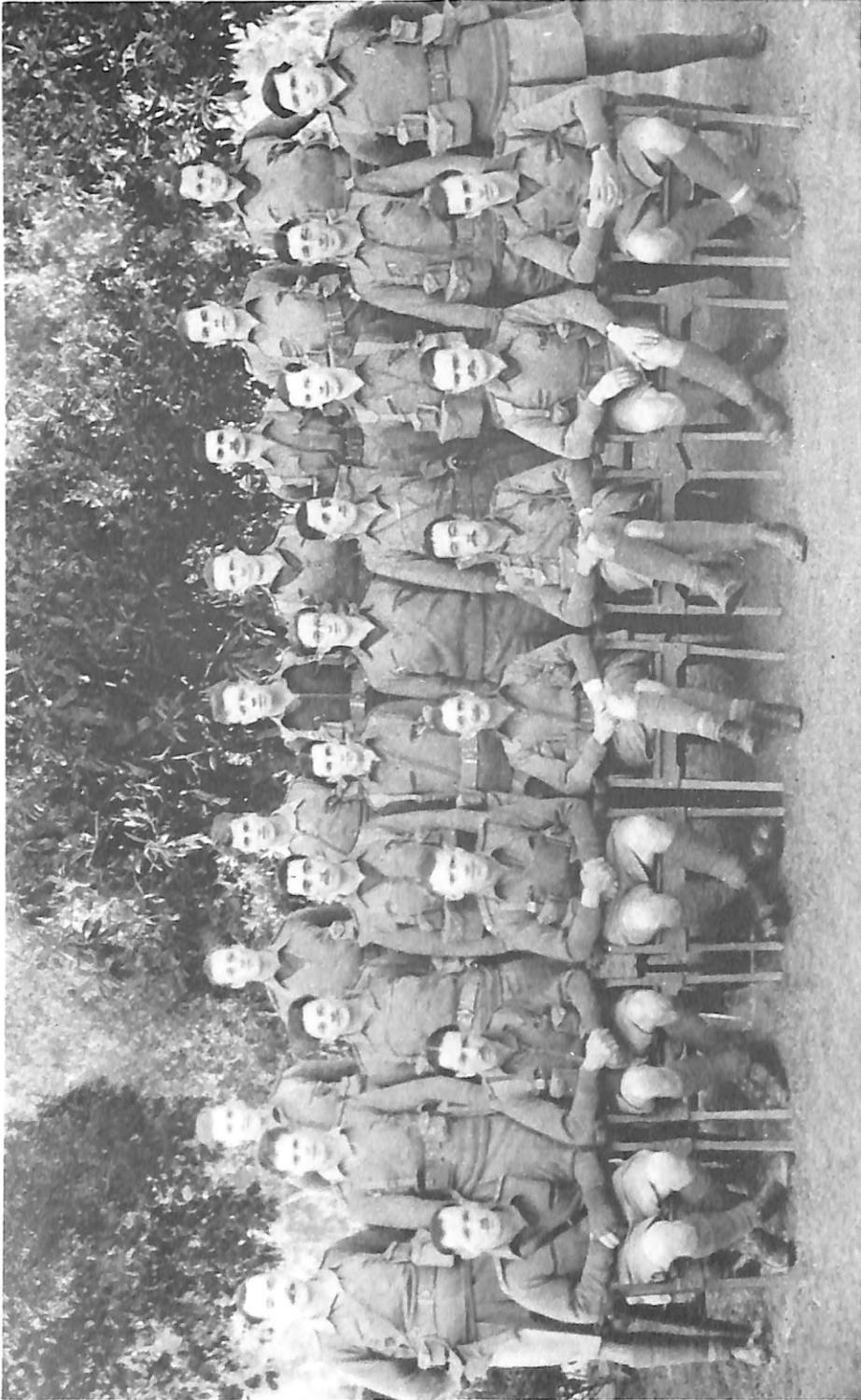
Some recollections of the War in the Far East

The 40th anniversary of V.J. Day is unlikely to be commemorated on the same scale as was the 40th anniversary of V.E. Day. Published below, therefore, are some reminders of the campaigns in Burma in 1942 and 1944.

33rd INDIAN CORPS

General Sir Philip Christison Bt GBE, CB, DSO, MC; Colonel of the Regiment from 1947 to 1957, now in his 92nd year, was a most distinguished commander in the war against Japan. In 1943 a new Army Corps of three divisions was to be raised for service in

Burma and Lieut General Christison, who only four years previously had commanded 2DWR, was appointed to raise and train it in Southern India. He decided to raise it in Wellington, to call it 33rd Indian Corps and to have as its corps sign the head of the Iron Duke. This was all approved and the Duke's head



Officers of the 2nd Battalion: 3rd February 1942

Back Row: Capt John Christison; Lieut Joe Heaton; 2/Lieut David Horsfall; Lieut & QM Tom Jowett, Lieut Jack Wardle;

Lieut Guy Gilbey; Capt Derek Roberts; Capt Tony Firth

Centre Row: 2/Lieut Eric Skinner; Capt Denis Simonds, Capt 'Cushy' Mason; 2/Lieut Steve Dunn; Lieut Edward Travis;

2/Lieut Denis Ambler, 2/Lieut John(?) Jansen; Capt John Butterfield; 2/Lieut Bert Wood; Lieut John Williams

Front Row: Capt & QM John Coulter; Major Bob Moran; Major 'Bull' Faithful; Lieut Colonel Basil Owen; Capt Pip Moran;

Major Jack Robinson; Capt Donald Coningham

The following also accompanied the Battalion to Burma: Capt D. M. Harris; Lieuts R. G. Bailey; F. R. Barker; F. H. Slater and J. H. C. Sutherland; Capt H. O'Hara RAMC. Capt & QM J. Coulter did not accompany the Battalion.

remained the corps sign till General Christison took over 15 Indian Corps and the new commander of 33rd Indian Corps changed the sign.

It was a 'Duke', General Christison, whose troops inflicted the first major defeat on the Japanese, captured Rangoon and later, as Allied Commander Land Forces, South East Asia took the surrender of the Japanese Naval, Army and Air forces at Singapore and in Batavia in Indonesia.

BURMA 1942 (1)

In November 1941 the 2nd Battalion moved from Delhi to Peshwar on the NW Frontier, where training in the skills of mountain warfare was quickly put in hand. However, less than three months after its arrival the battalion suddenly received orders to mobilise: the Japanese were attacking Burma and reinforcements were urgently needed. It was to the jungles to the East of India, rather than the bare mountains of the West, that the battalion was bidden.

During a brief respite in the process of mobilisation a group photograph was taken of the officers. It was published in the *'Iron Duke'* in October 1942 with the caption 'The officers of a battalion somewhere out East, taken on 3rd February 1942 immediately before leaving for service in Burma'. War time censorship forbade the publication of names. That omission is now rectified. The battalion arrived in Burma on 14th February 1942 and a week later found itself in a position east of the Sittang river. It was decided that the bridge across the river would be blown, which meant that the only way back for 2 DWR was to swim across the waters of the Sittang. The premature blowing of the bridge was the crux of the campaign and led, inevitably, to the 700 mile retreat through Burma to the North East border with Assam.

BURMA 1942 (2)

"MOUNTAIN BATTERY" by Pat Carmichael. Published by Devin Books, 68 Iddesleigh Road, Bournemouth BH37 7NH. Available from publisher only. Price (incl p&p) £8.20.

This is the story of an Indian Mountain Battery in the retreat from Burma in 1942 which will be of particular interest to former members of the 2nd Battalion, who will need no introduction to mountain artillery. They will have met them on the North West Frontier of India in the thirties, on the Mohmand and Looe Agra operations, and elsewhere.

There were Indian Mountain Batteries in the Royal Artillery for a hundred years before World War II and British Mountain Batteries until 1937. My eldest brother who served in one in Hong Kong in the thirties, used to recite:-

"Here they come, the Royal Horse Artillery of the East, Right of the Line and left of the payable and the terrors of the World".

Kipling wrote the "Screw Guns" in 1890. All equipment was mule born and to distribute the loads the gun barrels were in two pieces, which screwed together. They prided themselves on their marching and mobility and the infantry placed great trust in their accurate, effective and very close supporting fire even in the roughest conditions.

In 1942 2DWR were supported by 12 Mountain Battery under Major John Hume. This Battery marched the whole way from the Thai border to

Tamu on the Indian frontier: - 1000 miles in a gruelling climate in four months of almost continuous fighting. Members of the 2nd Battalion will remember glimpses of them at intervals, marching along in impeccable order, with John at their head, when sometimes we had a lift in trains or trucks. This rearward leap frogging progression was the longest retreat in British military history. Two thirds of the fighting troops were killed, wounded or missing; the highest casualties suffered by any imperial force in World War II.

Pat Carmichael was a junior officer in a Mountain Battery in the Burma Division retreating on the left flank of 17 Division. This battery did not have the crippling experience of losing its entire equipment at the Sittang bridge as did the units of 17th Indian Division. It remained an efficient and fully organised sub-unit throughout. All battle drills, based on years of training continued to function through thick and thin, with deadly effect, right up to the last obstacle, the river Chindwin. Their officers and senior ranks (Indian) kept very strict discipline and were unshakeable in every battle which are recounted in detail from the soldiers point of view. He describes the continuous Japanese air superiority and how effectively they used it. There was the problem of animal management in those near impossible administrative conditions, which were summed up for me after the war by the general in charge of administration in Eastern Army "53 ration scales, old boy, brackets human". A wonderful picture is painted of the mule in war and the deep affection and loyalty that existed between man and animal. The hour produced the man and it was Corporal Carter of the Dukes' whose experience dominated the final mule crossing site on the River Chindwin at Kalewa, which led to the saving of hundreds of mules by "free swimming" the 300 yards wide fast flowing river. The author tells of the Tamil refugees slaughtered by Burmese and Japanese alike and their horrific plight, visible along all routes. As an "hostilities only" officer he feels free to criticise the higher direction of operations, and in particular the strangely inadequate reception arrangements for units, and particularly, the sick, on crossing the Indian frontier back into reasonably organised civilisation: It must be said that the road from Dimapur was scarcely up to sustaining a large force on that battle front, let alone a retreating 'refugee' army.

The book covers the horror of that war, but emphasises the comradeship and good humour of all ranks and all races involved; including the Chinese armies from the North East, which were committed too late; but who played a significant role, under General 'Vinegar' Joe Stilwell, and suffered terrible casualties before they got back to China. One must remember the climate, the health problems, the negligible communications and, with the War critical elsewhere, the 'Forgotten Army' syndrome.

There is an excellent foreword by Major General J. D. Lunt, who at that time was on secondment from the Regiment to the Burma Army, and who knew the Battery during the retreat.

I strongly recommend the book, not only to 'old Ko Hais' but to all interested in a military history of a rather unique sort. There are many lessons; but training, battle drill, discipline, unit administration,

and, above all mountain gunner initiative enabled a unit trained on and for the bare, rocky mountains west of the Indus, to function effectively on the often thickly vegetated plains east of the Bramaputra.

A.D.F

BURMA 1944

The training had been done. Much of it was spent practising river crossings on the River Ken. It included the sinking of a home made pontoon, together with two of the then new sten guns, at the time considered to be priceless.

After a journey of some length we finally arrived on the Bengal and Assam Light Railway at Mariani, near to the foothills of Assam. Our platoon was instructed to proceed on patrol to Mokokchung some 100 miles away. My own section was to be forward scout and advance patrol - three miles to the hour and 10 minutes rest at every third milestone. In spite of the weights we had to carry (each pack had extra ammunition magazine carriers sewn to each side) we made very good progress, being young and fit.

One was immediately struck by the surrounding Naga foothills. The vegetation was really lush and thick, towering bamboo, some four to five inches thick, and the wildlife, particularly birds of wide varieties and spectacular in colours. Once the foothills were left behind the gradient became apparent - uphill all the way. Local porters and bearers carried the loads of supplies suspended on their backs with a large pod and strap over the top of the head. Needless to say, without exception all had very large thyroid glands. On the fourth day we were welcomed by local Nagas as we arrived at Mokokchung. They were extremely friendly.

The following day I was ordered on patrol with my section to a village some 20 miles away. I was accompanied by my English speaking guide, a school teacher from Mokokchung by the name of Kilem Suna. I had orders to stay the night in the distant village and return the next day with or without any information about the whereabouts of the Japanese. We arrived back at Mariani on the 10th day to find 33 and 76 Columns had left some days before, after having had a visit from Lord Louis himself. Our platoon had already covered some 200 miles - we were pretty tired.

The following morning we set off in the general direction to the north of Kohima where contact had already been made with the enemy's supply routes. I believe it was at Khesomi that I made my first contact

with the enemy. My platoon occupied the village and that night I made a mistake which unfortunately was to end in tragedy.

We knew the enemy was in the area and the local villagers were invited to leave the village over night for their own safety. Most of them declined. Our information was that there were four tracks leading into the village, and one section was to cover each two. Being section leader I usually did the first stint of guard. I was already reduced to six men. The plan was that I should stay on guard until midnight. Just before midnight I was informed by one of our Naga look-outs that we had "visitors". They had entered the village by a small access unknown to us. There were about 20 of them, bartering with the natives for supplies.

I had aroused my section who were now stood to along the perimeter - all six of them. I crept alongside one of the village rice containers. Hearing movements behind me I turned to come face to face with a Japanese officer who was apparently in charge of the party. I believe he was just as startled as I was. By the time I had turned around and brought my sten into position, he had disappeared over a low wall, shouting "Englisi, Englisi, Englisi". By this time I had let forth a burst of sten gun fire, but unfortunately I had missed. I rejoined my section. We could hear hurried movements but were unable to make contact. We were extremely alert for the rest of that night. In their hurry to leave the village the enemy had left practically all their equipment. Next morning I presented my platoon commander with around 20 sets of equipment. One of them contained a map copied from a British Ordnance map with Japanese Nippon signs superimposed on it.

We were pleased to hear later that the enemy who had left in such a hurry had been picked up at the next village by one of our other platoons. Most of them were Indians and Anglo Burmese who had been commandeered by the Japs to visit the local villages to secure supplies. Unfortunately an elderly female in the village who had been in bed asleep had received a head wound and died later. I was naturally very upset that my own sten gun had been responsible. War is indeed ruthless and sometimes very unkind to the innocent. But this tragedy would not have occurred had the villagers heeded the advice they had been given.

G. H. Wragg

The 7th Battalion returns to Holland

On 2nd May a party organised by Major Fanny Fancourt and Walter Downs left Huddersfield to take part in the celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Western Holland. Thirty-two veterans, accompanied by 14 wives, embarked on the late-night ferry from Dover for a noisy crossing to Zeebrugge.

After a stop in Turnhout, liberated by the Battalion on 24th September 1944, the party drove up to the Dutch frontier just north of Poppel. Here a brief halt was made to enable veterans to inspect their old positions around the Belgian customs post which had

served as Battalion HQ from 12th-19th October 1944. By midday the party had arrived at the Jonkersbosch War Cemetery outside Nijmegen, where Walter Downs laid a wreath on the memorial in remembrance of the 16 men of the Battalion, mainly killed in the first Battle of Haalderen, who rest in this quiet spot.

Following a conducted tour of the Airborne battlefields outside the town, the veterans, together with other British and Canadian contingents, were officially welcomed to Arnhem by the Burgomaster in the attractive modern town hall. Then, after a



*7th Battalion returns to Holland
The Group at Ede*

prolonged delay caused by unexpected trouble with the coach, everybody was glad to reach the billets. Half of the party was accommodated for the next 4 nights in the modern Oranje Barracks, Schaarsbergen about 3 miles north of Arnhem. The remainder went on by coach to Gendt, the first place to be liberated by the Battalion when it broke out of the Nijmegen salient on 2nd April 1945 where they were warmly welcomed by their Dutch hosts and taken to private houses scattered throughout the village.

After visiting the Open-Air Museum outside Arnhem on Saturday morning, the party joined in the simple but impressive civic service at the Oosterbreek Airborne Cemetery. The Burgomaster having laid the official wreath, Walter Downs joined the other representatives of the various British and Canadian contingents to lay a wreath in memory of the small number of Dukes' and some from the Airborne forces, who are buried in this cemetery. Here also we met up with other old friends from 49th Inf Div from the Essex and Halamshire Regiments.

In the afternoon the party toured the "Island", first taking coffee in Elst and then wandering around the now peaceful village of Haalderen, the scene on 4th December 1944 of the Battalion's heaviest fighting in Holland.

The final stop was in Gendt, where the local Boy Scouts formed a guard of honour leading up to the door of the village cafe. Once inside the Burgomaster and members of the local celebrations committee welcomed the party and presented everybody with an attractive framed tile, a picture, a packet of boiled sweets and a large currant loaf . . . the latter to remind everyone of the days of starvation in Holland before the liberation. That evening groups from the party attended memorial services at Ede, Arnhem and Gendt.

On Sunday morning the Gendt party left for Arnhem, Hugh Le Messurier having laid a wreath on the village war memorial.

By 1400 hours the veterans had assembled at Wageningen, a town liberated by the Battalion on 17th April 1945. In the square a very smart Escort and Colours of the R 22nd R was formed up. A large contingent of Canadians - 1600 were sent over and paid for by the Canadian Government - and a few small British detachments paraded in front of the Town Hall where they were welcomed by the Burgomaster. The Dukes' were a little unfortunate as those symbols of peace, 300 of them, were released from a mobile pigeon loft some 15 metres to our flanks, with obvious results.

Then followed the main parade through the town where every veteran was astonished by the tumultuous welcome given by the Dutch people . . . the children with outstretched hands, the adults clapping and cheering incessantly and, perhaps most moving of all, the tall old man standing on the side of the road with tears streaming down his cheeks. Towards the end of the march the salute was taken by Princess Margriet, representing her father Prince Bernhard who was in hospital at the time. Later that afternoon 3 representatives from the Battalion went to the hall where the official party had assembled. Walter Downs carried the Battalion wreath while John Pyrah and Howard Riley shook hands with the Princess. Harold Riley, the only member of the carrier platoon in the party, had been one of the very first British troops in Wageningen, and John Pyrah was presented as representing the Territorial Army, in which he had served for so many years.

On Monday, the last full day in Holland, the party went first to Ede, liberated by the Battalion on 17th April 1945. After a reception by the Burgomaster, veterans and their wives were able to spend some time

walking round the town and visiting the colourful open market. It was in Ede that another member of the carrier platoon, Cliff Moulton joined the party. He had settled there after the war. Before leaving Ede "Doc" Somerville (late RAMC) laid a memorial to the war victims of Ede, a simple but impressive wall of remembrance on the hill east of the town.

Later in the morning the party paused at Harskamp, where Walter Horne laid the last wreath on the grey granite memorial that lists all the units that served in 1st Canadian Corps.

The party reached Apeldoorn in ample time to take part in the biggest parade of the celebrations. The small British contingent . . . 49th Recce Regt, 7DWR 2nd Essex . . . assembled in the park outside the palace of Het Loo, in the centre of the predominantly Canadian column. Once outside the park the crowds were far greater than at Wageningen, but gave the same overwhelming welcome to the visiting veterans. Marching in time was difficult, with the crowds often spreading on to the roadway and reducing the column to single file. Then, as the saluting base was approached, the sound of the Dutch military band could be heard, as Hugh Le Messurier later reported, the Battalion representatives marched past as if they were once again on the RSM's parade.

After a pleasant evening meal in a motel outside Apeldoorn, the whole party returned to the officers' mess at Schaarsbergen barracks, to drink a toast to Sir Denis Hamilton DSO, former commanding officer of the Battalion who had been prevented by illness from attending the Dutch celebrations.

The party left Arnhem on Tuesday 7th May on the 190 miles journey to Zeebrugge. At about 1100 hours the coach drew up in the market square of Roosendaal, liberated by the Battalion on 30th October 1944. Everybody walked down the street to the nearby memorial to the 49th Division, a tall column with a full sized polar bear on top, and the badges of the Leicesters, Dukes' and the Netherland's Irene Brigade carved in the stone, at the foot of which 2 veterans laid the sheaves of flowers that they had been given by their Dutch hosts in Gendt. The party landed at Dover at 1930 hours and finally reached Huddersfield in the small hours of May 8th.

* * *

Major Ben Thomlinson who served with 1/7th DWR during their actions in Normandy and Holland in 1944-45 and was awarded the "Militaire Willems — Orde", the highest Dutch Military decoration, was invited by the Netherlands Government to join the Official International Party for the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the Liberation of Holland as a British Army representative.

"On the 3rd May I arrived in The Hague in time for a reception and dinner at which all the Allied guests were welcomed by the Chairman and other members of the Liberation Committee. Guests included representatives from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, France, Norway, Poland, United States of America, and also U.S.S.R.

On the 4th May after visiting Keukenhof, the flower centre, with its profusion of tulips of all shapes and sizes and colour, we attended a Memorial Service in the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam. The packed congregation in this enormous Cathedral-like Church

included Queen Beatrix and her Husband. Following the Service, we moved to the Dam for a wreath laying ceremony at the National Monument. First the Queen, then the Ambassadors and all the representatives of Military and other Associations. Holland is a Country of flowers, but, the massed display at the foot of, and around, the monument, was out of this world.

Back in our Hotel, we gathered in the lounge at 8.00 p.m. for the two minutes silence, observed throughout the Netherlands. During the silence T.V. sets showed a large simple wooden cross, situate on the Dunes, outside The Hague, where Dutch prisoners were shot by the Germans. After the silence the cameras switched to the crowds filing past the Cross, with their wreaths and bunches of flowers. At 10.00 p.m. there were still thousands waiting to file past.

On 5th May we went to a festal celebration of Liberation at the Ahoy Centre - a covered Sports Palace in Rotterdam. The programme, which was very well timed and presented, included film clips of war-time scenes from various Allied Countries and National dances representing each country. Two highlights of the programme were the Band of the Royal Marines, followed by Royal Marine Commandos, who did part of their Royal Tournament display.

In the evening, in the presence of Queen Beatrix and her husband, we attended a very impressive Military Band Concert, with the Massed Bands of all arms of the Services, Rotterdam Philharmonic Choir and soloists. They played medleys, including "Rule Britannia", "British Grenadiers" and an excellent rendition of Glenn Miller tunes. Towards the end of the Concert, Dame Vera Lynn came on stage to great applause and sang "We'll Meet Again", "White Cliffs of Dover" and "Land of Hope and Glory", the latter with the Choir. She had a standing ovation and I doubt if there was a dry eye in the Hall. The last item was "March for the Queen" by Eric Coates, and a very moving experience was over, leaving everyone drained, but happy. While waiting for our buses outside the Hall, we were surrounded by huge enthusiastic crowds and saw a firework display from a nearby Square.

On the 6th May we went to Apeldoorn, where the whole town was in festive mood and ablaze with flags, having been liberated on this date 40 years ago. Contingents of Canadians, English and Netherland veterans marched past Princess Margriet, representing Queen Beatrix. We were sitting at the side of the Saluting Base and the March Past took hours - we come to the conclusion that there was not a Canadian ex-serviceman over the age of 65 left in Canada that week. Towards the end of the parade we had a special thrill when the English contingents marched past. They were first class, and quite outstanding were the "7th Dukes". In their Regimental ties, Polar Bear flashes, and marching like a Passing Out Parade at Sandhurst, they had unstinting praise from all around. What a privilege to see them, and wear the same tie.

Throughout the visit it was interesting, and perhaps a little surprising, that all sections and age groups of the population were enthusiastic in their welcome. Quite often the older folk were in tears as they waved

their flags and clapped, but the teenagers and young children were just as enthusiastic and welcoming. Perhaps one has to live in a country that has been occupied to realise just what liberation means.

At a final Dinner all visitors from Allied Countries were presented with an "Erasmus" medallion, a

lovely memento. Erasmus, the philosopher, is believed to have been born in Rotterdam in 1466. The Latin text on the reverse reads as follows:—

"Constancy is not always to say the same thing but always to persist in the same thing".

Ben Thomlinson"

Regimental Association

Service of Thanksgiving for VE/VJ Day - Halifax Parish Church

An interdenominational service of thanksgiving for forty years of peace was held in the Halifax Parish Church on Sunday 2nd June 1985. The service led by the Vicar of Halifax, the Revd Robert Gibson, was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale and representatives of many local organisations. Members of the Regimental Association were present with a strong contingent from Huddersfield who also paraded their Branch Banner. Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robins the Regimental Secretary read a short poem by Thomas Hardy and there were readings by representatives of other organisations. Following the service refreshments were served in the Sergeants Mess at Prescott Street for Association members and their families.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner: Halifax 19th October 1985

The AGM of the Regimental Association will be held in the Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax on Saturday 19th October at 6.30 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. The Dinner will commence at 8.00 p.m. Tickets at £5.00 per head are available through Branch Secretaries or RHQ. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to: DWR Regimental Association Fund.

BRANCH NOTES

London: On 8th May Major Connolly represented the London Branch at the Royal British Legion's service at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the ending of World War II.

Saturday 18th May brought a very respectable gathering along to the Victory Club for our annual reunion Dinner and Dance. It was nice to see the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Huxtable again and many other old comrades from the various corners of the UK. It was also good to see the large contingent from Yorkshire and our thanks go to Mr Freer for organising the trip to London this year. Many thanks also to all those who donated raffle prizes. Our next reunion dinner will be held on Saturday, 19th April 1986.

On June 6th Major Miller our Chairman, Major Connolly and Mr Bob Temple attended the Founder's Day Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. After the parade they met up with an ex-Duke, Pensioner J C Jones.

Our branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 29th September. Full details will be sent to

all branch members at a later date. Our next monthly meeting will be held at the usual venue on the first Monday in September.

Keighley: We have had a fairly good year and have had several new members join us. One was George Gill, who has been most helpful in various ways. Our accounts are also still in the black, despite some heavy expenses during the year. We continue to meet at 1930 hours on the last Thursday of each month at the Sergeants Mess at the Drill Hall, Keighley, where serving and ex-serving members of the Regiment will always be most welcome.

Mossley: We are now 20 years old. To mark the occasion we held a social evening and buffet supper at our HQ on Saturday, 20th April 1985. We were especially pleased to have with us the Regimental Secretary Lieut Colonel Walter Robins and Mrs. Robins and the General Secretary Mr Jack Russell and Mrs. Russell. The parade state shows that 34 guests, members and wives attended this memorable evening.

It all started early in 1965 when Mr. H. F. Smith, who was RSM of the 2/7 Battalion in the early part of the war including the period in France in 1940, contacted as many Dukes' as he could find in Mossley and surrounding areas with a view to forming a local branch of the Regimental Association. At a meeting, which he chaired, at Mossley Drill Hall on 8th April 1965 and at which 22 ex Dukes were present it was agreed unanimously that permission be sought to form a Mossley branch of the Association. Thus the Branch was born. A Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, and a Committee were elected. It is pleasing to report that of the eight officers then elected five were present at our anniversary celebration together with several other founder members. Among them was Mr. Jack Wood who was elected Hon Treasurer in 1965 and whose service in this capacity remains unbroken for 20 years. Also the five Hon Secretaries including the present incumbent, Mr. Ernest Cooke, who between them have served the Branch since it was formed.

In May seven members of Mossley Branch were among those who attended the 40th Anniversary of the liberation of Holland. The welcome accorded by our good friends in Holland was overwhelming.

Bradford: At Bradford we have had a busy year the highlight of which was our trip to the London Branch Dinner. We had a splendid weekend, plenty of fun with a good dinner night. We re-established old friendships and made new ones, and we have to thank Major Miller and Rod Owers for a really great night. We are looking forward to next year.

We have seen the new Branch at York start up and already flourishing.

At Bradford our membership has changed very little. In short still the same great bunch of people.

Royal British Legion Housing development at Huddersfield

The latest development of Royal British Legion Sheltered Accommodation for Ex Servicemen and Women was opened in Huddersfield on 12 May by the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Huxtable, KCB., CBE. The accommodation comprising of self contained flats with communal recreation rooms is named Wellesley Court and nicely compliments a similar development named Wellington Court opened in Halifax by the Colonel of the Regiment last year.

Keeping in touch . . .

Mr E. F. W. Grant, who served as a Corporal in 145 Regiment RAC/8th DWR during World War II, would very much like to renew contact with his old friends from those days.

His address is: 29 Mill Terrace, Mill Hill, Weston Colvill, Cambridge CB1 5NY.

Mrs Mona Crommelin, the widow of Wing Commander Crommelin, and who is now age 84 wrote to say how much she enjoys receiving the 'Iron Duke' and keeping in touch with the news of the Regiment.

Her address is: 4 Coombe House, Tetbury, Glos GL8 8DS.

Lieut Colonel A.B.M. Kavanagh has now retired from his post with the Save the Children Fund. In

future he will be concentrating on such activities as golf and fishing.

Keith Lodge, who left the 1st Battalion in 1956, is now CSM of the Heckmondwike detachment of Wellesley Company, Yorkshire ACF.

Mr Bill Norman recently visited ex RSM E. Smith DCM who is in hospital at Lyme Regis, Dorset, following a fall. Mr Smith was 95 on 6 July 1985. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1905, was posted to the 2nd Battalion and went to France with them in 1914. During the War he was twice wounded and was awarded the DCM in 1919. He joined the 1st Battalion in that year and remained with them until his retirement in 1935 having been RSM for nearly eight years.

Recent visitors to RHQ have included:-

-Major Jonathen Dowdell, on leave from Oman.
-Ex WOI and Mrs Geoff Nicholson, who now live in Kent.

-Ex Band SM Ken Waterman who also lives in the South - at Lancing in Sussex.

Change of Address

Colonel and Mrs. C. R. Cumberlege, Mons House, Camp Road, Bulford, Wiltshire.

Major J. R. A. Ward, 18 Longland, Wilton Road, Salisbury SP2 7ET.

Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. J. F. B. Power, 7 Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6AX (correction of address)

Mrs. Avril Exham, 16 Old Malt Way, Horsell, Woking, Surrey GU21 4QD.

Obituary

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

Mr G. M. Beddoe

George Beddoe died suddenly on 14th May 1985. Mr Beddoe began his career as a journalist in 1930, as a proof reader for the Halifax Daily Courier. Shortly afterwards he became a reporter with the Brighouse Echo. After the War he returned to the Halifax paper and in 1950 became its Chief Reporter. He was appointed News Editor in 1966 and Deputy Editor in 1969. In 1971 he became Editor of the Evening Courier, a position he held until his retirement in 1978.

He joined the 4th Battalion DWR TA in Halifax before the War. In 1938 the battalion was converted to 58th Anti Tank Regiment RA (4th DWR), with whom he served in World War II. He was later transferred to the Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry.

George was always a very good friend of the Regiment and a succession of Depot Commanders and Regimental Secretaries were indebted to him for

the manner in which he covered regimental activities. In addition he visited the 1st Battalion in BAOR, Kenya, Norway and Northern Ireland and wrote a number of excellent articles about the Battalion following his visits.

He was awarded the OBE in 1980 for his many public services.

His funeral took place in a packed Halifax Parish Church. The Regiment was represented by Lieut Colonel W. Robins.

Capt M. Flynn

Paddy Flynn died on 26 May 1985, aged 70. The funeral which was held at Chichester Crematorium was attended by Messrs A. H. Ancill, G. Jackson and Tug Wilson.

H. Maude

Harold Maude died on 21 May 1985, aged 69. Harold served with the 1/7th Battalion The Duke of

Wellington's Regiment from 1939 to 1946, in Iceland, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany; for much of the time as Provost Sergeant.

He was a member of the Mossley Branch of the Regimental Association and for a time served on the Committee of that Branch.

Mrs S. Shuttleworth

Mrs Selina Shuttleworth died on 5th April 1985. She was the widow of Capt C. W. Shuttleworth 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellingtons Regiment, who died last year. His obituary was published in the August issue of the 'Iron Duke'.

Major (QM) F. Allsop

As briefly announced in the last issue of 'Iron Duke', Fred Allsop died on 27th March 1985.

C. C. K. writes:-

"The funeral of Fred Allsop took place at Wombwell near Barnsley on the 2nd April, 1985. In the company of Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE. I said farewell to an old friend. It was like saying goodbye to a relative. How true is the saying in the Regiment. 'The Dukes are one big family'.

Fred Allsop enlisted in the Dukes in July 1919 at the age of 18 years. He joined the 1st Battalion at Kantara, subsequently serving with them in Egypt,

Gibraltar, Turkey, Ireland and England. From 1923 until 1927 he was on a tour of the Regimental Depot, Halifax. Shortly after his return to the 1st Battalion he was posted to the Army Technical School (Boys), Chepstow, as acting CSM. He rejoined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot in March 1931 and was appointed CQMS of 'A' Company. It was here I first met Fred Allsop, a man I have known and respected for many years. On my arrival as a recruit from the Depot, he made me his L/Cpl Storeman. Fred was promoted to CSM in 1934 and to RSM in 1935. I served with him again in 1939 at Bordon Camp, Hants.

In October 1940, he was granted a short service commission in the KOYLI, and was posted to the 6th KOYLI and then to the 6th Battalion, GC Regiment, West Africa. In February 1942 he was granted a regular commission in the Dukes', and posted as QM 106 POW Camp. In May, 1948 he was transferred to the 7th Battalion DWR TA. He was promoted Major in 1949. His last position, before retirement in 1953, was as QM of the Regimental Depot. It was there that I again met up with Fred, on my promotion to RSM and where we became good friends. After his retirement he was for some years employed as a Recruiting Officer in Leeds".

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