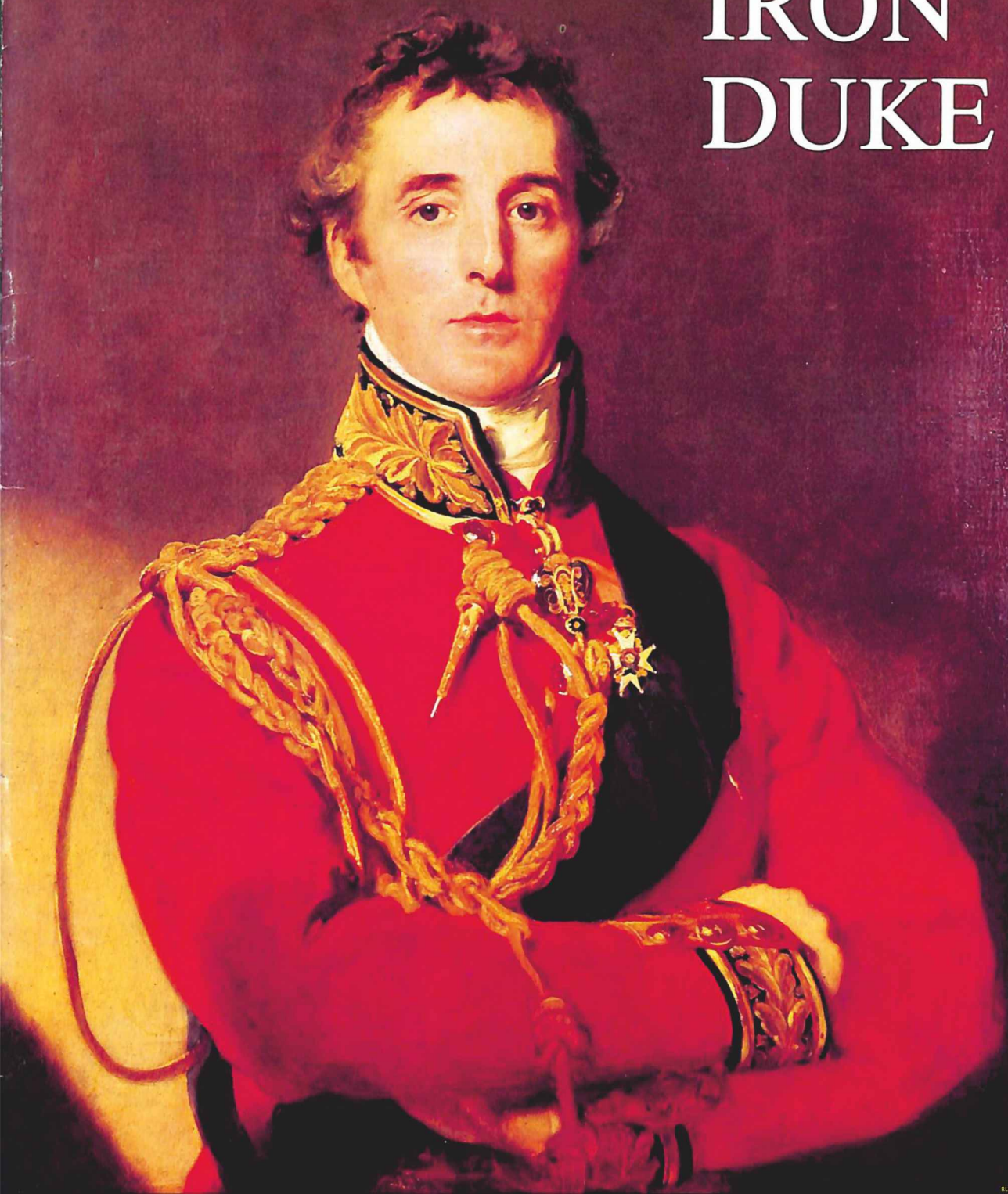


No.201 August 1986

# 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

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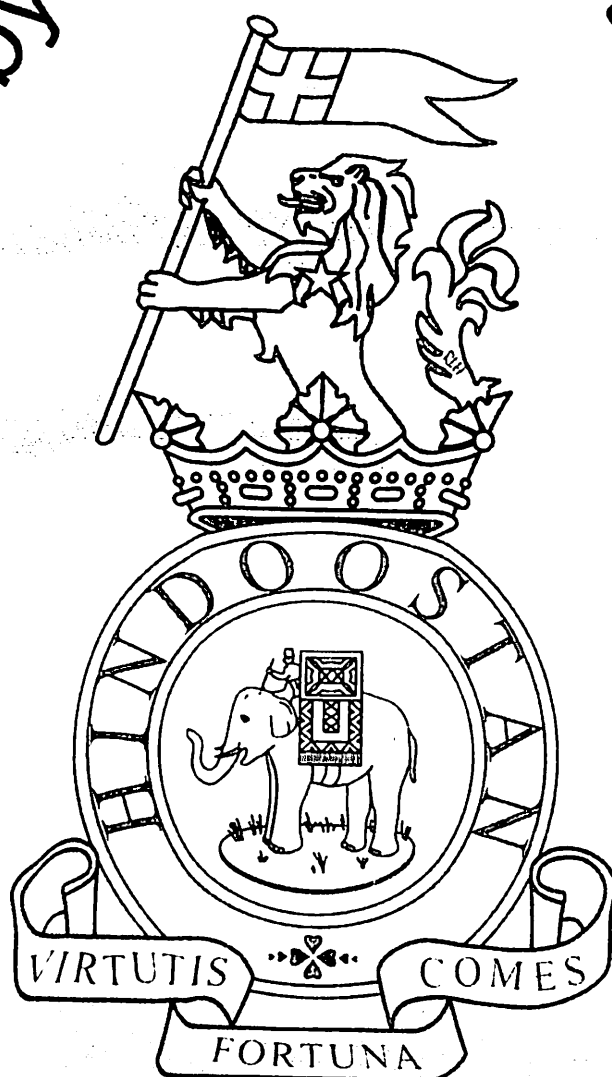
### Acknowledgement

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# **THE REGIMENT**

*Colonel-in-Chief*

BRIGADIER HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, LVO, OBE, MC, BA, DL

*Colonel of the Regiment*

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

## **REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS**

*Wellesley Park, Highroad Well, Halifax HX2 0BA*  
Regimental Secretary: Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE  
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Captain T. Pickersgill

## **THE 1st BATTALION**

*Kiwi Barracks, Bulford, Wiltshire*  
CO: Lieut Colonel E. J. W. Walker      Adjutant: Captain J. W. Wood  
RSM: B. W. Sykes MBE

## **TERRITORIAL ARMY**

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

**1st BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS**  
*Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax HX1 2LG*  
Commander: Captain B. Richardson

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

**3rd BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS**  
*St. Paul’s Street, Huddersfield HD1 3DR*  
Commander: Major D. R. Dunston

## **YORKSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE**

**(The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment)**

### **WELLESLEY COMPANY**

*OC Liaison: Major D. L. Bennett DWR, ACF*  
*23 Southway, Eldwick, Bingley, West Yorkshire.*

## **AFFILIATED C.C.F.**

### **GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL CCF**

*Giggleswick School, Settle, N. Yorks BD24 0DE*  
CO: Major N. J. Mussett

## **LEEDS GRAMMAR SCHOOL CCF**

*Leeds Grammar School, Moorlands Road, Leeds LS6 1AN*  
CO: Sqn Ldr C. Templeman

## **THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**

*Patron: Brigadier His Grace The Duke of Wellington, LVO, OBE, MC, BA, DL*  
*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*



# Regimental Headquarters

## Regimental Notes

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

Dr. J. W. Hayes, Regional Secretary (New Territories), Hong Kong, was awarded the Imperial Service Order in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Dr. Hayes award was for his general service to the community and his contribution to the history of Hong Kong as well as for public service.

WO2 G Robson was mentioned in despatches in the Northern Ireland list published in April 1986. WO2 Robson is serving with 6 UDR.

### PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Lieut Colonel W. F. Charlesworth and Lieut Colonel E. J. W. Walker have been selected for promotion to Colonel in 1987.

Major J. R. A. Ward was promoted local Lieut Colonel on 20 March 1986.

### SERGEANT A. LOOSEMORE VC, DCM.

The Regiment was recently offered the medals of Sergeant Arnold Loosemore VC, DCM for the sum of £14,000. Arnold Loosemore was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving as a private in the 8th Battalion in France in 1917. In 1918, as a sergeant, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal while serving with the 1st/4th Battalion. Later in 1918 he was badly wounded. He died in 1924 age 29.

A sum of £14,000 is not unreasonable in the light of current inflated prices for medals (particularly VCs). The Regiment, therefore, having made unsuccessful attempts to obtain financial assistance from other bodies who, it was felt, might have been interested in joining with the Regiment in raising the money, is now considering other means by which the money might be raised.

### EXPANSION AND RE-ORGANISATION OF THE TERRITORIAL ARMY IN THE NORTH EAST

The Territorial Army within the North East District, which includes Yorkshire within its boundaries, is due to expand by approximately 1300 extra posts between 1986 and 1990. There will be a new Yeomanry Reconnaissance Squadron, two more infantry battalions and also increases in Artillery, Medical and Transport. As far as the infantry is concerned the new organisation will be:-

**1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers:** Will be retitled Yorkshire and Cleveland Volunteers. HQ will be at York.

**2nd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers:** No change, HQ at York.

**3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers:** Two companies will join 4 Yorks and will be replaced by 'A' Company and 'C' (DWR) Company from 1 Yorks

The latter will become 'D' (DWR) Company 3 Yorks. HQ at Huddersfield.

**4th Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers,** to be formed with HQ at Sheffield.

**8th Battalion Light Infantry,** to be formed with HQ at Wakefield.

### THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME : 70 YEARS ON.

On the morning of the 1 July 1916 was launched the great battle of the Somme; a deliberate frontal attack on the German lines designed to relieve pressure on the French army, which was fighting for its existence at Verdun. By the evening of the 1 July the British army had incurred 57,470 casualties, including 20,000 dead. The battle was finally concluded in November by which time the casualties among the troops from Great Britain and the Empire had mounted to 415,000. The front line was, by then, no more than 4 miles from its starting point on 1 July. The 2nd, 1/4th, 1/5th, 1/6th, 1/7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th battalions of the Regiment took part in the battle and were awarded the Battle Honour 'Somme 1916'.

On 1 July 1986 a commemoration service was held at the British War Memorial at Thiepval at which the Regiment was represented.

Elsewhere in this issue is published three accounts, by former members of the Regiment of their experiences on the Western Front. None refer specifically to the battle of the Somme, but they vividly describe what life was like on the battle fields 70 years ago.

### DONATION

The widow of the late Rev. E. G. Semple, who was Garrison Chaplain when the 2nd Battalion was in Singapore in the late 1920s, has made a gift to the Regiment of a silver tray which belonged to her husband. It will be used in the Officers' Mess. Mrs. Semple's gift to the regiment of other items of silver, once the property of her husband, was reported in the 'Iron Duke' of April 1985.



## THE REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

A meeting of the Regimental Council took place at Stratfield Saye on 28 June 1986. Present were: The Colonel in Chief, Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE; Colonel of the Regiment; Major General D. E. Isles CB, OBE; Lieut Colonel P. D. D. J. Andrews; Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE; Lieut Colonel E. J. W. Walker; Major A. C. S. Savory MBE; Captain T. Pickersgill was in attendance. Brigadier J. B. K. Greenway OBE; Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth OBE and Major K. M. McDonald TD, JP were unable to be present.

The Colonel Chief opened the proceedings by welcoming the Council to its first meeting at Stratfield Saye. The following matters were discussed:-

**Old Regimental Colours.** The container for the two stands of old Colours of the 33rd and one of the 76th, which were no longer fit for display, had now been provided and the production of a suitable plaque was in hand. It was anticipated that all arrangements will have been completed by the time of the Regimental Service in York Minster on 1 November 1986.

**2nd Battalion Colours.** The 2nd Battalion Colours in use at the time of the amalgamation with the 1st Battalion in 1948 had now been repaired and returned to the 1st Battalion for framing and future safe custody.

**Sergeant A. Loosemore VC, DCM.** After a report had been made on the Regiment's so far unsuccessful attempts to raise money for the purchase of Sergeant Loosemore's medals the Colonel in Chief stated he was prepared to launch an appeal for funds, subject to the Regiment being given sufficient time to raise the money required (£14,000).

**Yorkshire Volunteers.** The Colonel of the Regiment outlined the steps he had taken, as Colonel Commandant, King's Division, to encourage a closer liaison between the Regiments of the Division and the Battalions of the Yorkshire Volunteers. Under these arrangements the 1st Battalion were to establish a close working association with 3 Yorkshire Volunteers and 4 Yorkshire Volunteers (when raised).

**Recruitment.** The Colonel of the Regiment advised

that the Regiment continued to have a satisfactory number of young men of officer potential applying for the Regiment. Soldier recruitment is also satisfactory and the 1st Battalion is up to strength.

**Regimental Museum.** Following the re-opening of the Museum attention was now being given to establishing a complete inventory of all items in store. The Museum Trustees were also discussing ways and means for the safe display of medals which had either been given to the Regiment or purchased. Similarly they would like to see some of the Regiments collection of badges, helmet plates etc., on display, if suitable space can be found.

**Officers' Dinner Club.** Following the decision at the last Council meeting that eligibility for membership of the Dinner Club should be widened an additional 18 officers had joined the Club.

It was agreed that the 1987 dinner would be held on 19 June at the Army and Navy Club.

**'Iron Duke'.** The financial forecast for the year ending 31 March 1987 indicated that there would be an excess of income over expenditure for the first time for several years. This improvement in the finances was principally due to the decision to change the printers.

**Short Regimental History:** In order to save money an attempt was made to produce a combined Museum guide/short history. However it had not been found possible to reconcile the different requirements. It was therefore proposed to publish a new short history and a draft had already been prepared by Major Savory. The Museum guide would now be a separate publication and would be produced by the Museum.

**Regimental Service, York Minster:** It had been represented that the present arrangements for the Service were not satisfactory, in that only a small proportion of the congregation were able to be seated in or near the Regimental Chapel.

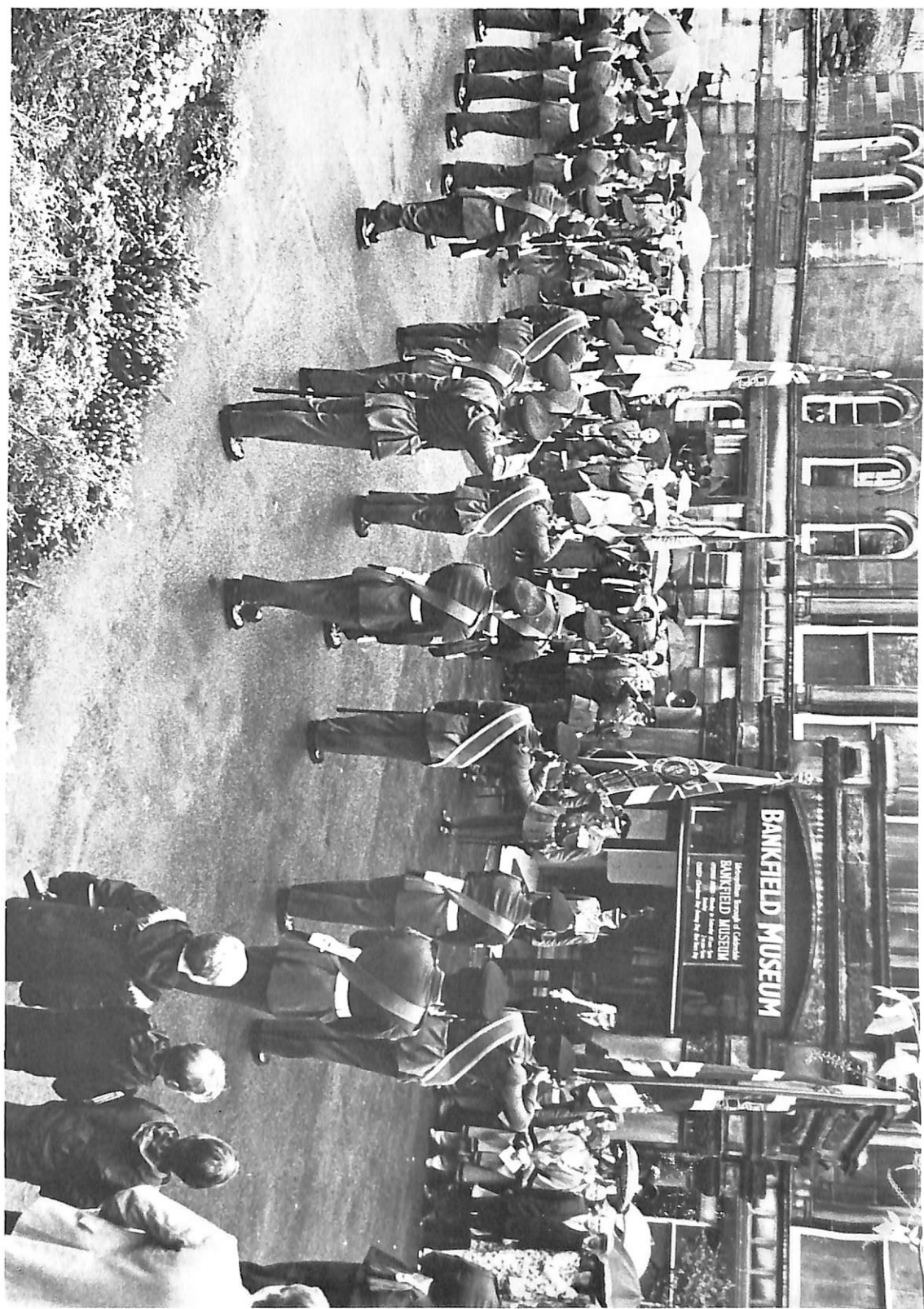
A suggestion had been made that the Service should take place in the Lady Chapel (which is alongside the Regimental Chapel) and the Colonel of the Regiment agreed the proposal should be adopted this year, on a trial basis.

## THE RE-OPENING OF THE REFURBISHED REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

### THE BACKGROUND

The Regimental Museum was established in the Regimental Depot, at Halifax, in 1921. In 1938 it had its first major move when a new building was erected, part of which was specifically allocated to the Museum. In 1947, as a result of the decision to concentrate recruit training at Strensall and to maintain only a skeleton staff at the Depot, the Museum was lent to Bankfield. However it was never put on display there and two years later it was returned to the Depot where it was again located in the room that had been built for it. The Museum remained there until 1956 when it was moved to the

other part of the building which was nearer the size by then authorised for regimental museums. In 1959 it was again lent to Bankfield, this time as a result of the decision to cease recruit training at the Depot, which had recommenced there in 1951. Under the direction of Mr. Ron Innes the then Curator of Bankfield, a completely new display was arranged which was opened on 23 April 1960. After an elapse of 20 years the display began to look very tired. At the request of the Regimental Council Dr. Mike Blanch, the Director of Calderdale Museums submitted proposals for a complete refurbishment which were accepted and work started in early 1984.



*The re-opening of the Regimental Museum*  
The Colonel in Chief being received by the Guard of Honour



### THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony took place on Saturday 17 May 1986 and was planned to coincide with the Yorkshire Tour to be carried out by the 1st Battalion.

The day started with a march through Halifax by the Band, Drums, Colour Party and Guard of Honour provided by the 1st Battalion, the salute being taken by the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor D. J. Fox, supported on the dais by the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Guard of Honour, Colours, Band and Drums then formed up outside the Bankfield Museum where the guests had assembled.

In addition to the Colonel in Chief and the Duchess of Wellington the principal guests were:-

The Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale - Councillor and Mrs. D. J. Fox.

The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale - Councillor and Mrs. T. A. Wood.

The Deputy Mayor of Kirklees - Councillor J. Brook.

Lord and Lady Ingrow - Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

Mr & Mrs. W. Reid - Director National Army Museum.

Colonel & Mrs. P. S. Newton - Secretary Army Museums Ogilby Trust.

Mr. & Mrs. M. Ellison - Chief Executive Calderdale.

Dr. & Mrs. M. Blanch - Director of Leisure Services - Calderdale.

Brigadier & Mrs. M. H. Sharpe - Divisional Brigadier, King's Division.

Colonel & Mrs. C. J. Tattersall - Regimental Colonel, Yorkshire Volunteers.

A number of other guests, many past and serving members of the Regiment, including groups from the Branches of the Regimental Association and the 1st Battalion, were present at the opening ceremony and reception.

After the Guard of Honour had been inspected by the Colonel in Chief The Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor D. J. Fox, formally handed over the display to the Regiment. In his speech the Mayor, after referring to the long and close association of the Duke's with Calderdale and the old Parish of Halifax, paid tribute to the work done by Calderdale Leisure Services Department and the help received from the Manpower Services Commission. The new Museum, he said was a tribute to the Regiment and a source of pride for the people of Calderdale. The Colonel of the Regiment, in replying to the Mayor, gratefully acknowledged the help the Regiment had received from the Calderdale Museum Service Committee, who had given their whole hearted support to the refurbishment project. He also thanked Dr. Michael Blanch, Mr. Keith Mathews and the staff of Calderdale Museum services for their enthusiasm and

hard work. In reference to the new display the Colonel of the Regiment drew attention to the fact that not as many items were on display as in the past. The display had been designed to whet the appetite. The remainder of the Collection is held in the Museum and is always available for inspection by those wishing to follow up a subject or period in more depth. He concluded by asking the Colonel in Chief to declare the Museum open.

### THE NEW DISPLAY

The display has been particularly designed to interest and inform persons with little or no prior knowledge of the history of the Regiment and its association with the West Riding, who form the great majority of visitors to Bankfield Museum. The layout follows the Regiment's history from 1702 to the present day, the various campaigns etc: being illustrated in realistic settings. Thus the Crimean War display is seen through a wooden hut typical of period, with uniformed dummies and other exhibits therein., while the display for the period of the Great War takes the visitor through a trench lined with sand bags. Use is made of sound recordings, which add to the realism, and also of film slides. The effects created are stimulating and exciting, with the result that many visitors on the opening day said that they looked forward to another visit to view the collection at their leisure. In the words of Colonel P. S. Newton, Secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust "The Regiment now has a highly imaginative display which is an experience to see. Unlike many displays the visitor, having seen it, is better informed of the regimental history. The Regiment is to be congratulated on its decision to update its Museum." The re-action by members of the public who have visited the Museum since it was re-opened echoes those views and has resulted in many favourable comments on what they seen as a stimulating portrayal of the Regiment's history.

### THE COSTS

The cost of refurbishment was £27,500 nearly all of which was raised by first class co-operation between various agencies, both military and civil. The Regiment is most grateful for the financial assistance towards the cost of refurbishment from the following:-

Area Museum and Art Gallery Service for Yorkshire and Humberside.

Trustees of the West Riding Bn DWR (TA).

Trustees of the 5th Bn DWR Huddersfield Drill Hall.

Trustees of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust.  
Ministry of Defence (Army) (Works Service Funds)  
Calderdale Leisure Services Department.

## 1ST BATTALION YORKSHIRE TOUR 13 - 17 MAY 1986

The original plan for the whole Battalion to exercise the Regiment's freedom rights in Halifax and Huddersfield sadly had to be modified due to commitments in Bulford. However, a display team

with the Band toured the West Yorkshire area for a week, culminating in a small freedom march through Halifax followed by the reopening of The Regimental Museum at Bankfield on Saturday 17 May 1986.

During the week, the display team, composed entirely of Kirklees and Calderdale men, was seen in the following places:

13 May, Bradford Provincial Square.

14 May, Halifax Shopping Precinct.

15 May, Keighley Memorial Square.

16 May, Brighouse, Hillards Car Park.

In addition, the Band and Drums carried out the following engagements:

13 May, Concert, Keighley Victoria Hall.

14 May, Beating Retreat, Halifax Piece Hall.

15 May, Concert, Huddersfield Town Hall.

Both young and old took tremendous interest in the various displays and in listening to the lunch time concert by the Band. At the Keighley and Huddersfield concerts we were honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor and of the Deputy Mayor both of whom spoke of the ever present Regimental and family ties with their areas. In the light of this it was a disappointment not to be allowed to take our display to the Huddersfield shopping precinct. The temptation to use our visit for political gain had proved to much for some people.

In all towns the team visited the local press gave excellent write ups. The Band concerts in Keighley and Huddersfield were both given over to raising money

for the respective Mayors' appeals, and we know that the Keighley concert raised £327.00 for the Save the Children Fund. We have yet to hear of the Huddersfield total which was in aid of the Mayor's Laser appeal.

On Saturday 17 May 1986, A marching party commanded by the Commanding Officer, consisting of Corunna Company, The Colour Party, Band and Drums and a Fox armoured car from The Recce Platoon, exercised the Regiment's freedom rights of Halifax by marching through the town. The salute was taken by the new Mayor of Halifax, Cllr D. J. Fox, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment. The weather was not on our side but the pavements were full of spectators and well wishers, most of whom then came with us to the Bankfield Museum to watch the Colonel in Chief inspect a Guard of Honour found by Corunna Company, and proclaim the refurbished Museum open. The Museum reopening was attended by numerous Civil Dignitaries and Regimental Senior Officers, many of whom no doubt had fond memories of the Wilkinson Sword parade in Bulford as they all got wet again!

A successful week, enjoyed by the soldiers as much as the spectators, and great to see that the name and spirit of the Regiment is welcome at home as much as ever.



*The Yorkshire Tour: Brighouse 16 May 1986*  
Private Denton shows a potential recruit the features of the 84mm anti-tank weapon

# 1st Battalion

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

Exercise "Strident Call" was without doubt one of the better periods of soldiering in the Battalion for us all. Kenya is a truly fantastic country. The training was wholly worthwhile, adventure training on Mount Kenya and in a number of Game Parks was a true adventure - and rather more than that for some of us - and the R & R at Malindi was everything everyone else is so keen for us to have these days - fun!

Much of the success of the tour was due to the people we met. All went out of their way to make us welcome - CO and private soldier alike - and several lasting friendships were made. It was good to meet the Defence Attache, Col Roger Southerst, late of the Parachute Regiment but formerly in the Dukes' and his wife Anne as well as Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege, who runs the Kenya Army Staff College, and his wife Liz. in good form.

Several people remembered the Battalion from the early sixties and to commemorate the various visits to Kenya we commissioned a local artist to paint a water colour of Mount Kenya from Timan.

We now look to Exercise "Bold Guard" in Schleswig-Holstein. This is a major NATO exercise and one in which we will practice our war role with the United Kingdom Mobile Force. But this phase will not last long as it will be followed by Palace Barracks and Hollywood in the new year. The Devon and Dorsets

recece party arrives here in Bulford in early July and we take a first look at Holywood in October.

We make the most of the time we have in Bulford. The dinner for Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth was a memorable occasion. In fact, it was a terrific evening - Shuttleworth, Hardy, Campbell-Lamerton, Keegan (formerly a Captain of a GB rugby league touring team) and the present Captain of England, Nigel Melville all being there. Among the many past and present Dukes dining together with the 1st Battalion was Col Jack Dalrymple who first played for the Battalion in 1925. Together we spanned over 60 years of 'Dukes' rugby.

'Sport for all' in the Battalion continues at a pretty furious pace. We don't seem to be able to escape the ceremonial and soon we will be involved in a route lining ceremony for a State visit in London. Waterloo Day was celebrated in Kiwi Barracks in style with a day of fun for families and soldiers alike. One part of the Battalion, often unsung is the Families Staff. Yet that we are all able to do what we enjoy doing is partly due to the tremendous efforts of Major Dennis Whittaker and his Families Staff who look after us with great care.

The Battalion is in good form, the soldiers are happy and we are looking forward to Holywood - and another crack at the Cup next season.

## EXERCISE "STRIDENT CALL 86"

By Captain C. A. Harvey

Just as the really cold weather of February was hitting snow-bound Bulford, The Dukes Battle Group was boarding an aircraft of No. 10 Flight RAF for 6 weeks in Kenya on Exercise "Strident Call." Coming hard on the heels of two years in Gibraltar followed by 6 months in Belize, the "Sunshine Battalion" was on its way again. Much had been made by other units and by our own recece party of the opportunities offered by Kenya and all were looking forward to what promised to be an exciting and rewarding 6 weeks.

The aim of the exercise was "To continue the preparation of 1 DWR for Exercise "Bold Guard" 86 with emphasis on Company and Battalion level training". Despite having been in 1 Inf Bde since January 1985, the Battalion has had precious little time to orientate itself to the demands of a new and challenging role in Baltap. For this reason, if nothing else, the 6 week period in Kenya was a vital period to hone down skills and drills at all levels, ready for the exercise season. Kenya offers unrivalled opportunities for training, adventure training and recreation.

On arrival in Kenya there was no chance to acclimatize gradually and work up to the start of training - companies deployed virtually straight from the airport to Kathendini training area for the initial deployment exercise; it had been decided to use the move out as a "Spearhead" - type move into a tactical

situation. That it worked well speaks volumes for the flexibility and resourcefulness of the Yorkshire soldier. The effect of moving from the freezing temperatures at sea level in Bulford to the searing heat at 6½ thousand feet in Kathedini cannot be underestimated. However, all coped with it well and the initial deployment exercise was a success - we won!

The remainder of the exercise was split into a five-phased package, incorporating jungle/forest training at Kathedini, low-level dry and live firing at Dol Dol and sub-unit and company level live firing at Mpala Farm, culminating in a 3 day Battalion exercise prior to recovery. The other two phases were R & R at Malindi and various adventure training activities.

Kathedini training area is situated in the foothills of Mount Kenya at about 6½ thousand feet. The camp is beautifully located at the forests' edge with an ice-cold stream running beside it. The forest itself is a mixture of primary and secondary jungle criss-crossed by deep gorges and fast-flowing streams and rivers. At Kathedini the emphasis was very much on survival, tracking, field cooking, trapping, navigation and individual CQB lanes with the phase culminating in a two or three day escape and evasion exercise which put into practice much of what had been learnt. This was a valuable phase, a follow on from Belize, especially for the young soldiers and junior NCOs

who were placed in positions of self-reliance unusual in the modern mechanised infantry. Many learned things about themselves which quite surprised them!

At Dol Dol training area, north west of Nanyuki, the emphasis was switched to fire team and section level training. The country side is exactly how one imagines Africa to look; rolling veldt dotted with stark stone kopjes, vicious thorn trees and blazing sun, the occasional herd of elephant or solitary big cat casting a faintly interested (and hungry?) eye upon the comings and goings of DPM-clad men. It is an ideal area for up to battalion-level operations covering all phases of war. The Dol Dol package was very much the Company Commanders training week. Each company played it slightly differently, though most included a defence phase, section and platoon day attacks and night navigations. All 3 rifle companies ran inter-section competitions lasting two days covering a wide variety of personal and team skills. A great deal of imagination was used to ensure that stands were demanding and testing but perhaps just as important, fun. Despite the often dusty and uncomfortable conditions at Dol Dol, all who trained there agreed that it had been an enjoyable and worthwhile week.



*Exercise "Srident Call"*  
The long march - Dol Dol training area

The peak of sub-unit training came at Mpala Farm where live firing was carried out. The week-long package started with the individual and worked up to company live firing attacks, ambushes and defence shoots. The training area itself was similar to Dol Dol, though the bush was considerably thicker and the wild animals more plentiful. Indeed it was amazing to see how much damage a herd of 50 elephants can do to the best laid plans for a night fighting patrol! They are not particularly impressed when you have decided to attack the very spot they have chosen to bed down for

the night! This aspect aside, there is no doubt that the greatest training value was to be had here: few, if any, of the junior commanders had done this before and there is no doubt that live rounds do sharpen up the reactions somewhat! All agreed that if time had permitted, an extra week at Mpala Farm would have been well-received.

While the rifle companies were engaged in their various activities, the support elements were not idle. The Mortar platoon and Gunner troop from 16 Battery (Sandhams) 26 Field Regiment RA, did valuable training at Archers Post. From their point of view, the ability to get away and train as a platoon/troop was good as this opportunity is only too rare. The Milan platoon, though not able to fire any missiles, conducted a two week cadre during which it was able to perfect many of its skills and learn new ones; similarly, the Reconnaissance platoon, though again without their Fox, were able to put into practice many of its observation and concealment skills uninterrupted. Having done this, they took it in turn to be enemy at Dol Dol. And the MMG platoon was able to get away for a very valuable two week package to Mpala Farm.

But Exercise "Strident Call" was not all work and no play. As was mentioned earlier, each man (where possible) had a week's R & R at Malindi. The R & R Team did a sterling job setting up a very comfortable camp site on Malindi Golf Course and organised windsurfing, diving and other activities. However, the vast majority of the Battle Group decided to take advantage of very cheap hotel accommodation on offer in the beautiful seaside resort. Malindi had everything that a good holiday resort should have; a marvellous location with palm-fringed white sands lapped by the inviting Indian Ocean, an extensive and easily accessible reef, good hotels and restaurants and a throbbing night-life. For those who wished to relax and watch the world go by there were attractive roadside bars and cafes, trips to historic or beauty spots and of course the beach or hotel swimming pool at which to obtain the all important tan. Almost without exception everyone who went there thoroughly enjoyed it. One other facet - unlike in Mexico or the USA (our last R & R locations!) one could spend as little or as much as one wished. Accommodation could be had for as little as £2.50 for the week, food could be free at the campsite, as was windsurfing and diving. We all realised just how lucky we were when we met English tourists who were paying in excess of £1,000 for doing exactly what we were doing for virtually nothing!

In addition to R & R, there was a week's adventure training in three different locations. Mount Kenya, Meru National Park and Lake Naivasha National Park. Over 100 members of the Battalion reached Point Lenana, the second of Mount Kenya 3 peaks at 16,335 feet. Many complained of altitude sickness and of the freezing temperatures; however few who were there will forget the sight of Haley's Comet appearing behind the summit or the fantastic views from the mountain across to snow-tipped Kilimanjaro.

At Meru the Battle Group undertook the construction of concrete 'drifts' or fords. Although the work was hard, the greatest pleasure was to be had from the many game drives the wardens laid on. Every type of wild animal from gnu to giraffe was spotted and preserved in countless 'Instamatics'! The Halifax

pubs must be sick of tales of "elephants/crocs/lions!!! that close to me"! This was adventure training in the truest sense!

Finally, at Lake Naivasha the project was the construction of a water pipe line to enable the local Masai herdsmen to feed their animals. This again was demanding and tiring work, though the sense of satisfaction when the job was done was enormous. The campsite itself was beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Naivasha at the Safarilands Hotel.

The last event in the training cycle was the Battalion exercise. This involved the occupation of (and procedures in) a defensive position, including a long and very tiring counter attack, a long march to a concentration area, a live firing battalion attack with mortar support on 3 separate company objectives and a withdrawal out of contact. The exercise lasted for 3 days. There was not much time for sleep but it did serve to confirm sub-unit and unit skills and tested commanders at all levels.

The country as a whole is without doubt breathtakingly beautiful; the variety of countryside, flora and a fauna alone is staggering. Also the people, both black and white, were almost universally friendly and welcoming. Many went out of their way to help us for no reason other than that they wanted to. The most heartening aspect was that this hospitality applied to all ranks not simply to officers and SNCO's as so often happens.

Between them the Band and the Rugby XV did much to foster good relations. The Band engagements were numerous and extremely well received. There can be few more evocative sights and sounds than 'Sunset' with Mount Kenya bathed in the dusk sun as a backdrop. The Rugby XV, played when it could and remained unbeaten with notable success against the Scorpions (the Kenya equivalent of the Barbarians) and the Presidents XV - the Kenya National side.

In summary, Kenya lived up to all expectations. Although there must be pressure from financial quarters for such exercises to be reduced, if not cut, one cannot put a sum on the enormous benefit gained from them. In these days of increasing pressure on manpower and time within infantry battalions, without many compensatory factors, such exercises are vital for the maintenance of morale and as a corollary for internal recruiting within battalions. We may not be able to compete with private-sector pay and conditions, or offer the leisurely life-style of 15 or 20 years ago, but exercises such as "Strident Call" surely offers some compensation. It also provides Company Commanders and the Commanding Officer with a rare opportunity to train their units for six uninterrupted weeks. Further, the extensive use of live ammunition in all phases of war gives each soldier the confidence in both himself and in his equipment that nothing short of an operational deployment can bring. All these factors brought together make for a happy and operationally ready unit.

## MOUNT KENYA TRAINING CENTRE

OIC - Lieut. J. C. A. Hill.

For virtually the whole of ex "Strident Call" the Mountaineering Adventurous Training Cell was based on Mount Kenya through fair weather and foul, good days and bad. Its only links with the main camp at Nanyuki were the HF radio and the administration Landrover which brought in supplies. A journey was made interesting by the number of hairpin bends which snaked up the mountain and downright dangerous by the sea of mud, which appeared after every downpour. Each company was allocated up to thirty places for a weeks mountaineering and this began with them gathering at Nanyuki for the road journey up the mountain.

Long before the first group arrived at the lower Base Camp, Sgt., Shaw had set up home at the Meteorological Station, a small camp site at the end of the driveable track and at a height of ten thousand feet. This then was the Lower Base Camp and the first time that the majority had ever experienced the more rarefied air at altitude. Because of this each group spent a day there as initial acclimatization for the greater heights to come. A large camp fire together with a limited number of beers on that first evening helped each of the four syndicates to relax and be lulled into the belief that things were perhaps not as bad as they had been led to expect by rumours at Nanyuki!

Twelve kilometres is but a stroll for an infanteer. Uphill? A little gentle exercise. Carrying up to a seventy pound bergan? Slightly more testing perhaps. Add to

that the altitude factor and it became damned hard work, as those who experienced it will agree. The hares made the journey in around four hours and the tortoises up to seven hours. Almost all made it to Makinders Camp which became the Upper Base Camp.

After a day's toil and a good meal one expects a sound nights sleep. But for most this was not to be. The higher altitude results in a dry mouth, king size headache and no sleep! If you could but see those lined, stubbled and pained faces on that second morning how you at Naivasha would have rejoiced and thanked the merciful one.

The cure for that "morning - after feeling" was to climb still higher and then return to Makinders at 14,000 ft. It did work, and while pausing for breath it was possible to take in some of the most spectacular scenery that Kenya has to offer: great jagged escarpments, boulder strewn valleys and the twin peaks of Nelian and Batian, a playground for the Alpine mountaineer.

Our goal was slightly less ambitious and just a little lower. Point Lenana at over 16,000 ft is the third highest peak of Mount Kenya but nevertheless a worthy objective. With each group the journey began early in the morning. Just over two hours to Austrian hut and a pause before making the last scramble to the top. Twenty more minutes of hard work and there it was, a view of breathtaking beauty. On a cloudless day it was possible to see the snow - capped peak of Mount



Kilimanjaro some 150 miles away. If the visibility was poor it was still an achievement in itself to have reached the top. Approximately two thirds of all who came made it all the way.

Getting back down to Makinders was much quicker, especially sliding down the glacier which remains there all year round. Despite Mount Kenya being near the equator it has some wild fluctuations of

temperature. At night the thermometer plunges to minus ten degrees celsius while during the day it climbs back up to thirty degrees.

Everybody enjoyed the return journey to the Meteorological Station as a decent meal washed down with beer awaited us. We sat around the fire to compare experiences and then it was back to Nanyuki the following morning.

## MALINDI R & R CENTRE

OIC Capt. D. S. Bruce

Malindi is a small tourist town some 94 Kms north of Mombasa on the Indian Ocean. The town is a mixture of commercial tourist wealth and African poverty. Malindi is similar to most coastal towns in having a strong Moorish link. After the war Malindi took off as tourist centre for English holiday makers, in particular the up country landowners who built holiday homes in the area. The result was an explosion in wealth and a number of hotels, apartments, and bars were built. The numbers of English tourists have now dwindled and Malindi has become a favourite for German and Italian holiday makers. The aim of the R & R centre was to provide a soldier with a cheap holiday with the opportunity to pursue the various sports and pastimes available on the coast.

Preparations started prior to Kenya and 5 Windsurfers and 4 Canoes were bought, in addition valves, masks, snorkels and fins were taken for diving snorkelling.

We arrived some two weeks before the first packet of R & R personnel. During this time the camp was taken over from the RGJ, and made shipshape. The camp was a makeshift site in the grounds of the Malindi Golf and Country Club. It consisted of 2 cottages for the permanent staff and mixture of marquees, 12 x 12, and 120 pounder tents for the R & R personnel. A cookhouse was established, the camp rewired and the shower ablutions improved.

With a certain amount of luck and a few contacts we managed to obtain the use of a run down diving business. The boat was fixed, engines repaired, bottles repainted and compressors serviced - AFRSUB was reborn! The windsurfers and cones were placed in the sheds and we had our own watersports centre. This was conveniently close to the delights of what became our 'Local' the Driftwood Club.

The last task of the staff was to establish contacts, join the 'inclubs' and prepare an interesting programme of visits and trips.

The package offered was:-

**Adventure Training**  
Windsurfing  
Canoeing  
Diving/Snorkelling

**Visits to:**  
Malindi Falconry  
Snake Farm  
Gedi Runs

**Trips**  
Ditow Trip  
Deep Sea Fishing  
Watamu Bay

**Sports:**  
Horse Riding  
Fencing  
Tennis  
Golf  
Snooker  
Table Tennis

The big day arrived and the first company, Burma turned up having travelled overnight by bus, a journey of some twelve hours on very bad roads with suicidal bus drivers.

The pattern for the R & R period was quickly established. A large number of soldiers made the most of the watersports available in Malindi. The diving was particularly successful and attracted large numbers who enjoyed some of the best reef diving in the world. The windsurfing and canoeing was similarly popular sport. Of the visits the snake farm attracted the most visitors especially during feeding time when live mice, hamsters and chickens were fed to the snakes and crocs.

Four weeks of Dukes' invasion was quite enough for the small town of Malindi which left reeling from the impact. The bars had been drunk dry and the local traders were counting the profits. As a rule the soldiers were well behaved and the locals of Malindi enjoyed the visit of the Dukes'. Throughout our visit we received a great deal of help from the locals, without whom it would have not been possible to achieve all that we did.

## OFFICERS MESS

Although most mess members were widely dispersed throughout Kenya, we did manage to get everyone together in Nanyuki early on in the tour to host a large cocktail party, Beating of Retreat and buffet supper. Apart from the magnificent setting, with Mount Kenya as the backdrop, the huge success

of the evening could be measured by the tremendous hospitality and offers of trips and visits so many members of the Battalion received as a result. Amongst several folk who remembered the Dukes, it was super to see Colonel Roger Southerst and Colonel Jeremy and Liz-Anne Cumberlege.

General Donald Isles was able to fit in a short visit to the Battalion during a hectic business trip and it was great to see him again. Our Brigade Commander, Brigadier John Wilsey (Whose father commanded 1/7 Bn and who himself was ADC to General Bobby Bray) managed to get away from his busy schedule to come out and see us. We greatly enjoyed entertaining him during a Bar-B-Q supper party.

On our return we had a "Final" farewell from Alan

Westcob who was en route to the USA to start a new life. We met several of his relations in Kenya and even found a young looking Alan in a rugger photograph in the Nanyuki Sports Club. Our best wishes go with him.

More recently we had a thoroughly enjoyable and successful "Fathers and Sons" Dinner Night here in Bulford. This was a good idea which might well be repeated in the future.

### WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

For the second year in succession we've managed to escape the worst of the English winter. This year we did it by having a seven week Battalion training period in Kenya. The mess itself was based in a tented camp in Nanyuki, a town overlooked by Mount Kenya, the most prominent feature of Northern Kenya.

Training was done in weekly cycles in areas around the base of the mountain. This was a busy period both for the CSgt's who had a 1-2 hour run each way daily to collect food and water and for the people in Nanyuki who had to have the kit ready. Between each training period mess members usually got into Nanyuki for a night. A night for a hot shower, good food and a few bottles of Tusker (the local brew).

Although the camp was a little primitive, it was fortunate that the golf club was situated next door with a nine hole course which we were invited to use. This offer was quickly accepted as golf is a growing hobby in the mess after our Belize days. Several mess members went to Nairobi to see the Kenya Open which was held during our stay.

The mess also arranged weekend trips to the National Parks in Meru and the Aberdares, where the big game was spectacular. Many also took advantage of both the Adventure Training and R & R in the resort of Malindi.

On the social side, work commitments kept any organised functions down to a minimum, but nearly everyone managed to attend a Beating Retreat/Cocktail Party held by the Officers Mess, though we did manage one good dinner night ourselves.

During our stay we also had the pleasure of hosting Barbeque nights for the visits of Maj. Gen. Isles and our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Wilsey.

Since our return to this country we've held a Ladies Dinner Night combining this with the farewell of two long serving mess members, namely WO2 Paul Grey, and WO2 Geoff Hunter.



WO2 T. E. Cooper receiving his warrant from Brigadier M. H. Sharpe, Divisional Brigadier

### ALMA COMPANY

OC	Major A. D. Meek
2IC	Lieut J. C. Hill
CSM	WO2 D. Allen
CQMS	CSgt G. O. W. Williams

#### 1 Platoon

2nd Lieut M. J. Wolff  
Sgt. C. P. Holliday

#### 2 Platoon

2nd Lieut A. J. Adams  
Sgt. J. Frear

#### 3 Platoon

Lieut H. A. Kelly  
Sgt. R. Sellars

**Exercise Jambo Duke 1**

Any apprehension about departing to Kenya for two months was quickly dispelled when snow began to fall as we boarded the buses at Kiwi Barracks: England could keep the snow and ice, the tropical heat of Africa having more and more appeal as the journey to Brize Norton continued. The trip out was uneventful apart from the odd delay which tested the flexibility of Battalion Headquarters. But how is it that one can check in for a flight to America, Australia or even Leeds/Bradford within one hour of departure yet the RAF insist on pre-flight checks in camp, further checks at South Cerney and final documentation at Brize Norton? If ever you have six hours to spare try the RAF departure routine!

It had been decided to use the deployment to Kenya as a practice for a Spearhead operational move, so companies flew as complete sub-units and once in Kenya deployed to Kathendini training area for a Battalion exercise. Moving in February from what transpired to be the coldest winter for years to the heat of Central Africa presented us with a major problem of acclimatization.

Is it possible to move long distances, experience a dramatic change in climate and operate effectively within 24 hours of arrival? The answer is a qualified 'Yes'. However back to JKIA (the world is full of abbreviations and Kenya is no exception - Jomo Kenyatta International Airport), the very modern airport of Nairobi. On touch down each VC10 was parked in an out of the way spot and we were whisked to waiting buses and taken to the British Army Training and Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) barracks in Kahawa. A change of clothing and money followed by the issue of extra equipment (water bottles, mosquito nets, insect repellent, shovels and picks) made us 'operationally ready' to deploy. For the lucky ones a quick sleep and then it was a 3 hour bus ride to the training area. Bus drivers in Kenya drive on the principle that the bigger you are the more right you have to motor. Thus livestock, pedestrians and smaller vehicles were scattered in the wake of each convoy.

The exercise scenario was counter revolutionary: 1 DWR was flown in to assist a Central African Republic quash a small force of white mercenaries, expertly played by elements of Somme Company, who had been causing havoc in the area of Mount Kenya. The Kathendini Training area was on the southern slopes of the mountain and consisted of thick forest cut by deep river valleys. Local loggers had made some tracks accessible by vehicle but they were haphazard and could not be relied upon.

From deployment each company was given a

specific area to search in order to locate and destroy any enemy. For Alma Company three days were allowed for this as they were the first in theatre: the other companies had slightly less time. In the close confines of the forest the pace had to be slow not only to allow us to acclimatize to the heat and height but also because it was impossible to move quickly through much of the secondary growth. Platoons were given their own areas and one lesson was quickly learnt: maps drawn from air photographs taken 39 years earlier are not very accurate.

Tracks had to be ignored and even when navigating by contours and river lines accuracy was never guaranteed. Thus one patrol originally scheduled to last for 2 hours returned some 7½ hours late! Acclimatizing in the forest had advantages and disadvantages: the trees provided ample cover from the blistering sun and thus temperatures were on average 10 degrees lower than on the plain. However, working at over 6,000 feet above sea level meant that even the smallest amount of physical work was exhausting: climbing up a very gradual incline with full kit had the heart racing and lungs screaming for air in minutes and so the pace was kept down.

Having located and destroyed the first objective the Battalion was concentrated for a coordinated attack against the main enemy base. Gathering everyone took somewhat longer than anticipated, but a series of company attacks brought about the defeat of the enemy and the end of the first phase of Exercise "Strident Call."

What lessons had been learnt? For those with experience of Belizean jungle probably not many except that Kathendini was infinitely preferable to wet tropical rain forest. Those for whom this was the first experience of working in such conditions learnt new lessons every day. Success depends to a large degree on getting the basics right. Fitness is of paramount importance especially if one is to survive such a dramatic change in climate. The basic skills we all tend to take for granted have to be 100% correct, be it map reading, patrolling, patrol base routine or even weapon handling. The pace of operations is slow with the emphasis being on stealth until contact is made when speed and aggression as well as good team work are prerequisites for success.

The memories of the deployment are numerous and range from cavalry subalterns getting "geographically embarrassed" to MFCs fighting off pangolins in the middle of the night. But the net result of the deployment exercise was that everyone was immediately brought up to speed with working in the field and thus maximum benefit could be gained from all the other subsequent training areas.

**BURMA COMPANY**

OC	Major K. Best
21C	Capt. C. A. Harvey
CSM	WO2 B. Hey
CQMS	CSgt. P. N. Ennis

**4 Platoon**

CSgt. A. Smith 55  
Cpl. G. D. Selby

**5 Platoon**

Lieut. S. Neath  
Sgt. B. T. Thomas

**6 Platoon**

2nd Lieut D. Harvey  
Sgt. B. Doyle

## KENYA TRAINING

Kathendini training area is situated on the Southern slopes of Mount Kenya at about 6,000 feet. The camp itself is attractively located at the forest edge with what must be one of the world's coldest streams running along one side. The temperature of the stream certainly made for interesting early morning ablutions. The area is forest/jungle criss-crossed with deep gorges and fast flowing streams and rivers, making navigation and movement across country - especially across the 'grain' of the land, particularly demanding. The Kathendini Permanent Range Team, consisting mainly of non-drumming machine-gunners set up a particularly good week long training package which all companies went through. This consisted of a three-day circuit of jungle skills, such elusive subjects as tracking, setting traps and field cooking, a day long navigation exercise where caches of food were set out, and a jungle close quarter battle range.

Dol Dol training area was where most of the basic infantry skills, somewhat rusty after the turbulence of the past couple of years, were dusted off and sharpened up. Dol Dol area itself is how everyone imagines Africa should look: sweeping plains dotted with uncompromising thorn bushes (known to the locals as "Stay-a-while" Bushes by virtue of their hooked thorns, but given a rather more explicit nickname by Yorkshire men!), interrupted by stark

stone kopjes on which it was easy to imagine big cats casting a hungry eye on unwary green-clad soldiers. The camp was unfortunately situated on top of a rise, next to a dustblown airfield: however most companies spent comparatively little time in camp so this did not matter overmuch. The training carried out was both demanding and fun. We had a two-day defence exercise when both 4 and 5 platoons experienced the delights of hitting rock 2 feet down from the surface - good training for the Battalion exercise! This culminated in a dawn fighting withdrawal, during which even the OC was seen to break into a canter, and a company counter-attack back into the position we had recently vacated.

The high point of the training package took place at Mpala Farm training area. This 77,000 acre farm was similar in terrain to Dol Dol, though less dusty and more thickly covered with thorn bushes. Here the permanent range team, commanded by Major Newton, set up a number of extremely good ranges, working up from individual fire and manoeuvre lanes through section attacks, platoon ambushes to company attacks. All rifle company weapons were used, and realistic training of a very high level could be achieved. There is little doubt that this was the highlight for many, especially those who had joined the company since Belize.

## CORUNNA COMPANY

OC	Major A. H. S. Drake
21C	Capt. S. H. Dixon
CSM	WO2 T. E. Cooper
CQMS	CSgt. D. A. Hughes

**7 Platoon**  
Sgt. M. Varley  
Cpl. A. Bryant

**8 Platoon**  
2nd Lieut S. D. Preston  
Sgt. J. Barraclough

**9 Platoon**  
CSgt. I. E. Metcalfe  
Sgt. D. E. Dewdall

## REST AND RECUPERATION

Each company had seven days allowed to spend on rest and recuperation. Some had to take their R & R at the beginning of the tour, whereas some were lucky to have it at the end. But common to all was the great enjoyment of the superb setting and facilities of the Indian Ocean.

Most R & R was taken at the Battalion R & R Centre at Malindi. It was necessary to travel from Nanyuki to Malindi in the local gruesome coaches. This was an ordeal in itself, sixteen hours of nail-biting near misses all carried out of 70mph! There was a great sense of relief at the safe arrival at Malindi and everybody felt ready for a holiday.

Although there was green canvas for those that required it, most soldiers made use of the local hotels and motels, and doss houses. This depended on taste and resources available but all seemed satisfied with their horizontal resting place.

Once settled into their accommodation the soldiers ventured out to find their entertainment. There was an

excellent selection of water sports, canoeing, snorkelling, surfing and diving. The equipment and instruction was first class and provided a good opportunity to carry out certain sports which are not always that enjoyable in the United Kingdom. The diving was particularly popular, the reward being a fish view of the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. The variety of fish life was enormous and many species were prepared to come and eat out of the diver's hand. The less active spent many hours on the beach or beside the hotel pool or around the local beer gardens!

Malindi attracts a fair amount of Europeans, mainly Italians and Germans although they were hard to find after sunset. Most of the single lads practised their Swahili by chatting up the local girls some of whom only came out after sunset! A good deal of ale was consumed in the evening as the lads relaxed and took the chance to soak up the African atmosphere. It also gave Malindi a chance to soak up the Yorkshire sense of fun that was evident at all times.

## SOMME COMPANY

OC	Major A. J. Pitchers
CSM	WO2 L. Hepworth
CQMS	CSgt. G. Walker

**MOR Platoon**  
Capt. C. S. T. Lehman  
CSgt. D. Maillard

**ATK Platoon**  
Lieut P. M. Lewis  
CSgt. L. Birks

**MG Platoon**  
Lieut. A. J. McNeillis  
Drum Major K. Shinn

**ADVENTURE TRAINING**

The beginning of 1986 saw Somme Company preparing like crazy for ex "Strident Call" in addition to finishing off the various specialist cadres. For Kenya the Company was to grow like topsy with Recce yet again coming back to us and the RA Tp being attached. However this was only for admin reasons because as soon as we hit Kenya soil each platoon went its own way and did its own thing. The Mortars, Anti-Tanks and Recce each had a go at being enemy for the rifle companies but the Anti-Tanks became the enemy specialists as they also had to be enemy for both the Battalion exercises. Nevertheless it did provide them all with the opportunity to practise basic infantry skills before carrying out pairs and section live firing. The Mortar Platoon and RA Tp also had a weeks live firing at a range called Archers Post which must surely be one of the hottest spots in Kenya. Due to the commitments of the Band and Drums the Machine Gun Platoon were only able to get together twice. Firstly, as the final part of their cadre started in Bulford, they had a successful weeks live firing at the beginning of the exercise. For the remainder of Kenya the Drums were swanning around the country and the non-drummers were running/assisting the jungle instruction at Kathendini although they did manage a four day interlude which is described later.

However it was not all work and each platoon had the opportunity to take part in some form of adventure training by volunteering either to climb up Mount Kenya or live in one of the country's game parks.

**MORTARMEN OF MOUNT KENYA**

Having spent a week as enemy for Alma Company in the dustiest location in Kenya - called Dol-Dol - we found ourselves attempting to climb/walk up the highest mountain in Kenya. Throughout our time in Kenya, while sweating in the dust and heat of the training areas, we had been tantalised by the sight of Mount Kenya covered in snow.

Having left Dol-Dol we ran through the showers at Nanyuki and boarded the 4 tonners for the first part of the journey. This took us to the Naro Moru weather station which at 10,000 feet was beginning to feel a little chilly. We spent the night here having been divided into groups and met up with our guides - ours was a Lt from 1 LI. The next morning we left at some unearthly hour, having attempted to eat a compo breakfast, for McKinders camp which is at 14,000 feet. The climb took about six hours and although uneventful it was a hard slog with effects of altitude beginning to be felt as well as the increasing cold. Apparently when the clouds lift the various views are magnificent!! Luckily the vertical bog was not too wet and therefore not too much of an obstacle.

McKinders Camp is a purpose built stone building which offers not only a sparse but suitable refuge for walkers/climbers but also a magnificent view of the main peaks - Pt Lenana (16,355 feet) and Pt Nelian (18,022 feet) and Pt Batian (17,058 feet). We spent 2 days here in order to achieve some sort of altitude acclimatization and passed the time on various walks. At this stage several were complaining of non-stop headaches, sickness, lethargy and breathlessness all of which are apparently effects of altitude. It was also extremely cold once the sun had set at night Sleeping proved to be a problem - everyone was tired but found it impossible to sleep for very long. Just as you thought you were drifting off into a much needed sleep your heart would start racing and you were wide awake wondering if you were having a heart attack!

Nevertheless on the third day our group set off at first light for the long hard trek to Pt Lenana. In order to get to the point we had to skirt round the snow covered Lewis Glacier. This involved crossing some scree - 5 steps up 2 steps sliding back followed by 2 minutes rest whilst gasping for air! Eventually after about 3 hours climbing we arrived at the last stage post called the Austrian Hut which is at 15,720 feet.

Here we attempted to have a brew of tea before making the final ascent. At this stage many had blinding headaches and we were all feeling very drowsy. Movements had to be deliberate and slow - to turn around quickly would give you giddiness and sickness! Eventually those capable and daring enough set off for the top. This proved to be nearly as difficult as the rest of the climb put together but once at the top and standing by the iron cross placed there many years ago we felt a sense of achievement. The views from there are said to be tremendous and Mount Kilimanjaro can be seen in the distance. Unfortunately, although many other groups did see the view, the cloud level was below us and more was rolling in to cover us, so that after 15 minutes we made a rapid tactical withdrawal back to McKinders Camp to avoid an unplanned stay at the Austrian Hut. Next day we returned to the weather station by foot and started our journey back to the tropical heat at Nanyuki, followed by live firing at Mpala Farm. Only in Kenya could such wild climate changes happen in such short a time. Needless to say, Mount Kenya continued to taunt our overhead bodies for the rest of the exercise but at least we had been there!

**MG PLATOON: OUT OF CAIRO, INTO AFRICA AND OTHER STORIES**

Via Cyprus, Palermo and even Cairo the Machine Gun Platoon made its way out to Kenya en-mass and all by Hercules. With a platoon divided between drumming commitments, running Kathendini training camp, and providing sustained fire for the Battalion we would be busy. The main surprise of the tour was the fact the drummers, under the watchful



eye of Drum Major Shinn managed to enjoy the hard graft of Malindi and Mombassa. The non-drummers also had a chance of a life time when they were invited by some local farmers to stay and live the life of Boer Settlers! The offer came from Guildford and Trisha Powys, Kenya farmers who had a strong connection with the British Army and gave us many fond memories. The farm was one of three owned by the family and ran on the plateau behind the training area of Mpala. It backed onto the Samburu area and was abundant with all wildlife possible. Days were spent with 3 activities - working on the farm, hunting for the evening roast, and fishing under the supervision of Marianne - Guildfords 19 years old blonde daughter.

Needless to say the MG platoon's fishing is spot on. Normally by evening the BBQ pit was glowing ready to receive the daily ration of fresh meat (consisting of 2 sparrows and a guppy) and the evenings entertainment would commence - singing, drinking and being merry as only the combination of soldiers and white settlers know how.

There were events, notably LCpl Wilden leaving Lieutenant McNeilis to die at the hands of a wild (and livid) female elephant. The 3 days was excellent value - everybody learning an awful lot about real life in Kenya, and a big thanks must go to the Powys Family for that opportunity.



*Exercise "Strident Call"*  
MG Platoon field firing at Mpala Farm

#### HOOK COMPANY

OC  
CSM  
CWMS

Major S. C. Newton  
WO2 T. Butterworth  
CSgt. S. Hamley

This edition sees notes from the Motor Transport Platoon on their expedition to Kenya; the experiences of Battalion Headquarters at Nanyuki, and the Regimental Band.

#### AN EXPEDITION AROUND KENYA - MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON

It was early one morning, the sun was just awakening

along with five soldiers, who had a fight against time to leave Nanyuki Camp on R & R just before area cleaning began.

It was day one and we were heading for Lake Nakura, there we arrived just in time for lunch, (Menu D) Rations. After our feast we set off to explore one of Africa's wildlife parks. Lake Nakuru is famous for its flamingoes, so we drove off to the lake side, at

least until the axles sank into the mud. This was just one of the many times we had to make an unscheduled stop. All we could do was dig, but the more we dug the more the Landrover seemed to sink. In the end the Landrover sat on the petrol tank, so we despatched a runner, Cpl Dave Skea, to get help.

After about two hours visitors to the lake arrived to take photos of the wildlife, and by this time us as well. Even the birds were drawing closer as the night began to fall. We eventually saw a vehicle approaching in the distance and when it got closer we noticed it was Cpl Skea with 6 local lads. They couldn't get their vehicle close enough to tow us out because of the soft mud, so in the end they said they would lift it out of the ruts, so that's what we did, soon after we were back on nice firm ground, which was a great relief.

We set off for Nairobi which was our next stop and arrived at about 2140 hrs. We had a little supper and then went to the Florida 1000 (Nairobi Disco) and then it was early to bed at 0600 hrs. The next day Pte Dave Burnett was given the task to get the Landrover cleaned up. He used his head and local help. It took the local lad 1½ hours to finish washing the Landrover. Dave Skea tipped him 20 shillings for his time.

1000 hrs and we were on the road again, this time heading for Mount Kilimanjaro. We arrived after night fall and found a place to stay. We made an early start the next day and after viewing the splendid snow covered peak of Mount Kilimanjaro we were on our way again, this time to Tsavo National Park.

The Park didn't seem to have much wildlife, presumably due to the covering of volcanic ash from a volcano which had erupted hundreds of years ago. We were making good time on this part of our journey, until (Cfn Lewis was at the wheel) we took a wrong turn and stopped to turn the vehicle around. Unfortunately when Taff Lewis selected reverse gear the vehicle would not move so we tried all the gears. Only first and second gear were working. All this put a stop to our journey until it was fixed. Three hours later we were back on the road only to arrive at our destination after dark yet again, so it was off for a shower to get rid of all the Kenya dust, then down to the local restaurant for a six course meal.

After this lovely meal it was back to the hotel. Next morning we went out in search of lions. Four hours later, we'd seen hundreds of various animals, but no sign of big cats. We returned to our accommodation to cure our heads from the night before with a nice cold Tusker, a beer which takes a while to get used to, to say the least.

The last leg of our trip was to Mombassa. We found a hotel that was right on the beach and the Indian Ocean, so we all ended up in the nice warm sea, and then had a couple of hours relaxing on the beach. The trip back was quite a good one setting off at about 0500 hrs and stopping off a couple of times on the way. We got back to Nanyuki Camp at about 1400 hrs. All in all we had a great R & R seeing quite a great deal of Kenya and I think if we had the opportunity to do it again I'm sure we would all go back like a shot...

## A VIEW OF NANYUKI - BATTALION

### HEADQUARTERS

The "Strident Call" BHQ advance party, consisting of the 21C, Ops Offr, and L Cpl Jones, travelled to Kenya on an 18 hour Hercules flight. On arrival at Nairobi we were taken to BATLSK (British Army

Training Liaison Staff Kenya) accommodation. 48 hours later we were on our way to Nanyuki Show Ground. There, the few buildings were used as stores, arms kotes and offices; the accommodation was marquee tents. By the time the main body arrived things were looking ship shape; one problem remained - the stationary was stuck at BATLSK. Once the stationary arrived it was work as normal. Lt Rumball, that master of mystery tours, soon had BHQ out on safari. The first one was a bit of disaster... We set out in an open top 4 tonner, it soon started to rain. There was no sign of our guide once we arrived at the Aberdare Country Club, finally, after a 1½ hour wait, one turned up. We saw wildebeest, warthogs, a monkey, more wildebeest and warthogs. The next safari 2 weeks later proved more interesting, not only were there wildebeest but gazelle, zebra, in fact all the usual 'Tarzan film' type animals. Lt Rumball was a bit peeved when he realised that the film in his camera had not wound on! Working life was not as easy as some people made out in Nanyuki Camp, dubbed 'Slipper City'. Area cleaning still took place every morning and routine normal. The peace was interrupted occasionally by a visiting local dignitary or 'top brass'. When there wasn't much to do in the office, one person was nominated to man the office while the rest played golf, ran, played football etc.

One of the more interesting games of golf took place after days of scheming, bribery and begging. Cpl Summers and Pte Quinney finally proceeded to organise a golf match against the higher ranks in BHQ; The betting was one beer for one hole. The game got off to a fine start and culminated in a crushing defeat to the Chief Clerk and Lieut Rumball, the beers being saved by a long putt on the 9th hole from Corporal Summers.

### REGIMENTAL BAND

If it were not for wives, girlfriends and family at home, several members of the band would have stayed in Kenya rather than return. Virtually to a man all felt that the Kenya experience was the opportunity of a lifetime and everyone made the most of it.

The band engagements were spread over a large area and as a result gave us a great chance to see the country. Some jobs like those at the Aberdare Country Club, Bamburi Beach Hotel (Mombassa), Seafarers and the Palm Tree Hotel (Malindi), and Lake Naivasha Safari Land Lodge were private concerts to hotel guests and staff, while others involved marching displays or dances where the newly formed five piece group performed. In fact the first Dance Band job was at Lake Naivasha and was undertaken without Cpl Clough who was in bed with malaria, but everything went well and they were booked for a repeat performance this time with Cpl Clough. The five piece also played at Nanyuki Sports Club, Muthaiga Golf Club, Stardust Club (Malindi) and at the Nairobi Areo Club where they were joined by a fearsome team of musicians led by Sgt Holmes. The latest German Band proved extremely popular at the two venues they graced with their presence.

While in Nanyuki the Corps of Drums joined the band to prepare a marching display for one of the two Beating of Retreats that were undertaken in Kenya, one at the Nanyuki Sports Club and the other to mark the end of R & R at the Malindi Golf Club where the marching took in virtually all of the ninth fairway and

by mistake a portion of the final green which resembled a ploughed field when it was all over. The display was repeated for the Royal Navy in a shortened version when the band and corps of drums were entertained on HMS Broadsword and also at the Muthaiga Golf Club where rehearsal was cut short as the noise was disturbing the players in the Kenyan Open.

The only formal concert took place at Fort Jesus in Mombassa. A power cut during the last piece gave the band's reputation a boost as they finished it in complete darkness. The audience was suitably impressed. (It was not to know that Drummers Delight has been in the band's repertoire for the last eighteen years!)



*The Band and Drums: Nanyuki, Kenya  
Beating Retreat outside the Officers' Mess.*

#### RUGBY NOTES

Since the last issue, our Rugby fortunes have been somewhat mixed. In Kenya we played two fixtures, both in searing heat and at altitudes of over 5,000 ft.

The first was against the Scorpions XV, the Kenya equivalent of our Barbarians. In a hard game, the XV eventually triumphed 16-9 with the winning try a fine effort by Lt Stuart Neath.

The second match was against the Presidents XV - the Kenya National side. Again, the game was hard-fought with the speed of the Kenyan backs being blunted by dogged forward work and fine tackling particularly by full-back Lt Stuart Preston. Special mention should be made at this stage of our two guest players, Lt Keith "Floppy" Hutton from 15/19 H and Lt Tim Radford from 1 LI both of whom contributed greatly to what was a fine win at 16 points to 7.

On our return from Kenya our sights were set on the various 7-a-side competitions. We won the South West District Championships with some ease, conceding only one try in six games.

It was thus with a certain amount of confidence that went forward to the Army Championships at Aldershot. We advanced fairly unhindered to the semi-final where we met 7 RHA. With 20 seconds of normal time to go we led 6-0 when an unfortunate fumble under the posts let the Gunners in. Six all meant 'sudden death' extra time which unfortunately went the wrong way for the second time in a season. We'll be back next season, so '7' watch out!

Planning for next season is well under way and fixture lists will be available from Captain N. G. Borwell (the rugby secretary) from 1 August 1986. With four seasons in the 'Doldrums' we have much ground to make up - but with two seasons in Ulster ahead what better incentive.

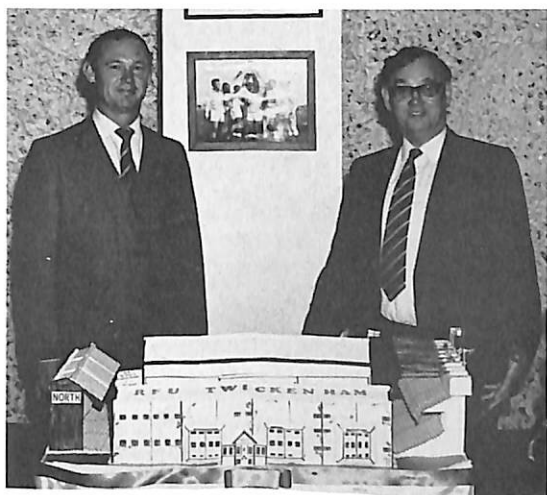
#### RUGBY CLUB DINNER IN HONOUR OF BRIGADIER D. W. SHUTTLEWORTH OBE

The 1st Battalion Rugby Club held a dinner in honour of Brigadier Shuttleworth on Saturday 31 May. The response from ex-Dukes, international players and senior administrators in Army Rugby circles was extremely good with 99 sitting down to dinner in the Kiwi Barracks Dining Hall. Of the 83 Dukes present there were three rugby union internationals with a total of 39 international and British Lions caps between them, 9 were capped by the Army with a total of 76 caps between them and 63 have represented the Regiment in Army Cup Football. In addition there were well known outside guests, J. Kendall-Carpenter former RFU President, Nigel Melville the current England Captain, Fg Offr Rory Underwood of the RAF Yorkshire and England, among others. In addition to both current and present stars of the union code, there was a terrific response from former Dukes who played Rugby League at the highest level. Amongst those present were Arthur Keegan of Hull and Great Britain, Jack Scroby of Halifax and Great Britain and Brian Curry of

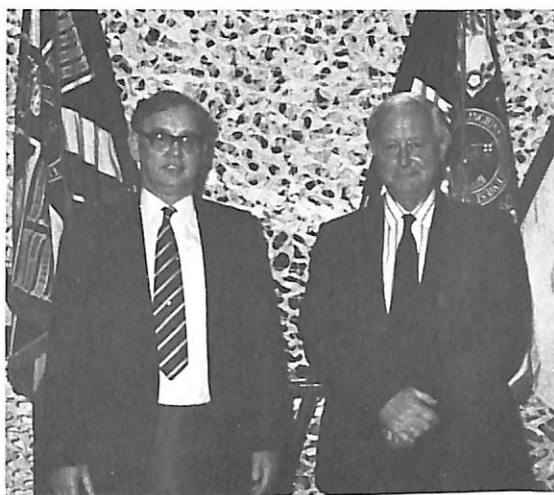
Huddersfield and Great Britain.

The Commanding Officer proposed the toast to the guests. In his amusing and sometimes controversial reply Col Mike Campbell-Lamerton paid tribute to Brigadier Shuttleworth as both a player and

administrator and congratulated him on his selection as a member of the International Board. Brigadier Shuttleworth's speech was both amusing and inspiring especially for those who were still actively involved in Dukes' rugby.



Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth with  
SQMS Mar-Gerrison and the Twickenham cake



Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth and  
Colonel E. M. P. Hardy

## THE DAY THE PRESIDENT WAS LATE

BY JOHN MASON

Rugby Correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, written for Rugby Post and World

Even as the minute hand clicked to 6.45 am Lt Col Jack Dalrymple, who the previous afternoon, a Sunday, had taken command of the 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, strode into the cookhouse and messhall of his soldiers. The Orderly Officer was no where to be seen, though he did arrive, panting and apologetic, a few minutes later.

The outcome was a week's additional duties for the young Lieutenant - "and if you think I was suitably impressed by the standards required by the new CO, and anxious to make amends", confessed Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth, the President of the Rugby Football Union, "just imagine the effect this had on my fellow junior officers... especially Mike Hardy, my old chum!"

Col Dalrymple was back (36 years later) in the Battalion's messhall, this time at Kiwi Barracks, Bulford Camp, a few days ago to pay tribute to his once unpunctual junior officer. The Colonel was joined by more than 80 past and present Duke's, the majority of whom had helped importantly to sustain the Regiment's rugby and military reputation.

The representative Army rugby span covered 61 years - from Jack Dalrymple's first appearance in a Duke's XV in 1925 to Lieutenant Hugh Kelly's Army Cap in the past season. Lt Col Johnny Walker, the present CO and son of "Ranji" Walker, told the dinner guests that a grand total of 76 Army Caps, 39 international and British Lions caps plus 12 Rugby League caps, including Arthur Keegan, a former Great Britain captain, had gathered to honour Brigadier Shuttleworth.

Col Mike Campbell-Lamerton, another Duke, of course, and recently retired from the Army, proposed the President's health. It was during his reply that Brigadier Shuttleworth, a former England scrum-half and capped 22 times by the Army, disclosed that his failure to beat the new CO to the cookhouse in 1950 has resulted in his being marched in very swiftly later that morning for sentence. As the room erupted, Col Jack, who had ordered a week's extra orderly officer duties, led the laughter. At his side Lt Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, the Duke's Colonel and President of the Army Rugby Union, was also beaming.



## SNIPPETS

### ATHLETICS

— The Battalion Athletics team under Captain Duncan Bruce is in fine form. Having come second in South West District, narrowly beaten by the Royal Hampshires, the team competed in Zone B on 25 June. The competition proved to be tough, but the team came 4th only 14 points behind the Grenadier Guards - recent Army Champions.

— Private R. M. Samerson has represented the Army at Athletics over the past year. He is the reigning Army Triple Jump Champion and competed in the Inter-Services Matches in the Triple Jump and 4 x 100 M relay teams. An automatic selection for the Army, this year his potential is at last being tapped to its full.

### TRIATHLON

— Two members of the Battalion took part in the Army Triathlon. LCpl M. B. Kennedy and LCpl P. A. Walton did well in an event consisting of an 800 metre swim, a 30 mile cycle ride and a 9 mile run. Their positions have yet to be announced.

### CRICKET

— The cricket team has had mixed fortunes with strong bowlers being offset by less proficient batsman. A convincing win against 16/5 Lancers got the team through the first round of the Army Cup only to be beaten by 94 Locating Regiment RA. All is not lost, on 12 June 1986 the team beat the Royal Hampshire Regiment to go on to the next round of the Infantry Cup.

### SWIMMING

— The Battalion swimming team entered the South District Championships but had a disappointing result. This was mainly due to the lack of practice in Kenya.

### SAILING

— On Wednesday 28 May, the Infantry Sailing Team beat the RAPC in a league match. WO2 Hutchinson sailed for the first time with the team and achieved a good third place. The league will continue throughout the summer and it is hoped that the Battalion will have more members representing the Infantry. The Battalion is also entering a team in the Army Team Championships 10/11 July.

— This being our first summer in UK for 3 years, the "yachties" amongst us are hoping to get away for a few days cruise. Applications have been made for places on Exercise Wyvern Sail, a SWDIST cruise based along the South Coast. A cruise based from Gosport is also in the planning stages.

— Preparations for the Army Boardsailing Championships, 28/29 June are well in hand. It is hoped that our star, LCpl Evans will lead the team to a good result. We shall be trying to impress the Army Selectors with a view to the Inter Services Championships 26/27 July.

### SIGNAL PLATOON SPONSORED FUN RUN

— During our tour in Kenya some of the members of the signal platoon got the running bug and asked if it was possible to organise a marathon. But due to the heat and height (6000ft above sea level) that would have been a little foolish, so 10km was settled on. Once the ball had been set in motion it was decided to throw the run open to anyone in Nanyuki Camp. About one week before the race the Padre, Major Symonds asked if we would be willing to raise 1500Ksh (approx £70) to buy a bishops chair for the local church, which we did with some enthusiasm. On Friday 14th of March at 1630 hours, twenty two runners crossed the start line and one hour later the race had been run, raising the 1500Ksh required.



*Signal Platoon* Fun run: Kenya 1986



**RUGBY**

— CSgt Williams represented the Public School Wanderers on their Rugby Tour of Zimbabwe in May this year. Altogether there were five games against local teams including Mashonaland, Matabeleland and the National side. The results were good. PSW won four out of the five games - they lost the first one due to acclimatisation and altitude problems!

**SHOOTING**

— Capt Tony Lehmann is this year leading the Bisley Team. His personal achievements in the shooting field have been quite impressive. He was in the Army Target Rifle Team and shot for Cheshire. He was also SWDIST Best Young Officer Shot.

— On 6 June the Drums/Medium Machine Gun Platoon came 5th in the Army Final. This was a very

creditable performance considering that only three days notice was given for the competition, due to changes in dates. Lt McNeilis returned from Ulster especially for the event and much credit must go to him and Drum Major Shinn for this result.

**GOLF**

— Majors Best and Newton, WO2 Butterworth and the RQMS, WO2 Coates have represented the Battalion of golf with some success. They are through to the semi-finals of the inter-unit match play competition. Perhaps the least diplomatic victory was against HQ 1 Infantry Brigade! Dukes are welcome to take part in the Battalion Open, Silver Putter Competition on 2 September 1986. Anyone interested should contact WO2 Butterworth.

## LORD CHARLES HAY AND THE BATTLE OF FONTENROY: 11 MAY 1745

"A regiment of English guards, that of Campbell, and the Royal Scots, formed the front rank. M de Campbell was their Lieutenant General, the Count of Albremale their Major General; and M de Churchill, natural grandson of the great Duke of Marlborough, their brigadier. The English officers saluted the French by raising their hats. The Count de Chabannes, the Duke de Biron, who had advanced with all the officers of the French Guards, returned the salute. Lord Charles Hay (I), captain of the English Guards cried 'Gentlemen of the French Guards, open fire.' The Count of d'Auteroche, then a lieutenant although later a Captain of grenadiers, called back in a loud voice 'Gentlemen, we will not be the first to fire, fire yourselves!'. The English then loosed a rolling volley".

Voltaire

Thus said Voltaire, the famous French political satirist and writer, in his account of the battle of Fontenoy, fought on 11 May 1745. If this gives the impression that warfare was in those days, conducted with a degree of courtesy bordering on the quixotic this is not so. The verbal exchanges were actually far less courteous than Voltaire described and were made with an ulterior motive.

In the first place, what Lord Charles Hay actually did say, having first raised his hat, was: "I hope gentlemen, that you are going to wait for us to-day and not swim the Scheldt as you swam the Main at Dettingen" (2). Then turning to the ranks behind him he said "Men of the King's Company, these are the French Guards, and I hope you are going to beat them to-day." The French replied with a volley, thereby falling in with Lord Charles Hay's primary purpose, which was to incite them to fire first. Considerable tactical advantage could to be gained by getting the enemy to open fire beyond effective musket range - then about 60 yards. The musket of those days was a most inaccurate weapon; it was literally difficult to hit a haystack with it at 100 yards (3). However notwithstanding its inaccuracy, due to its very marked tendency to fire high, it was a highly effective weapon

when used in volley firing, in linear formation, by well disciplined troops. The British infantry were past masters in this. In battle a battalion was drawn up in line, usually three ranks deep. The line was divided into up to 24 platoons organised into three 'firings' (groups of 8 staggered platoons, which discharged all at once or in a pre-determined order). This type of fire, first introduced by Marlborough, was greatly superior to the French line or company volleys enabling the British to maintain incessant well directed fire, one third of a battalion always being reloaded. The necessary drill was regularly practiced. Thus the memoirs of an officer of the period recall: "Our regiment, the Welch Fusiliers, Johnston's (33rd) and Fleming's were reviewed by the Duke (of Cumberland). In the platoon firings, the different firings of all the regiments made ready as usual, and took the word of command from the officers appointed to them. They went thro' this twice without any other signal than one preparative for the whole to make ready".

At the battle of Fontenoy, the courage, discipline and fire power of the British infantry was displayed at its highest. For the attack the infantry was massed on the right with ten battalions in the first line and seven battalions and some Hanoverian infantry in the second. The 33rd was near the extreme right of the first line. (4) When the word was given to advance the two lines moved forward with the slow measured step for which they were famous in Europe. Half a mile had to be traversed before they could close with the French, invisible behind entrenchments and the crest of a slope. It was only when they gained the crest that the French battalions came into view, little more than 100 yards distant. But they continued to march forward, still with arms shouldered, still silent and always with the same slow measured tread, till they were within 50 yards of the French when Lord Charles Hay made his challenging remarks. The French guards fired and then the British muskets, so long shouldered, were levelled and crash upon crash of volleys rang out from end to end of the line. The effect on the French was devastating - it is said that over 600



*The Battle of Fontenoy; 11 May 1745*

The French, in the foreground, await the advance of the British infantry.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the Fotomas Index Library)

men of the French and Swiss Guards fell at the first discharge (how they could be counted in the middle of a battle, is difficult to surmise!). The British infantry remained perfectly in hand, their officers coolly tapping the muskets of the men, so that every discharge might be low. (5) Slowly the British lines advanced, halting and firing by platoons as they did so, until they were within the French defences. There they stood still quite unsupported by their allies, as the French horse moved up. Three times the cavalry charged but each time the platoon volleys bowled them over as had happened at Dettingen. Then still pounded by the French guns, the red lines pulled back to reform and advance again, the volleys rolling out in succession at the French infantry, who now came on once more. But without support on their flanks and with grievous losses, (6) the French superiority in numbers began to tell. The gallant infantry faced about and retired by succession of battalions as steadily as they had advanced, halting and firing every 100 yards. The failure of the Allies had cost the British dear but, as a battle correspondent wrote in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' of June 1745: "That our troops are as good now as they were in the late wars must be allowed by all who saw them at Fontenoy; in which whatever odds appeared against us, it must be allowed, even by their enemies, that our men deserved to have conquered; where has English history a nobler account of the strength and bravery of the common soldiers than that of our Foot in this engagement, who though under the miserable disadvantages of the horse not coming up to support them and after having stood for more than three hours the continual fire of the terrible batteries, could drive the French, though superior in numbers, from their lines, and through a wood, and after this, when thinned in their ranks and tired with slaughter, as well as almost sinking beneath their wounds, could break and drive before them the same troops a second time, though re-inforced by seven new battalions; when and where have any single men more eminently signalled themselves than in this very action?"

Because Fontenoy was a defeat no battle honour was awarded for it. However there can scarcely be a battle which any of the infantry regiments present would not more proudly bear on its colours, were it be permitted to do so.

A.C.S.S.

## NOTES

1. Lord Charles Hay became Colonel of the 33rd Regiment (in which he had served as a Captain) in 1753, following the death of Lieut General John Johnson.
2. Dettingen had been fought two years earlier on 27 June 1743.
3. In the battle of Belgrade in 1717 two Imperial battalions held their fire until their Turkish opponents were only 30 paces away, but hit only 32 Turks when they fired.
4. The 33rd had the 19th (Green Howard's) on its right and the 25th (KOSB) on its left. Brigading was always by seniority: the senior regiment (lowest numbered) was on the right, the next senior on the left and the junior in the centre.

5. A 100 years after Fontenoy Sir Charles Napier told his troops in India "The first duty of a soldier is obedience, his second is to fire low".

6. The casualties of the 33rd were: 47 killed, including the Commanding Officer, Lieut Col Henry Clements. 112 wounded and 30 missing. At Dettingen, a Battle Honour, there were 30 killed and 50 wounded.

## FONTENOY - another version

*Extract from "The letters of Major Thompson",  
by Pierre Danions (Hachette, Paris)*

"Every French schoolboy knows that M. d'Auteroche, commander of the French guards in the battle of Fontenoy, approached the English all by himself, raised his hat and called out "Messieurs les Anglais, you shoot first".

All English schoolboys know that Lord Hay, commander of the English guards at the battle of Fontenoy, walked up to the French unaccompanied, raised his hat and called out: "Messieurs les Français, you shoot first."

All experts are quarrelling with each other from the day they are born, and so they do in this case. That is their job. Some of them claim that the historic exclamation came from the mouth of a French commander who, sighting the English as they were emerging from a very English fog, shouted at his men: "Messieurs. The English. You shoot first". (Note the punctuation).

Others see it as a then quite normal battle ruse. The French strategists were at that time of the opinion that one had to provide the enemy with the opportunity to shoot their weapons off first, because this made it easier to attack him afterwards. But most stick to the classic version of the gallant, friendly, typically French invitation.

All the same, I think I ought to refer to the description of a French eye witness, the Marquis de Valfons, who writes: "After the English officers and their men had approached the French lines to a distance of 80 feet, they stopped, formed up, raised their hats and greeted the French officers, who now also bared their heads (isn't it astonishing how well one knew in those days how to live and to die). Then Lord Hay approached the French lines, leaning on his stick, all by himself, stopping at a distance of 30 feet, raised his hat once more and said to the Count of Auteroche: "Monsieur, order your men to shoot". To which M. d'Auteroche replied: "Non, Monsieur, we never start!"

But someone must have started, or the battle of Fontenoy would not have been fought. Expressing his own view, this ex-major of the Indian Army adds: "I do not wish to hurt the French, but I regard it as quite possible that someone shouted at Lord Hay's troops: "Messieurs les Anglais, tirez les premiers!" It is most unlikely that anybody on the English side understood these words, on the other hand. As the whole world speaks English, the English have the privilege not to have to understand any other language but their own. Every child knows that. And even if the Englishman does understand the other language, on no account must he lower himself to such an extent as to admit it".

## THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

Nobody who has read anything about the first World War and the battles fought on the Western front cannot fail to be awed by the bravery of those who took part. Added to the fearful carnage caused by artillery, mines, machine guns and gas were the acute discomforts and hardships of life in the trenches. Published below are accounts of some of the wartime experiences of three members of the Regiment who respectively served in the 2nd, 1/6th and 8th Battalions.

### 2nd BATTALION: MONS 1914

#### The short war of Private Hastings.

1902 - the day the Boer War ended - Keighley engineer Arthur Hastings, aged 18 years, enlisted in the West Riding Regiment for eight years with the colours and four in the reserve.

He served two tours in India. He gained two Good Conduct badges. In 1903, at York, he got his corporal's promotion certificate, and in 1906, at Aldershot, another for gymnastics. In 1907 he passed his 3rd-Class Certificate of Education.

In 1910 Reservist Arthur Hastings came home to civilian life. For a while he worked as a conductor with the Keighley Corporation Tramways, then returned to engineering. He suffered from asthma. In 1912 he married. He had no children.

On 5 August, 1914, the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment mobilised its Reservists.

"Dear Alice", Private Hastings wrote that night to his wife from the Halifax depot, on Duke of Wellington's Regimental paper. "Just a line to let you know I arrived safe & sound also that we leave tomorrow or Thursday for Dublin to join our regiment then we shall have to go with the regiment but I do not know where yet but never mind hope for the best as I am alright I have arranged about your money". He added a postscript: "You will get 10/- this week."

His next letter was undated but probably written within the next two or three days, from Portobello Barracks, Dublin, where he had had joined the 2nd Battalion of the West Riding Regiment: he was in 'A' Company. He and his fellow Reservists had enjoyed "a fine reception leaving Halifax".

The Battalion was confined to barracks and expected to leave for France or Belgium, but it was thought the war wouldn't last very long. It was even rumoured "that it may be settled by the time we arrive". Private Hastings hoped his wife had got some money from the Club; and please would she send him half a pound of Asthma Powder.

On August 9th he wrote again. It was a Sunday, he had drawn £1 pay and was going to send a 15/- postal order home. His Battalion was still in barracks, "all ready for going away anytime", and had been issued with 120 rounds of ammunition each. They were on half-rations, "that is ¾ lbs. Bread & 1oz. butter per day then there is meat & Potatoes for dinner but they are only while we are here." They had got "Corned beef & biscuits & chocolate for active Service," and were to form part of the 13th Brigade, 5th Division,



Private Arthur Hastings

but "may not be needed yet," as the Belgians and French were thought to be "rowting" the Germans. Private Hastings was concerned about his wife's welfare - "if you want any money ask some of our folks Mother or our Ezra" - and he was still awaiting his Asthma Powder.

Alice wrote to him on August 11th ("just a line or two"). She had received 10/- from York Pay Office, and couldn't understand why two or three neighbouring Reservists' wives got £1. She needed to "know what to expect," as the mill was going on a three-day week. It had lifted a load off her mind to be able to send the Asthma Powder, and Arthur really must keep a shilling or two back for himself. "Never mind you must keep up and shoot all the Germans you come across and then we have German sausage for breakfast, dinner, and tea," she signed off bloodthirstily.

Private Hastings answered this "kind & welcome letter" on 12 August. "Mainly he seemed concerned with trying to explain apparent discrepancies in pay - 'those that got £1.0.0 they would not have a penny left for themselves or it may have been part of their pensions you know when I was called up I had seventeen & sixpence to come for Reserve pay & I did not draw anything until Sunday Night & I drew £1.0.0 & I send you 12/- & spend 1/- stamps then their were Hankerchiefs & one or two more things to buy & I don't know when we shall get any more.' They were due to embark early next morning. 'I don't know where to'."

His next letter was dated 13 August - by now he was possibly confused as to his dates, which do not always

tally with the regimental histories, for that was the day his Battalion paraded for embarkation. They had "not had much time to spare" since reaching Dublin, had in the past couple of days tramped twelve miles in full marching order, endured "a General's Inspection from 8 a.m. to 12 noon," and were only allowed out of barracks for two hours at a time. The Regiment's "photo was in the Standard Times on Monday coming from docks to Bks". He was still fretting over Alice's financial uncertainties, otherwise he felt "champion." From now on, his letters would begin, not "Dear Alice" but "Dear Wife."

That 13 August, the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment marched out of Portobello Barracks "followed," in the words of one regimental history, "by cheering crowds" and cries of "Go on the Dukes!" At Alexandra Basin they boarded the transport "Gloucester", to sail for Le Havre.

"No doubt," Private Hastings wrote on 16 August, "you will be pleased to hear from me & will wonder where I am but we have got strict orders to tell no one either in correspondence or in any other way our letters will probly be opened." So all he could tell Alice was that he had left Dublin by water and didn't know where he was going. As regards his civilian clothes, "they told us at the Depot to label them to our homes & they would be sent there." One could only hope for the best and not get down-hearted.

By the time he wrote again on 19 August ("got my birthday card this morning"), he had virtually nothing to say, except "you must hope for the best as we shall probably be home before long so don't get bothered about me." He concluded "with love & hoping we shall be victorious & return home, sorry to say we are not allowed to tell any one where we are going to." Though Alice was not to know, his Battalion was in fact in billets at the French village of Marouilles, "preparing," according to the regimental history, "for the coming advance into the war zone."

On 22nd August, the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's crossed the Belgian frontier and took up position in support of forces holding the line of the Mons-Condé Canal. They went into billets at Hornu. They were in the very path of the German advance.

On Sunday morning, 23 August, 1914, the coal-miners of Hornu placed their shower-baths at the disposal of the Battalion. 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies had completed their ablutions when orders came to fall in for action; 'A' Company (Private Hastings' company) never did get theirs. 'Instead, they went under fire, dug in on a slag heap. Next day, 24 August, they were engulfed in the Battle of Mons; followed by the great Retreat. This was probably the day that Private Hastings were wounded.

His last letter was laboriously scrawled on a stained page torn out of a pocket-book:

"31/8/14

"Dear Wife,

No now doubt you will be glad to hear from must excuse writing & I am in Hospital wounded only in four places but shall soon be better please tell them at home Father & Mother B & D (Brigade & Division) that address will find me anywhere  
so good Night & God bless you  
from your

Loving Husband  
Arthur."

He did not say that he had been left behind by the Retreat from Mons, that he was in German hands. The following day, he died. He was the first Keighley soldier to die in the Great War.

It was 22 September before the Infantry Record Office at York was able to send Alice an Army Form B 104-82. It was their painful duty to inform her that a report had been received from the War Office "notifying the death of 7187 Private Arthur Hastings, West Riding Regiment, which occurred at Wesmes on the (date not stated) from operation." Cause of death was not known. Any application that Alice "may wish to make regarding the late soldier's effects should be addressed to 'The Secretary, War Office, Whitehall, London, S. W., and marked on the outside, 'Deceased Soldiers' Effects'."

They sent her another B 104-82 on 19 December. It was their painful duty all over again, but this time there was a little more information: Private Hastings had died 'from operation' on 1st September, "in Hospital at Wasmès." When eventually she received his Service and Victory Medals (she had remarried in 1918), even his regiment was wrong, for they were inscribed 'Northumberland Fusiliers'.

*Reproduced from the "Yorkshire Ridings" by kind permission of the author, Mr. Ian Dewhirst.*

#### 1/6th BATTALION: AUBERS RIDGE, MAY 1915

The battle of Aubers Ridge was one of 63 Battle Honours awarded to the regiment after the conclusion of World War II. It was won by the 1st/4th, 1st/5th, 1st/6th and 1st/7th battalions, who formed 147 Brigade of 49 West Riding Division.

The strategic plan, which led to the battle, was for the French and British to launch an attack on the German army with a view to relieving pressure on Russia. The main thrust by a French army of 18 divisions between Lens and Arras, was launched on 9 May, 1915. They had very limited success. Meantime Haig's First Army attacked toward Aubers Ridge on a frontage of 2½ miles with the aim at drawing the Germans away from the French front. IV Corps, consisting of 7, 8 and 49 Divisions, took part in the attack. The 7th and 8th Divisions lead the attack, with 49 Division (146, 147 and 148 Brigades) following up to occupy the vacated German trenches. Unfortunately the whole plan miscarried, due to a surfeit of German machine guns and an insufficiency of British shells. The attack was renewed on 15 May and continued spasmodically until 27 May, with no success.

The account that follows is that of Alfred Johnson, who was a member of the Signal section of 1/6th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

"The battle of Aubers Ridge which took place on the 9 May 1915 could not be counted as a great success for the British even though it enabled the French to gain their objective. It had first been planned for 5 May as a ruse to bluff the Germans into drawing reserves from other parts of the line. The battalions chiefly concerned were the Irish Rifles; Lincoln's London Regiment, York and Lancs and Duke of Wellington's. Great preparations were made for weeks beforehand. Fresh communication lines were



laid in case of emergency and big guns were sent up as well as some field guns. At last all was in readiness for the assault to commence. The infantry had received its orders a few day's previously. I was then sent to Brigade Headquarters to act as dispatch rider. We were occupying trenches at a place called Lac Croix Blanch. Brigade HQ was at Flesh-Aiux, about 6 kilometers North East of Lavantic, with the Ridge in front of us. All Headquarters staff moved up to battle HQ, a little farm in what was left of La Croix Blanch about 800 yds from the enemy front line. This place was under direct observation by the Germans which we found out later on. All was in readiness on the evening of the 8th. Now was the time for our work as dispatch riders to start and many were the men who said they would not like to change places with us. Fortunately for us we had some good strong cycles. The first message I had to take that night was to Division HQ about 1½ miles further back at a place called Tailly-Sur-Lys. This was about 2115 hours. When I arrived back at the Signal Office there was three more awaiting me: one for the 1/6th Battalion, one for the 1/7th and the other for 148 Brigade, on our right. The two battalions were occupying the front line for the attack and as the messages were marked "urgent" I started off for the 7th first. The German's were fairly active with their artillery on the crossroads, which were quite visible when the Very lights went up. It was not very comfortable and with the night being so dark and the roads not of the best it made travelling difficult. Anyway, after running into a couple of mules and three men I at last arrived in one piece. I delivered the papers and started off for the 1/6th. Where the 6th were the road was on a siting ground and very dangerous for machine gun and rifle bullets, and there was a monastery there which attracted the enemy's fire. I did not care to loiter on this road! I managed to get there all right after a few near shaves, one bullet hitting my handlebars and burning my left hand, and another going through my dispatch case.

#### **It was not at all pleasant**

I got the third message delivered all right and started back for HQ which I reached at about 0410 hours 9 May. Now I thought I would have a smoke as I had not had one all night. But I had not been in ten minutes before there were two more secret messages to be taken to the trenches, to be delivered before 0440 hours. The bombardment was to start at 0500 hours so I had no time to waste. It was not at all pleasant riding up that road as it was breaking daylight and the snipers were at work. The Germans evidently seemed to want to get the first smack in as they started bombarding very heavily. However I got the messages delivered after having had to throw myself and the cycle into the side of the road. I was about half way back when our guns opened up. It is not very pleasant when shells are coming both ways, however I had no further mishap. The infantry was timed to go over at 0530 hours after half an hour's bombardment. When I got back I had to go straight out again to an Artillery Brigade as the shells were falling short. Many of our own lads went under because our own shells fell into our own trenches, but it was not the fault of the gunners. It was owing to inferior ammunition from America. Next there were two messages to go up to the trenches again and no time to loose, so I started off as hard as I could go and just landed in at the trenches when up went a

mine, which is one of the most awful things there is. Many lads were blown to pieces. When a mine went up you could feel the ground quake for miles. I threw myself down and waited till all had fallen, then delivered by messages and started off back just as they were about to mount the parapet. Then our lads were waiting for the signal from the right as the Rifles had gone first and London, Lincolns and Yorks and Lancs. The Dukes' had not to go, as I found out later, because the artillery barrage had failed to cut the wire. So they were ordered to start with a rapid fire in "no mans land" to enable the others to get through. As I was going back our guns had cooled off a little, but the Germans started to go at it worse and just as I got to a cross roads a shell dropped into the road and blew me into a ditch at the other side of the road. This ditch was not very clean and it stank something awful. When I thought all the pieces had fallen I got out to look for my cycle. I saw it was for the scrap heap so I left it and finished up on foot. Meanwhile I was wondering how the attack was going, so when I got back I enquired and was told that we were in the German second line, it seemed to be going well. I managed to snatch a little food. I only had one biscuit so I ate it and had a drink of water. I had just finished when I had some more messages to take to some Artillery HQ. I was just coming out of the field when the Germans dropped two H.E. shells into the dugout and it killed two of the officers and wounded one, so I got away as fast as possible.

#### **The Brigadier asked for volunteers**

Everything seemed to be going well with us till about 1730 hours, when the London and Lincoln Brigade sent word they wanted some men to try and get communications through to the German second line, which their chaps were occupying. So two of our chaps went, but it was so bad that they came back about 1830 hours. So someone else had a try and they came back about 2000 hours saying that it was a living hell. Now the Brigadier asked for volunteers to go, so I said I did not mind going with Broome. We got instruments and wire from the London Brigade and started off. It was black dark but we were guided by the starshells. We managed to get along into the trench although how we did it God only knows. We had to crawl on our stomach for about a mile and when we had to cross a road we had to climb up trees to put the wire out of the way. So Broome got up one and I up the other. He got a bullet through his cap and I got one on my coat sleeve. (We did not have steel helmets then). All the while we were out neither of us even uttered a word about the war it was a case of one not wanting to frighten the other. However at 0020 hours we arrived at the German second line and reported to a lieutenant that we were in communication and we got well thanked by the men for doing it. We did not fix up in the same trench as they were in but in a side trench so we kept having messages to send through till about 0300 in the morning when the Germans started a terrific bombardment on this place. It was as if hell was let loose for half an hour.

#### **Each man for himself.**

At about 0400 hours Broome asked me to go and see if there was any message to be taken down. So I

went, and I was just going to turn into the main trench when I saw a big hulking German coming down. Having no rifle I did not stay. The fact dawned on me that the Germans had counter attacked and our chaps had left us, so I rushed back to my chum and just said "Germans in trench come on" so we jumped out and ran for dear life towards our lines. Now these Germans did not see us till we got about 40 yards then they opened rapid fire. We had no time to look after each other, it was each man for himself for life. We went on till the fire got too hot, then I dropped into a shell hole which was about half full of water. Though I did not know it at the time, my chum had followed suit in a similar hole a little distance away. Every minute I expected a bomb coming into this hole, but none arrived. It is marvellous what one can think about in so short a time. Now the sun was up, and I had had nothing to eat and drink since the previous morning, so I had to drink the water in the shell hole and risk it and do without anything to eat. I next began to think what I should do to get back, but there was nothing else for it but to wait till dark. How those hours dragged. It seemed like a year waiting and I dared not sleep as I might never wake up again, so I watched and waited but no one who has not had a similar experience can tell what agonizing hours those were. Any minute one of our shells could have killed us let alone theirs. Anyway, night came at last so I started my crawl towards our line which after a few cuts and scratches I reached safely. The man on sentry challenged me so I answered him and told him who I was before he let me get into the trench. The first thing I thought about was my chum and I was asking who would go out with me to look for him when someone said a chap had just come into the trench higher up so I went to see who it was. When I got there he was asking who would go out to look for me. We shook hands and then we started to go back to our own brigade, but we did not know which way, only that it was towards the right. After wandering about till 1130 hours the next day we arrived feeling hungry weary and worn out. We had spent just over 29 hours together, without food, and I had had no sleep for three nights. The first thing we did after reporting was to lie down in a field. We slept soundly for three and a half hours. My chum got promoted to King's corporal for his excellent services and everyone will admit that he deserved it. Later we both had to go up to Division HQ where we were both thanked for our service by the General himself. Thus ended my adventures in the battle of Aubers Ridge."

#### 8th BATTALION: SEPT 1916 - SEPT 1917 Extracts from the memoirs of Private A. V. Simpson

At 13, I started work in a cotton mill, and when I was 17½, I joined the army; (December 1914) but being under age, I was sent on home service and did not go to France until September 1916, when I joined the 8th Duke of Wellingtons on the Somme. The battalion was then on rest, having just taken part in the capture of Stuff Redoubt near Thiepval.

My first experience near the line was at Authuille, near Thiepval, while mending a road, shells used to come over, but as we were working under a bluff, we

were quite safe and the shells dropped harmlessly into the river Ancre. During a rest for a snack, some of us went to the top of the bluff, where there was a large sloping field. In it was a large number of dead soldiers, mainly our men, but also some Germans. At the bottom of the bluff were a number of graves - quite a few of whom I knew, for the 49th West Riding Division had been there for quite a while and had been a reserve division on July 1st.

#### Mud and trench feet

My first experiences in the trenches was in November 1916 at Beaucourt sur Ancre. I was at Company HQ being a signaller. As we were entering the village of Beaucourt, "jerry" dropped some shells on the road, but myself and one or two others, who were at the rear, were too slow in getting up. When we did we found the Company HQ had gone. However we walked on down a sunken road out of the village and, with a bit of luck, were stopped by a sentry (otherwise we should have walked on, into the German lines). He showed us the direction in which Company HQ lay, in a dug out in a quarry. The entrance was covered with a blanket (as a black out precaution) because it faced the German lines. On the following days, when returning from our job of repairing the wire, we used to have an awful job finding this entrance, but on the first occasion were very lucky to find it the first time.

We were in this position until January 1917. First in the front line then in the Company HQ reserve, then Battalion reserve and so on repeating. My job, along with a friend, was to repair the telephone wire when it was broken by shell-fire. The conditions the whole time were terrible mud everywhere and quite a lot of our chaps were sent down the line with 'trench feet'; although we had to rub our feet with whale oil.

On being relieved for the last time we left Beaucourt and before we reached Hamel one of our men was so exhausted he said leave me here, but between us we managed to get him to Lancashire Dump in Aveluy Wood where some lorries should have met us to take us to Lealvillers. They did not turn up so the Colonel got some other lorries but they only took us as far as Acheux from where we had to walk, some fell asleep on the wayside and came into the billet next morning. In the morning of the next day we all had a bath in some round tubs in a barn. Later in the morning a message came from Brigade that so many had to go for a bath to Forceville via Acheux, this meant a walk of about five or six miles, a bit silly I thought.

When we were in the line at Beaucourt, I along with a few more men from Company HQ were sent to the battalion on our left to act as stretcher bearers in an attack which they had made.

Two incidents occurred in Engine Trench, a trench that ran from Beaucourt to the road which ran from the Railway Station to Beaumont Hamel. We were in a Deep dug-out and not having any water we tried to make some from snow, but it was a failure. Another time a corporal, wearing gum boots, got stuck in the mud, we pulled him out but left the gum boots, he had to walk about in his stocking feet.

Another time, whilst we were in battalion reserve in some bivouacs near Beaucourt Station, one of the men (Pte. Banks) went to the latrines, a shell came over, there was a shout of stretcher bearers but when they went to bring him in they found he had been killed.

When on rest we had quite an easy time, cleaning-up, kit inspections, and drill until noon. At one time, we guarded a light railway.

#### First the mines went up

In April 1917 we started to move back to the line, going via Acheux, Aveluy, and Ovillers - in which was placed a sign on a heap of rubble, said "Ovillers church", near which we saw the grave of Sir Harry Lauder's son. Then marching along the Albert - Bapaume Road till we finally arrived in Velu wood from where after a few days, we went into the line in front of Hermies, from which we could see "Yorkshire Bank," a huge slag heap, being the spoils when the Canal du Nord was made.

This was a quite sector, although we were in what was part of the Hindenburg Line. In May we started to move back to take part in the battle of Messines.

Again, we stayed in some nissen huts in Ovillers and whilst we were there I was found to have scabies and was sent into a small hospital in Aveluy, from where we used to walk up to the old front line near Thiepval.

Eventually I rejoined my unit who were then in the Messines sector. When the battle of Messines started, our battalion was in reserve to the Irish division, our company was in a field quite close to the line. When the attack started, first the mines went up then the barrage opened, then the machine guns opened out. The ground shook as though it was an earthquake. Later on in the morning, hundreds of prisoners were streaming past where we were.

The next day we relieved one of the Irish Battalions in the front line. On the way up we passed one of the large mine craters. There were numerous German dead and much clothing lying about as though the blast had stripped the clothes off their backs.

I must mention the general in command of the battle of Messine, General Plumer: the best general in the British army, very much liked by the troops, as an instance, when we came out of what is now called Paschendale, he was at the end of a communications trench and he greeted us with "Well done boys." He was also in command of the next battle I was in - Third Ypres.

On leaving the Messines front, we went to a small village near St. Omer. There we practised for the next offensive - Third Ypres. I remember we were going to relieve a Scottish Battalion near Langemark and then take Pheasant Farm and Rose Farm, but in actuality, we took neither. The offensive had not gone as expected.

The first time in the line at Ypres, I was in a trench behind a pill box (White House Farm) and we used to watch bullets striking the road which ran alongside. There I acted as a runner, taking messages to Battalion HQ. On the way there was a large pill box, which had been used as a cook house. From it a narrow-gauge railway ran - presumably to the German front line. On being relieved we went Poperinge on rest.

#### The officer blew his whistle

September 1917. After being in Poperinge on rest, our next move back toward the line found us in the dug outs on the Yser canal bank and one day, walking along the road next to the canal I saw a sign on a tree which, to my surprise said, Skipton Road!

After a few days we moved to the front line and were

told we were to attack and capture the Pheasant Trench line. (This, I learnt afterwards, was in front of Poelcapelle).

Zero hour was at 1.55 p.m. The officer blew his whistle and over we went in broad daylight, up a slightly sloping, boggy field against a line of pill boxes. One signaller had a phone, which he threw away. (we had no wire). Another had two pigeons in a basket.

Previous to going over I felt rather nervous, but as soon as we started off this passed away and I said to my mate - "Do as I do." We advanced in short rushes and then dropped in a shell hole.

We kept on until we got into a big shell hole, in which there were 7 or 8 men and one officer. As the attack was held up by machine gun fire, the officer sent a message by one of the pigeons, asking for the sector to be re-barraged and saying that we were held up and had lost a lot of men. The officer said that there were too many of us in the shell hole. If a shell came, it would wipe us all out. He decided to move us, two by two, into a trench about 20 yards in front. He asked who would go first, so another man and myself said that we would. So we both set off. I got in the trench, but no one else came.

When it was dark, I went back and asked the reason why. I was informed that the other men had fallen back into the shell hole with a bullet in his arm and one in his leg.

There were five or six of our chaps in the trench, one of whom - Corporal Bowers - said he would have a shot at jerry. He put his rifle on the parapet and immediately a bullet hit the rifle mouth piece.

When I got in the trench, it was up to the ankle in water and when we were relieved, 30 hours later, it was up to the knees.

All we had to eat was bully biscuits and chocolate-au-lait. It was a terrible day.

**A few general observations of the war in France as I saw it.**

#### First the Men

Officers up to the rank of Lt. Col. very good on the whole. Ex public school the best.

Warrant Officers and Non Commissioned Officers almost without exception very good. My first C.S.M. (later R.S.M.) a perfect gentleman, very good with those in France for the first time. My last C.S.M. a proper rotter. I only knew three windy N.C.O.'s. They could not help it they had been out a long time.

#### The Privates

Exceptionally good. Going up the line and in the line they took as a matter of course, even new drafts after a few times in the line soon settled in. I only knew of one instance where one man stole his pals rations. In billets behind the line there was often bits of sing song and a friendly spirit, it was a good job it was so. I remember one amusing incident, the officer decided to put the rum in the tea, unfortunately it was lime juice, so he went for some rum and put that in the tea, he ruined the lot, we could not drink it. Not long after the same officer accidentally walked into "jerry's" lines and was taken prisoner. Some men had no fear at all, one instance, Company HQ had been heavily shelled, with numerous casualties, as a stretcher bearer approached we shouted to him that he (jerry) was shelling heavy, he said "bugger him" he moved down into the sunken road, a shell came and when we looked we saw he had been killed.

### Rations

In England very good, in France not so good, out of the line stew every day, this was usually made with bully beef, tinned pork and beans and machonics. Bread three to a loaf as a rule and of course we had jam and cheese. If you had had a lot of casualties you would get more for a short time. In the line it depended whether the ration party could get to you without much trouble or whether they could get to you at all, as at Ypres. For breakfast bacon either boiled or fried.

### Billets

My first was a Chapel school room in Skipton. Then to Derby, a few weeks in a private house, than in an empty house at Five Lamps, Duffield Road. From there we moved to Doncaster Race Course under canvas, this was in April 1915. Next tents at Thoreby Park, Dukeries. Being under age I was sent to York on Home Service and the first night was spent in the Police Station. After being in a private house and Fulford Barracks I moved to Louth, it was there that I had eggs for breakfast the only time in the army. Next to Saltfleet guarding the coast, billeted in an army hut with a lot of York and Lancasters, mostly miners, a poor lot of men. Then to Clipstone Camp where I joined the Signallers. From Clipstone we used to go into Mansfield where on Sunday we would go to a Chapel, they had what they called a P.S.A. (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) after a short service someone would take us out to tea. From Clipstone I went to France, where we were mainly billeted in farm buildings, occasionally in huts and tents. Although life was hard we never complained, even the 1916-17 winter which was terrible, was taken as a matter of course. One rather strange thing; we never had any bad colds. From September to March we were issued with three blankets, (April to September none)

sometimes two or three men would sleep together, of course we always slept on the floor.

### A few criticisms of the War in my humble opinion

The Infantry had the greatest danger, the worst conditions, the poorest billets and food and yet they had the least pay of any soldier in the army, it was a disgrace.

Lack of information; never told where you were going, if you went in the line you did not know if you were going over the top and if you did go over you did not know the objective, the one and only time was at Ypres.

### Training

On the whole not so good. In England similar conditions to France should have been made i.e. trenches, dugouts, Company and Battalion HQ's should have been set up with telephones whereas for instance signalling was always morse code done with a flag, something that was never done in actual warfare.

### Decorations

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air."

And so with decorations for many brave deeds were never seen and some seen but never recognised, some received them that never should have done, such as the R.E. Corporal on the 21st of March who came to the wireless station. He got the Military Medal.

The Meritorious Medal should never have been, this was given to men well behind the line such as orderly room clerks.

The V.C. and the D.C.M. in my opinion was always earned, there were a lot of brave men.

*Private Simpson later served in the 2/5th and 9th battalions.*



*'C' (DWR) Company 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers*

Colour Sergeant P. Sugden (left) and Colour Sergeant C. Dobson (right) respectively being presented with the LS & GC Medal and Lord Lieutenant's Certificate by Lord Ingrow, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE AUDIT OF WAR.** The Illusion and Reality of Britain as a Great Nation, by Corelli Barnett (Macmillan). £14.95.

There can be few people who have not wondered why so many of Britain's once great industries have declined so rapidly since the end of World War II. How is it, for instance, that other countries seem to be able to make better and cheaper cars than we can? For those seeking enlightenment, this book will provide some thought provoking answers as well as clear evidence that Britain's steady and continued industrial decline is not a recent phenomenon.

The book is arranged in four parts. Part I covers the immediate post war period and the decision of the British people to opt for what Corelli Barnett calls the New Jerusalem and the consequential decision to create the Welfare state, rather than spend a greater share of the available resources on restructuring the country's industrial base. The priorities which the people chose were based, in part, on their optimistic assessment of their performance during the War. Part II is devoted to exploding that myth. The audit which Mr Barnett carries out shows, with a wealth of supporting evidence, how the industrial machine failed, time and again, to cope with the requirements of war. The inadequacies and short comings of coal, steel, shipbuilding and aircraft industries are, in turn exposed as well as those in tank and radar production. For each it is a sorry tale of low productivity, indifferent design and, for the older industries, inadequate investment. In case after case shortfalls of vital components had to be made good from America. And not only components: The army did not have decent tanks in quantity until the arrival of the Grants and Shermans. Even as the war ended the writing was already on the wall as regards the prospects of Britain being a successful competitor in world trade.

In Part III the author examines some of the deep seated reasons for Britain's poor industrial performance. To me this was, in many ways, the most interesting part of the book. In a chapter dealing with the legacy of the Industrial Revolution an explanation is given on the way British working class

attitudes have developed and in particular the effect of poor housing and the lack of medical and other essential services in the segregated parts of the factory towns in which they were obliged to live. The next chapter "Education for Industrial decline" highlights, again with a wealth of evidence, the serious defects in the British educational and training systems. These include the emphasis of the public schools on producing 'educated gentlemen', and the lack of technical colleges for the training of a skilled workforce. This lack was in no small part due to the regard owners of businesses had for the 'practical man' and the related contempt for training! (When I was with the Rootes Group in 1966 I received a letter from a Director forbidding me to send managers on courses as "...The best way to learn is by practical experience"). Numerous Committees reported on the shortcomings of the British educational system. Thus in 1884: "the one point in which Germany is overwhelmingly superior to England is in schools, and in the education of all classes of people... the dense ignorance so common in England is unknown." Relatively there has not been all that much change in the 100 years which have elapsed since that report (i).

In the last part of the book the author further examines the deficiencies in the British educational system and the country's obsolete industrial culture, one result of which is that the country is now 14th in the non communist world, in terms of annual GNP per head.

This book, which is very readable as well as being highly informative, is recommended without qualification.

A. C. S. Savory

## Note

(i) In the "Iron Duke" No. 31 (June 1935) there is a report of an old soldier of the 33rd, who had first enlisted in the 3rd (Bombay European) Regiment in 1868. Half the regiment were Germans, who "owing to their higher standard of education were promoted in preference to their English comrades." The disparity between the British educational system and that of other countries has a long history.

## OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB 1986

By kind permission of Lieut. Colonel E. J. W. Walker, Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion, the officers dinner took place in the Officers' Mess at Kiwi Barracks, Bulford on Saturday 28th June. The evening commenced with the Beating of Retreat which was followed by dinner at which General Sir Charles Huxtable, Colonel of the Regiment, presided. There were 160 officers and their ladies present, including the Colonel in Chief and the Dutchess of Wellington. The guests were Brigadier J. F. W. Wilsey, Commander 1st Infantry Brigade, and Mrs. Wilsey. After the dinner there were Victory Beatings by the

Corps of Drums which was followed by dancing.

On Sunday morning there was a Regimental Service in the Garrison Church followed by a curry lunch in the Officers' Mess. Particularly for those living in the South the weekend was a rare opportunity for members of the Dinner Club to meet together on their old territory, the Officers' Mess. All those who were able to enjoy one or both of the functions will be grateful for the admirable arrangements that were made and will hope that it will not be too long before another similar opportunity arises again.

## FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENT APPEAL

The Friends of the Regiment Appeal was launched in 1980 with the object of raising money that could be used for financing regimental activities which cannot be supported from public funds or from the regimental benevolent funds. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 1986, published below, give details of a number of projects aided during the year, which otherwise would have been difficult to support.

During the current year a substantial grant has been made towards the cost of refurbishing the Regimental Museum.

The Appeal is particularly directed to former members of the Regiment, as serving officers and 90% of the Warrant Officers, Sergeants, NCOs and privates already contribute a days pay to the Regimental Association funds. A list of those former members of



the Regiment who generously contribute to the Appeal by way of an annual subscription or who have made a donation is also published below. In addition the Regiment has cause to be grateful to those who have left legacies to the Appeal fund.

There is no fixed subscription; but in the light of the amount being contributed to Regimental funds by

serving members of the regiment an annual subscription of £5 - £10, preferably by deed of covenant, is given as a guide. The necessary forms can be obtained from RHQ. Those who prefer to make a donation should send it to the Regimental Secretary, made payable to "DWR Central Fund A/C (FoR Appeal).

### FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENT APPEAL

Accounts for the period 1 April 85 - 31 March 86

	£		£
1. Value of fund as at 1 April 86	13294.17	Expenditure during account period	
2. Income during account period		Investments	7000.00
Subscriptions	969.00	Donation 1 Yorks	200.00
Tax recovery on subs	355.47	UST Tax recovery charges	26.65
Donations		Printing Covenant Forms	45.89
1 DWR - Bulford Garrison Church	100.00	Donation Turning VC Appeal	500.00
In memory of the late Maj. G. C. Tedd	300.00	Purchase of 33rd Regt Shako for	270.00
Other individuals	100.00	Museum	
Interest - Bank deposits	1125.74	Repairs to 2nd Bn DWR Colours	575.00
Investment Dividends	166.02	Container for old Colours in York	120.00
Tax recovery on Dividends	35.57	Minster	
Bequest Major G C Tedd	100.00		
Sale of Kirkland Silver	1075.24		
Total	4327.04	Total	8737.54
	4327.04	Balance as at 31 March 86	8883.67
	<u>17621.21</u>		<u>17621.21</u>

3. Investments	Nominal Amount Held	Market Value as at 31 March 86
	£	£
Exchequer 12½% 1990	1897.37	2039.67
Exchequer 11% 1991	4946.09	5131.57
	<u>6843.46</u>	<u>7171.24</u>

#### 4. Accumulated value of fund as at 31 March 86

	£
Cash at Bank	8883.67
Market Value of Investments	7171.24
Total	<u>16054.91</u>

#### Current Subscribers to the Appeal

A. B. M. Kavanagh	C. R. Taylor	J. E. Pell
K. M. McDonald	F. B. Murgatroyd	S. H. Kirk
W. N. Bray	H. Sugden	C. F. Grieve
D. Marsay	T. D. Sugden	R. M. Harms
D. Battye	E. J. P. Emmett	P. B. L. Hoppe
J. D. P. Cowell	D. H. Wood	J. W. Pyrah
R. M. L. Colville	H. S. LeMessurier	P. P. de la H. Moran
A. D. Firth	J. Dowdell	W. F. C. Robertson
L. F. H. Kershaw	J. M. Reddington	D. R. D. Newell
C. D. d'E Miller	R. H. Ince	C. R. T. Cumberlege
A. C. Jowett	D. E. Isles	P. F. Connolly
J. N. H. Naughton	J. Davidson	P. Hinchcliff
J. H. Dalrymple	D. C. Roberts	R. H. Jago
E. M. P. Hardy	F. J. Lauder	J. J. T. Sills
D. W. Shuttleworth	P. G. L. Cousens	J. Sykes
M. W. Summers	R. D. Campbell-Lamerton	St. J. T. Faulkner
C. Davies	J. L. Streatfeild	G. Blenkinsop
J. S. Milligan	G. F. Upjohn	W. A. Waller
J. H. Davis	F. R. St. P. Bunbury	L. Hill
E. J. Bentley	W. Robins	T. J. Coburn
A. C. S. Savory	E. M. Goodman-Smith	D. I. Strangeways
D. J. Stewart	P. A. Mitchell	R. M. Huffam
F. J. Reynolds	G. B. Howcroft	

**The following have made donations to the Appeal**

J. Horsfall  
P. H. Watson  
J. E. Horne  
E. Smith  
M. Clifton  
K. Gregory  
J. K. Sugden  
D. C. Hall  
B. C. T. Faithfull  
R. Norcliffe

D. A. Harpin  
P. M. Rumball  
J. H. Thomas  
R. G. Collins  
D. J. Stewart  
J. A. d'E Miller  
6th DWR TA OCA  
J. E. V. Butterfield  
E. Goodman-Smith

J. Lappin  
The Shaw Trust  
1 DWR  
Bulford Garrison Church  
D. T. Noon  
J. P. Hammond  
G. A. Reddington  
A. C. S. Savory  
J. E. Frankis

## Regimental Association

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM of the Regimental Association will be held in the Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield on Saturday 11 October at 6.30 pm. All members are welcome to attend. The Dinner will commence at 8.00 pm. Tickets at £6.30 per head are available through Branch Secretaries or RHQ. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to: "DWR Regimental Management Fund."

### THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME: COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AT THIEPVAL

The 70th anniversary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme was commemorated by a service at the British War Memorial at Thiepval on 1 July 1986. The battle, which lasted for four months, resulted in casualties, for both sides, which have been estimated at over 1 million men. The memorial at Thiepval bears the names of 73,000 officers and soldiers who were killed during the battle and who have no known graves; including 891 of the Regiment.

Representatives of all Regiments involved in the battle were invited to attend the service. Including representatives of the French Army it is estimated that over 5000 people were present. The very moving service was conducted by the Chaplain General to the Army, The Venerable Archdeacon W. F. Johnson, CB, QHC, MA in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent, who made a reading from "The Funeral Oration of Pericles". Music was provided by the bands of The Green Howards, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and The Royal Irish Rangers. The Green Howards also provided a bugler to sound the Last Post. A Piper of the Royal Scots played the Lament. Wreaths were laid during the ceremony by HRH The Duke of Kent plus a number of other British and French dignitaries, and afterwards by Regimental groups or individuals. A wreath from "The Colonel and All Members of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment" was laid by the Regimental

Secretary at the foot of the pillar of the memorial bearing the names of members of the Regiment. Following the service HRH The Duke of Kent shook hands with and spoke to all veterans present, who had been seated at the front of the service, and to many of the British Legion, Regimental and French Standard bearers, who lined the aisle. Bill Norman carried the Regimental Association Standard at the service.

A party of sixteen, headed by the Regimental Secretary and assisted by Bill Norman, were in the group that represented the Regiment, and who departed from Halifax on Monday 30th June for a four day trip. Veterans of the Somme in the party were:- Mr. Norman Booth of Golcar, Huddersfield, age 90, who enlisted with 7th DWR in 1912; Mr. James Gill of Haworth, age 91, who served with 1/6 DWR from 1914 and was twice wounded. Mrs Pearl Gill accompanied her husband; Mr. Percy Mallinson, of Dalton, Huddersfield, age 94, who enlisted in 7th DWR in 1908; Mr. Frank Stancliffe of Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, age 92, who enlisted with 5th DWR in 1912 and was awarded the Military Medal with 1/5 DWR in France; Mr. Harold Metcalf age 88 who enlisted in 1916 and served in France with 1/4th DWR and was twice wounded; Mr. Vic Simpson of Skipton, age 89, joined 6th DWR in 1914 and served in France with 8th, 9th and 5th DWR. His wife Nellie and two daughters joined him for the trip. One other veteran who joined the DWR party was Mr. Bill Mawby age 90 of Almondbury, Huddersfield who joined the 7th Bn Loyal North Lancs (Preston Pals) in 1914. The daughters of two other Somme veterans were also present. They were Mrs. Shiela Moorby of Clayton West, Huddersfield, the daughter of the late Stanley Whitaker and Mrs. Nellie North, the daughter of his brother, the late Norman Whitaker. Both brothers enlisted on the same day in 1914 and served in France with 1/5th DWR. Mr. Jeff North was also present.

Following the service and during the next day the party had the opportunity to visit some of the many British Military Cemeteries in the area and to have conducted tours of some of the battle grounds. Of particular interest was the area in front of Thiepval



*Commemorative service at Thiepval*  
The group at RHQ prior to departure

Wood from where, on 3rd September 1916, 1/4 and 1/5 DWR attacked with great loss but without success the German positions in the area of the Schwaben Redoubt. The Mill Road British Military Cemetery, which is on the site of the Schwaben Redoubt, contains the graves of many officers and men of the Regiment. The party were able to get as far as Havrincourt which, although outside the area of the Somme, has the Memorial of the 62nd West Riding Division in which four DWR battalions served and saw much action in 1917-18.

In the evenings it became obvious that some of our veterans had not lost their touch at putting down a beer or two or singing the songs popular in the First World War. By joining forces with a group on tour from some of the Lancashire Regiments a splendid vocal group was formed.

It was a poignant and memorable trip for all, though the heat was tiring for some of our veterans. It says much, however, for their spirit and stamina that they were prepared to undertake such a trip. All returned in good order. Financial assistance towards the costs of the DWR veterans was given from Regimental Association funds.

#### AROUND THE BRANCHES

**Bradford** are getting settled into their new routine,

meeting at the RAOB Club, Hallfield Road on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Mr. Cliff Frear, Secretary, has started planning for next year's London Dinner (25 April 1987) and is taking payment by instalments. There are plans in the offing for a games evening with the York Branch and an evening Dinner on a Canal Boat is a possibility.

**Halifax** is going from strength to strength since they amalgamated with the Honorary Sergeants Mess members. It is getting so that you have to come early for a good table.

**Huddersfield** are still going strong and have held their annual dinner at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall again. A great success for all who attended. A trip to Bridlington on the 7 June was thoroughly enjoyed.

**Keighley** meeting on the last Thursday of the month are always thinking up events. The next is on 7 November which will be a Disco and Supper. All branches are invited, as are the members of the old 6th Battalion. Should be quite a 'do'.

Tommy Gibson (Secretary) is getting in touch with all Branch Secretaries.

York have been experimenting with holding their meetings at the Sergeants Mess at Strensall on a Sunday lunchtime. The idea seems to be successful, but meetings are still being held on 1st Monday of the month at the Post Office Club with the occasional visit to Strensall. Quite a few plans in the offing but as yet nothing definite.

**Mossley** Sadly we have to record the death of Mr. Jack Powell on 18 April 1986. He had been Branch Chairman from 1970 until he retired in 1985. He was a most enthusiastic member and did sterling work in promoting the interests of the Branch and its members. The funeral was on 24 April and nearly all members attended.

Jack Powell joined the 7th Battalion in 1938 and was transferred to the newly formed 2/7th Battalion in early 1939 with which he served in France in 1940 being evacuated from St. Valery en Caux after much action in the area Abbeville/Dieppe. He remained with the 2/7th until it went into suspended animation in September 1943. Unfortunately little is known of his subsequent postings. He will be greatly missed.

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held on 7 May 1986 at which Chairman Mr. Jack Wood, Hon Secretary Mr. E. Cooke, and their Treasurer Mr. W. Middleton were re-elected.

**London** Our annual dinner and dance was held at the Park Court Hotel Lancaster Gate on Saturday, 26 April 1986 at 20.00 hours. Regrettably this year, the Colonel of the Regiment was unable to attend and our President deputised for him.

Eighty-two people sat down to dinner, including twelve from the 1st Battalion, twenty from the Yorkshire branches of the Association and two of our In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital. The 1st Battalion party was headed by the CO & Mrs Walker, the 21C, and the RSM. We were especially grateful to Col Walker, because after the President had replied to the Toast to the Regiment, he was able to give us all a first hand account of the 1st Battalion's recent activities and future moves.

Again this year, Cliff Frear, Secretary of the Bradford Branch, organised a party from Yorkshire. It is a real delight to see them and we hope they will come again next year.

Mr Geoff Nicholson proposed the toast to the Regiment and our President, Major Derrick Wood replied.

Our two pensioners to attend were Mr "Ginger" O'Shea and Mr Robert Peel. This was the first occasion that we have had the pleasure of meeting Mr Peel. We hope he and other pensioners will attend our functions for many years to come.

On 5 June, Majors Miller and Connolly and Mr Bob Temple attended the Founders' Day Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea at which the Reviewing Officer this year was Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. It was a most excellent parade and the weather was perfect compared with the soaking of last year.

Our branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 14 September. Full details will be sent to all branch members at a later date. Our next monthly

meeting will be held on Monday, 1 September at Vivian Court, Maida Vale, and thereafter on the last Monday of each month throughout the winter months.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on Sunday, 9 November and it is hoped that as many as possible will be able to join us at the Regimental plot, at the Field of Remembrance, on that day at 10.45 hours.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH . . .

A couple of letters and a long telephone call have been received at RHQ from **Ted Pennington** in Australia who served with the 1st Battalion from 1956 as a Sgt/C/Sgt/WOII and was RSM of the West Riding Bn DWR TA from 1964 to his retirement in 1966. He is well settled in Australia, his business is doing well, and he and his wife Cathy send good wishes to all old friends in the Regiment. Their address is PO Box 313, 39, Nelley Way, Wickham 6720, Australia.

Lieut Colonel Richard Ward has written giving news of a number of former Dukes' serving in the Ministry of Defence:

"I was invited to a celebratory drinks party in our Registry the other week to say farewell to one of our girls, **Sue Watson** only to learn that her father was in the Dukes' and her cousin is currently a Bandsman in the 1st Battalion. My head of Registry is WO2 **Colin Wykes**, ex ORS in the battalion, who just been selected for promotion to WO1 in the RAOC. Also in the Main Building is **Major Bob Hall** ex-mortar platoon commander who transferred to RAEC, went to Camberley and is now SO2 in the Defence Intelligence Services. Another ex-Duke, albeit briefly, is **Lieut Colonel (now RO), Dick Glazebrook**, whom many will remember as 2i/c in Belfast in 1971.

Recently I was attending a meeting of AFCENT in Germany and invited my RAF contact, Flight Lieut **Eric Hayes** to accompany me. We had not previously met in uniform so he had no idea I was a Duke. He is **James'** brother. I had literally just received my ID with **James'** article on Korea and had it in my briefcase. It sometimes really is a small world."

## Obituary

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

### **Major R. Callaby, MM, MBE.**

Bob Callaby died at home in Queensbury, Halifax on 9 May 1986 age 70. He had not been well for some time, following a stroke seven years ago. Bob joined the Territorial Army in 1934 serving with the RAMC until 1940 when he transferred to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, initially in the 10th Battalion. He was posted to the 1st Battalion as a Sergeant in 1942 and was awarded the Military Medal for action in Italy. He was made CSM towards the end of the War and was CSM of 'A' Company throughout the Battalion's tour in Korea. He was RSM of the Depot in Halifax prior to being Commissioned in 1957 when he returned to the 1st Battalion for a short period before taking over as Quartermaster of the 5/7th Bn DWR TA. He was Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion from 1959 to 1964 and accompanied them on the two emergency tours to Kenya in the early sixties. He was awarded the MBE in 1965 and in the same year became Quartermaster of the West Riding Battalion DWR TA where he remained until his retirement from the Regular Army in November 1967. He continued to serve as a TA Officer until 1970. Bob Callaby was a willing, cheerful and loyal member of the Regiment who was greatly respected by all who served with him.

The funeral service in Queensbury Parish Church was attended by the Regimental Secretary Lieut Col W. Robins, Major J. S. Milligan, Major P. B. L. Hoppe, Major S. H. Kirk, Major K. M. McDonald, Mr. J. Russel, Mr. J. Fitton and Drm Lambert of the 1st Battalion.

### **Captain B. G. Buxton, MBE, MC, MA.**

Godfrey Buxton died at his home in Camberley on 1 June age 91. He enlisted in the Army on 4 September 1914 and was commissioned into the 6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment Shortly afterwards. He went to France with the Battalion early in 1915 and there earned the MC and bar. The citation for his second MC, referring to a raid on the German trenches, reads "His party had brought back five prisoners and one machine gun and when they withdrew he stayed behind in "No Mans Land" to help collect the wounded. His keenness and energy before the raid and fine leadership during the operation were largely responsible for the success obtained". He was wounded four times, quite seriously on the final occasion which left him with some disability.

He was awarded the MBE in 1979 for many years devoted service to the Officers Christain Union for whom he held regular meetings at RMA Sandhurst and elsewhere.

Godfrey Buxton was a kind and generous person who recalled his service in the Army and the Regiment with pride and great devotion. His memories of his experiences in France were vivid and were reflected in his concern for the welfare of the young officers of today.

A Service of Farewell and Thanksgiving was held in St. Paul's Church, Camberley which was very well attended. Readings were made on behalf of the Church in Japan by The Revd Akira Oda and by Godfrey Buxton's niece, Dame Diana Reader Harris, DBE. Brigadier David Stileman, President of the Officers Christain Union, gave the address. Major Lewis Kershaw represented the Regiment.

### **Lieut Colonel D. Crawley MC, QLR**

Douglas Crawley, who will have been known to many members of the Regiment, died on 13 May in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, age 66.

Commissioned into the Loyals in October 1939 he served with 2 Para during the War and was awarded an MC in North Africa in 1943 and a bar for actions at Arnhem when he was a Company Commander. He Commanded 1 Loyals 1961-62 and was the first AAG on the formation of Headquarters King's Division. On leaving the army he worked at the Infantry Manning and Records Office in York. He retired in 1985.

### **Major P. B. Tanner (late notification)**

Philip Tanner died at Oldham on 19 March 1985, age 78. He was the son of Brevet Colonel Sir Gilbert Tanner DSO, TD formerly of the 7th Battalion and was commissioned into the same battalion in 1928. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was commanding a company in 1/7th Battalion. He served with the Battalion in Iceland; but in 1941 was released for essential work in industry. In March 1944 he was recalled and later, following the invasion of France, was appointed a Town Major. On the death of his father he became Chairman of Tanner Bros (Greenfield), a position he continued to hold until a few months before his death.

### **Mrs. E. M. M. Crommelin**

Mrs. Emily Crommelin, the widow of the late Wing Commander Henry Arden Crommelin AFC, died in Hospital on 28 March 1986 and a Cremation Service was held at the Cheltenham Crematorium on 8 April 1986. Wing Commander Crommelin served in the Regiment between 1918 and 1935 with spells on secondment to the RAF. He rejoined the RAF in 1939 and served throughout the War as a flying instructor. He died in 1976.

### **Mr. S. M. Bayliss**

Sam Bayliss died on 21 February 1986, age 80. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1924, having previously served with the South Staffordshire (TA). After training at Halifax he joined the 1st Battalion, then at Gosport. Six months later he was posted to the 2nd Battalion and thereafter served in Egypt, Singapore and India. He was discharged in 1932. Recalled in 1939 he served in France and was at Dunkirk. He finally left the army in 1945.



## NOTICES

## THE UNION JACK CLUB OFFICERS' ANNEXE

There is an Officers' Annexe at the Union Jack Club. It consists of one complete floor of 19 single bedrooms for both men and women with supporting baths, showers and lavatories, and a separate bar/anteroom, television and dining room. Individual twin-bedded rooms in the families block can also be allocated to officers' families when available. Cot facilities exist for babies and very young children.

All officers, retired officers, and their immediate families, whether accompanying an officer or not, are eligible to use the Annexe. Officers are not required to take out full membership of the Club or pay any form of annual subscription. Those wishing to use the Annexe will be treated as Temporary Honorary Members (THMs), which means that they will be able to use all the facilities of the Annexe while staying at the Club. For security reasons proof of service identity is required to be shown at the door. Those booking accommodation in advance will be sent THM reservation forms.

All meals, including breakfast, are paid for as taken. Breakfast is available every day from 7.30 am to 10.00 am. No luncheon facilities are available in the Annexe. Evening meals are served between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm. The bar in the anteroom open from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Accommodation charges per night are as follows:-

Single Room ..... £13.00  
Twin Bedded room ..... £23.00

Children 3 - 12 years ..... £5.00  
Children under 3 years  
when sharing parent's room ..... Free

Pressure on rooms, particularly twin-bedded rooms, is very heavy on Friday and Saturday nights with rooms 100% booked for some weekends. Officers and their families are therefore advised to book early particularly for these two nights.

The Club is located near Waterloo Station. The address is: Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, SE1 8UJ. Telephone 01-928-6401.

### NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM EXHIBITION (RAIDERS: THE STORY OF THE ARMY COMMANDOS 1940-46)

From July 1986 to April 1987 the National Army Museum will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the disbandment of the Army Commandos with a major exhibition.

The exhibition will use exciting reconstructions, audio-visual programmes and a host of dramatic exhibits to illustrate Commando training, tactics and organisation, and to recount their raids and campaigns undertaken in Scandinavia, North West Europe, Africa, the Mediterranean and the Far East. Special features will include the Vaagso raid, an LCA landing Commandos on D-Day, a Special Boat Section raid and a Weasel amphibious vehicle.



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