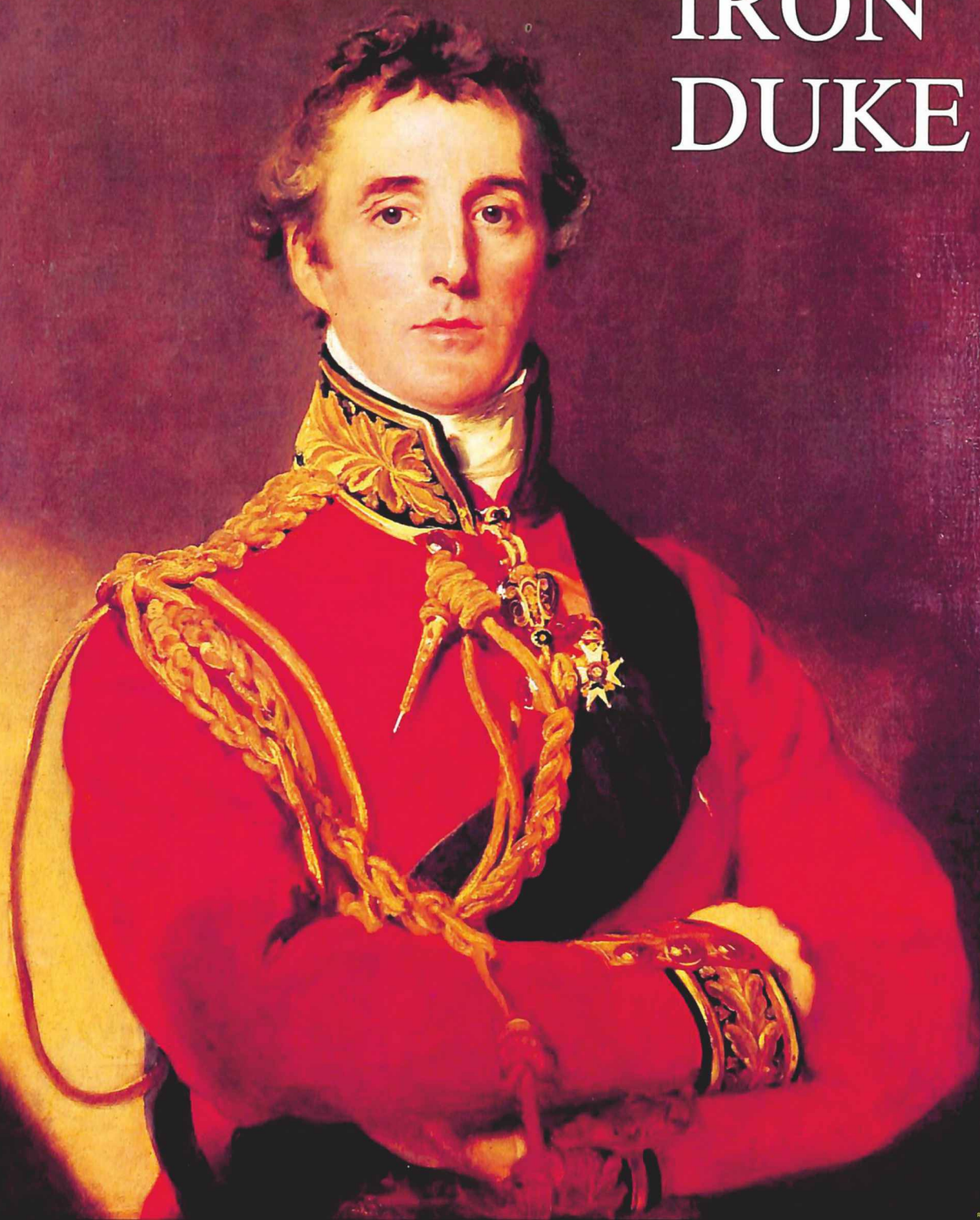


No.202 December 1986

THE
IRON
DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



*Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suvla
Afghanistan 1919
North-West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St Valery-en-Caux
Fontenay-le-Pesnil
Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53*

Vol. LVI

December 1986

No. 202

BUSINESS NOTES

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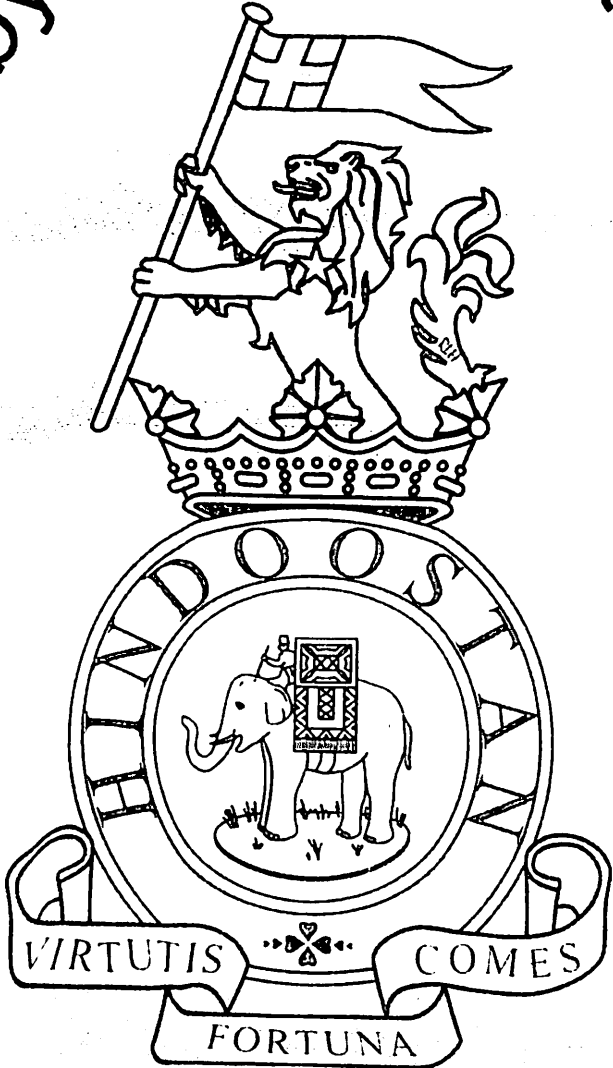
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Digitised by The Regimental Archives



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
MOD, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB
AMA: Major S. C. Newton

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

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Regimental Secretary: Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE
Assistant Regimental Secretary:

THE 1st BATTALION

Kiwi Barracks, Bulford, Wiltshire
CO: Lieut Colonel E. J. W. Walker Adjutant: Captain C. A. Harvey
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*



Lieutenant Colonel A. D. Roberts

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT.

Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE assumed the appointment of Quartermaster General on 6th October 1986.

Major S. C. Newton was appointed AMA to General Huxtable on 8th December 1986.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS.

Colonel R. R. StJ. Barkshire, TD. was appointed Honorary Colonel 6/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, Territorial Army, on 31st July 1986.

Lieut Colonel A. R. Redwood-Davies, MBE is to command 6 UDR (Co Tyrone) from October 1987.

Major P. J. Mellow has been selected for promotion and is to be appointed to command the Junior Infantry Battalion. (Scottish and King's Divisions) from October 1987.

Colonel J. R. P. Cumberlege retired on 19th December 1986.

ASSISTANT REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

Captain Tom Pickersgill, who has been Assistant Regimental Secretary and Business Manager of the 'Iron Duke' since June 1982, resigned at the end of November having been appointed PSAO with C Company 5 RRF TA, Ashton-Under-Lyne. His replacement at RHQ has not yet been appointed.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Recent acquisitions include:-

- The medals of the late Private W. F. Witts MM, who served with 1/4th Battalion during World War I. Donated by his son, Mr. D. Witts of Wakefield.
- Various items of uniform (including a full dress tunic), equipment, maps, and other documents. Donated by Brigadier A. D. Firth OBE, MC. Brigadier Firth has also kindly donated a King Edward VII sword, which belonged to his father, with the request that it be presented to a recently commissioned young regular officer.
- A copy of the file of the Military Secretary of the Indian Office relating to the replacement of the Honorary Colours in 1888 and 1906. On both occasions the new Colours were provided at the expense of the Indian Office and it is clear, from the contents of the file, that before providing the Colours the India Office sought and obtained the approval of the War Office. The file was traced by a professional researcher, following a briefing from Major A. C. S. Savory.

RUGBY CAPS OF THE LATE RSM G. W. ANNESLEY, MBE

The family of the late RSM G. W. Annesley, MBE have donated his Rugby Caps to the Regiment.

'Joe', as he was known throughout the Regiment, enlisted in 1919 and joined the 2nd Battalion later the same year. He served in Ireland, Egypt, Palestine and Singapore before moving to the 1st Battalion with whom he served in UK, Malta and France 1939-40. He was RSM of the Battalion from 1943-45 and served with great distinction throughout the heavy fighting in North Africa and Italy. He was awarded the MBE in 1945.

His Caps record him as a member of the 2nd Battalion teams in 1925-26-27-28-29, the 1st Battalion teams in 1929-30-31-32-33-34 and the Depot 1934-35-36. He also played for the Army against the RAF in 1930.

The Caps have been handed over to the 1st Battalion and it is hoped they will go on display in the Sergeants Mess.

RELOCATION OF COLOURS REMOVED FROM YORK MINSTER

In 1969 the Regiment was invited to remove from the Regimental Chapel, in York Minster, six stands of Colours that had been laid up there in 1925 and 1926. The Minister authorities considered that the Colours had deteriorated to such an extent that they were no longer suitable for display in the Chapel. The Colours have now been relocated as follows:-

- Colours of the 33rd Regiment, 1832-1863 and 1879-1925; and Colours of the 76th Regiment 1830-1863: Unfit for further display and now lodged in a container below the Altar in the Regimental Chapel.
- Colours of VI West Yorks. Militia 1864-1881 - later 3rd Militia Battalion DWR 1881-1889: Framed and displayed by 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers.
- Colours of 4th (Militia) Battalion DWR 1889-1895: Framed and displayed by 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers.
- Colours of 4th (TA) Battalion DWR 1908-1927: Framed and displayed by 'C' (DWR) Company 1st Yorkshire Volunteers.

REGIMENTAL COLOUR OF THE 4th WEST RIDING VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

A Regimental Colour of the 4th West Riding Volunteers recently turned up in an antique shop in the Piece Hall, Halifax.

The 4th West Riding Volunteers were raised in 1858 and in the following year were presented with a Stand of Colours on behalf of the ladies of Halifax, who had made them. The Regimental Colour was worked on a scarlet field and had as a centre badge the arms of the borough of Halifax. In 1883 the title of the Corps was changed to 1st Volunteer Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment and the old centre badge was replaced with the crest of the Duke of Wellington. On formation of the Territorial Force

in 1908 the battalion became the 4th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The Colours were thereupon laid up in All Saints Church, Haley Hill, Halifax. The Church was closed some eight years ago but, apparently, the Colours were not then removed. This oversight was made good by the thief who sold the Regimental Colour to the antique dealer. The records at RHQ show that the Colours used to be regularly paraded in the Piece Hall Square, which adds insult to injury.

The whereabouts of the Queens Colour is not, at present, known. The recovered Colour is in the hands of the police; but the Regiment is hoping to acquire it after any legal proceedings have been completed.

SERGEANT JAMES FIRTH VC

It recently came to the notice of RHQ that the grave of Sergeant James Firth VC, which is in Burngreave Cemetery, Sheffield, was in a state of neglect. Mrs Majorie Firth, Sergeant Firth's daughter in law, was contacted and she readily gave her permission for the

grave to be tidied up. Lieut. Colonel E. J. W. Walker thereupon arranged for four soldiers of the 1st Battalion to proceed to Sheffield to clean the headstone and to tidy up the grave. After completing the task and having re-seated the headstone in bricks and cement, arrangements were made for Mrs Majorie Firth to be driven to the cemetery where she expressed her pride and gratitude at what had been done.

Sergeant James Firth was a member of 'H' Company 1DWR during the Boer War. The company had been converted to Mounted Infantry and was one of the four (the others were from the Buffs, Gloucesters and the Oxford LI) which formed the 1st Battalion MI in an independent brigade under the command of General Clements. At the end of February 1900 General Clements, whose principal task was to stop the Boers interfering with the lines of communication, was operating around Arundel, Cape Colony. It was there, at Plowman's Farm, that Sergeant Firth won his VC when, on two separate occasions, he carried wounded men to safety. On the second occasion he was shot through the nose and eye. Sergeant Firth's VC is no longer in the possession of the family, having been sold some years ago.



The grave of Sergeant James Firth VC
Mrs. Marjorie Firth with Private G. Till, S. Wilson, N. Martin and Harber and Captain T. Pickersgill.

SERGEANT ARNOLD LOOSEMORE VC, DCM.

Reference was made in the August issue if the 'Iron Duke' to the consideration then being given as to how money might be raised to purchase Sergeant Loosemore's medals. However before any action could be taken RHQ learnt that the medals had been sold privately.

In the February 1930 'Iron Duke' there were published extracts from the diary of CSM E. Miles of 8th DWR. The entry for 7th September 1917 read: "Private Loosemore gets the VC. Hurray! It has just come through. ...I feel quite proud, as this is the second VC in my company and the third in the battalion." There is no record of the two other VCs and it is not therefore known to whom CSM Miles was referring. He must have had some basis for his statement, but there is nothing in the Regimental records to support it.

LEEDS GRAMMAR SCHOOL CCF

In his capacity as Deputy Commander NE District, Brigadier W. R. Mundell OBE visited Leeds Grammar School CCF on 9th October 1986. His visit was doubly welcome for not only is Brigadier Mundell an old boy of the school, but it was he, while commanding the 1st Battalion, who was responsible for reviving the link between the Regiment and the school. That link has been further strengthened by 2nd Lieut R. G. Best, who recently joined the 1st Battalion and who was also educated at Leeds GS.

WELLESLEY COMPANY, YORKSHIRE ACF

Thirty two cadets, representing all five Duked's detachments, attended the senior Annual Camp at Otterburn. Typically, of a somewhat wet summer, it rained every day; but spirits were not dampened. Cadet CSM G. Jessop of Huddersfield Detachment, won the Area Air Rifle Competition and Cadet P. Dubinsky, of the Halifax Detachment, the Area Rifle Pool Bull Competition.

Three ex-members of the 1st Battalion have recently joined Wellesley Company. They are ex-Corporal D. Cole now with Huddersfield Detachment and ex-Bandsmen J. Sidebottom and P. Sharpe who are with the Halifax Detachment.

"THE MONOCOLED MUTINEER"

The television programme, 'The Monocoled Mutineer' aroused some controversy because, it was claimed, it mixed fact with fiction to an unacceptable degree. As a result the producers of the programme were the recipients of some highly critical remarks.

However, they had one distinguished supporter, who had the advantage of having been a witness of the mutiny at Etaples in 1917 about which much of the controversy raged. On 4th October 'The Daily Telegraph' published the following letter from General Sir Philip Christison, Bart (Colonel of the Regiment 1947- 1957):-

"Sir - As an eye witness of the events on Sept. 8th 1917, I must congratulate the BBC on a very good TV drama, "The Monocled Mutineer".

The scenes of the mob in Etaples were overdrawn, and more might have been made of the arson and murders in the MP lines, but generally it was correct background for the drama.

Percy Toplis may well have been one of the mutineers, even a leading one, but he was not the chief one.

This was a very large, powerful sergeant in the Gordon Highlanders. I was, with one or two other officers, at the bridge into Rouen about 5.30 p.m. We were persuading young conscripts not to get into trouble; with some success.

I personally saw the Gordon sergeant arguing with the officer of the guard on the bridge. He then brushed him aside and the mob poured over the bridge and into the town. It should be remembered that there were some 15,000 men in the Depot and that only a few hundred took part in the mutiny.

Gen. Sir Philip Christison,
Melrose, Roxburghshire."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 8th March 1987

Regimental Association: Branch Management Committee meeting. RHQ

Saturday 25th April 1987

London Branch, Regimental Association: Dinner, Park Court Hotel.

Friday, 19th June 1987

Regimental Council: Meeting, Apsley House.

Friday, 19th June 1987

Officers Annual Dinner: Army and Navy Club London.

Sunday, 23rd August 1987

Regimental Association: Branch Management Committee meeting. RHQ.

Thursday, 3rd September 1987

Regimental Association: Trustees meeting. RHQ

Saturday, 19th September 1987

Regimental Association: AGM and reunion dinner. Huddersfield.

Saturday, 14th November 1987

York Minster; Service and Lunch

LIEUTENANT COLONEL A. D. ROBERTS. MBE

Lieut Colonel Alistair Roberts will succeed Lieut Colonel Johnny Walker as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion on 5th January 1987. Lieut Colonel Roberts, who is the son of Major Derek Roberts, was commissioned from Mons in January 1967, joining the 1st Battalion in Osnabruck just in time for its first UN tour in Cyprus. He served as a platoon

commander in Gillingham and Hong Kong before becoming Intelligence Officer for the Battalion's first tour in Northern Ireland - Belfast 1971. He was GSO 3 Intelligence 39th Infantry Brigade (Belfast) 1971-73, during which time he was awarded the MBE, and then Adjutant 1st Battalion 1973-75 in Ballykelly and Aldershot. There followed a tour as an instructor at

RMA Sandhurst 1975-77, a brief return to the Battalion for the Londonderry tour and then 2 years at RMCS Shrivenham (1978) and the Staff College Camberley (1979). From the Staff College he was posted to the British Embassy, Washington, as GSO2 (W), returning to the Battalion for his company commander tour 1982-84, which included spells in South Armagh, Catterick and Gibraltar. A short tour as DCOS G1/G4 1st Infantry Brigade in Tidworth was followed by his current posting as SO1(W) DS RMCS Shrivenham, where he has been instructing the Army Staff Course in Depth Surveillance and Target Acquisition.

He was, and still is, a keen sportsman, and has represented the Battalion at rugby, cricket, squash and cross country. He is an enthusiastic skier, offshore sailor and windsurfer. He is Master of the RMCS Beagles and his hobbies include gameshooting, bridge and home brewing. Not to be outdone his wife Carolyn, has this year been parachuting, gliding and skippered a Contessa 32 in the Staff Colleges Regatta. She, also, is a keen windsurfer and skier beside being an accomplished horsewoman. Lieut Colonel and Mrs Roberts have two children; Rhiannon aged 9 and Rebecca age 6.

1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

The large scale NATO exercise, "Bold Guard", is behind us, we have visited Palace Barracks, Holywood, on the initial recce, the new Waterloo Company (Close Observation Platoon (COP) and Intelligence Platoon) is in its infancy, we're through the first round of the Cup and into the third round of the football cup.

Looking back "Bold Guard" was an experience not to be missed, particularly having geared ourselves to it for nearly two years. The outloading of over a hundred vehicles, stocks and material and nearly 600 soldiers of the Battalion in accordance with the operational deployment plans, the sea crossing and preparation of a defensive position, all without hitch, was an enormous achievement on the part of both the

planners and the soldiers. A very good period of "cross training" with 173 Panzer Grenadier Battalion, R. & R. in Hamburg, an outstanding inter-platoon competition organized by OC Alma Company, and a win against the Welsh Guards were probably the highlights of the exercise for the soldiers. One task was demonstrating a company positional defence not only to a full range of national and NATO visitors but also a group of Warsaw Pact observers led by a Russian General. As happens on large exercises there were periods of inactivity for the soldiers but by and large the 33rd was fortunate with the involvement it had.

So NATO, "Bold Guard" and the UKMF are all but behind us - and all eyes are on a two year accompanied tour to Holywood and deployment to



State visit of the President of West Germany

The 1st Battalion was required to line part of the route, in Victoria Street and Parliament Square, during the State visit. The photograph shows the Battalion marching off from the Horse Guards parade to take up its position on the route.

South Armagh. Hitherto the Holywood Battalion has deployed a company or more to Belfast on a regular basis. On arrival in February we will not go to Belfast but will deploy a company on a similar basis to under command the Bessbrook battalion - the whole area well known to many readers.

The news has put some essential bite into the battalion training. As you read this we will have re-organized - again - and completed our own training for this our eighth tour since 1971. January sees a period of confirmatory training at Lydd and Hythe and Stanford before the Battalion deploys in February. There is no doubt that this next tour promises to be every bit as exciting and rewarding for the Battalion particularly as it is five years since we were last in Northern Ireland and most of the soldiers and all the subalterns have not yet been to the

Province. But a two year tour should allow for some pacing and much of normal Garrison life to continue.

And so with the move from Bulford we will close another chapter on regimental history and end what has been a wholly worthwhile tour in 1 Infantry Brigade and the United Kingdom Mobile Force. Whilst we haven't won the cup again yet (not for want of trying), we have all had possibly one of the most exciting and demanding periods of soldiering in our lives. Variety has certainly been the spice of life during the Bulford tour and each of the Messes has a considerable depth of experience upon which to draw in the years ahead, largely because the home base has been sound and the officers, NCOs and soldiers have for the most part been doing exactly what they all joined the Army to do. The Battalion is on cracking form and well set for Northern Ireland again.

OFFICERS' MESS

Mess members were largely on leave during August but there was time for an "end of term" party before departing for the holidays. This was held under the auspices of Borwell, Bruce and Stone in the Mess Annex. The register was called at the start of the evening and anyone who was late was caned by Peter Mellor.

Entertainment started again promptly on the 2nd September with the Silver Putter Golf Competition. General Charles, Colonel's Charles Cumberlege and Peter Mitchell, Father Alberic (John Stacpoole) and

Wes Higginson were with us for the day.

An early farewell cocktail party was held on 6th September to say goodbye to various people in Bulford and Tidworth and later in the evening a supper party was held for Mess members and private guests.

In the week following our return from Exercise "Bold Guard" a lively impromptu party was held immediately prior to Duncan Bruce's departure to the School of Infantry, on posting.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

During the past four months there's been one type of function or another most weekends. We celebrated Waterloo Day albeit a week late, entertained the Corporals' Mess to a games night which we won and spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon being trounced by the wives at Baseball (they called it rounders for some reason). We hosted a weekend visit by a cricket team from Barnsley. Good summer weather let us play for about two hours before we had to adjourn to the bar because of rain.

The main function for this period was our summer Ball held at Tidworth. As usual it was a great success.

During our stay in Germany on Exercise "Bold Guard" we played our opposite numbers in 173 Panzier Grenadier Bn. We were beaten 2-0, Sgt Paul Maltby missed a penalty, but they had the air of a team supplemented by half the Hamburg SV Team.



Colour Sergeant E. S. Maillard and Sergeant M. Turner with their newly presented LS & GC medals.

ALMA COMPANY

OC	Major A. D. Meek
21C	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

In many aspects Exercise "Bold Guard" was like any large field training exercise (FTX) that is held in Germany. Long periods of relative inactivity were followed by frantic spurts of movement. This is inevitable if the staffs at Brigade and Divisional Headquarters are to be exercised properly: time has to be allowed for them to do their sums prior to anything happening at platoon or company level. However for Alma Company for the first part of "Bold Guard" was very different to any other FTX as we were to participate in a demonstration of "The Battalion Group in Positional Defence".

The reason for the demonstration goes back to 1973 and the Helsinki Agreement at which NATO and the Warsaw Pact agreed to invite observers to each others major exercises. Such observers would be able to confirm that any large scale military manoeuvre was not a prelude to a surprise attack, rather a normal training event. Exercise "Bold Guard" fitted into the category of a 'large military exercise' and thus observers from the Warsaw Pact were invited. They followed a set programme which included a visit to 1 Infantry Brigade and it was for this visit that the demonstration was held.

Much burning of midnight oil had already taken place in England prior to the Exercise. Stores were ordered, specialist teams warned off and draft scripts produced. On arrival in the Exercise area three days were given to polishing and display. Such a lengthy preparatory phase may seem wasteful but with so many different agencies to coordinate every minute was required. The idea for the demonstration was to place all visitors (there were to be over 300 on the day) in the role of attackers. Following a briefing by the Brigade Commander the guests were invited to get into 8 tonne vehicles which represented APCs. They then drove towards the Company defensive position. On the way they were engaged by RAF Harriers, artillery, TOW Missiles fired from Lynx helicopters secreted behind trees 2000 metres away and then some of the Battalion MILAN posts. At this stage the vehicles halted and the passengers dismounted to walk through the minefield and wire and then onto the Company position itself, being engaged by gunners and rifle men who were well dug in to their front. (Naturally all the firing was blank but nevertheless an impressive amount of noise and smoke was raised for the 20 minutes it took the visitors to get from the start line to their objective.)

Once on the Company position we had our first sight of the visitors as they were briefed by the Commanding Officer. The Warsaw Pact observers were the centre of attraction - a real Russian general with his flunkies - who to a man maintained a stony countenance. This may well have been due to them having to walk in their nicely polished shoes across a very muddy field. Other visitors included Mr. John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, numerous senior UK and NATO officers, and a whole phalanx of pressmen.

Once the CO had finished his talk the Brigadier concluded the demonstration by asking the visitors to visit the position and talk to the soldiers. Up to this moment the reporters had managed to restrain themselves but now came the stampede: elbowing each other in efforts to get interviews with everybody and anybody! After 15 minutes of chaos the visitors

started to move off to their next event leaving Alma Company in relative peace and quiet.

In retrospect the demonstration has been an undoubted success. On the day everything worked - even the RAF Harriers arrived bang on cue and in the right spot - and the guests were given a clear idea of how difficult it should be to overcome a properly prepared defensive position with all the support a Battalion Group could expect. The value to those participating in such an event is much more difficult to quantify: the Company was given more than sufficient defence stores to build really good trenches despite the fact that it took two attempts and much toil to achieve the required design. We also saw exactly how the defensive battle should be fought which is never possible on most exercises because very few of the special effects are available. The only disadvantage for us was that by being involved in such a high powered demonstration we were not able always to concentrate on the exercise which continued around us. Nevertheless it was a memorable day.



Exercise "Bold Guard"
"Its over there Sir". Lance Cpl Hunter, Alma Company, shows the way to the Commanding Officer

BURMA COMPANY

OC	Major C. Grieve
2IC	Capt M. G. Tuley
CSM	WO2 W. Logan
CQMS	CSgt R. Pierce

4 Platoon
2nd Lieut R. Preston
Sgt G. Broadhead

5 Platoon
Lieut R. Best
Sgt P. Connolly

6 Platoon
2nd Lieut D. Harvey
Sgt B. Doyle

The highlight of the in country training phase of Exercise "Bold Guard" must surely have been the cross training day with our German allies; not least because it ended in company barbeques with 173 Panzar Grenadier Battalion and 3 Company of 171 Panzar Grenadier Battalion. There was a morning of sport competitions, including shooting with each others primary weapons, followed by an afternoon of demonstrations of military skills and equipment. It all culminated in mutual presentations by the two Commanding Officers, to the victors of the morning, immediately prior to the barbeques.

Burma Company, in line with the rest of the Battalion, entered a team in each of the football, volleyball, tug of war and shooting competitions. The football team fared the best, being placed third. This was the highest place achieved by any Dukes' team, despite the German officials being adamant that our teams could not wear studded boots whereas theirs could! The shooting team, in the guise of UKMF Team 8, were similarly placed. It was an interesting experience firing our German counterparts weapons. Certainly the GOC - Major General BM Lane CB OBE paid close attention to this aspect of cross training when he visited. At the end of the morning it was a stampede back to the tented camp to catch the

final of the tug of war between Somme and Alma. Honours went to Somme.

In the afternoon Oberstleutnant Schmidt (CO 173 Pz Gren Bn) made us all green with envy. He showed us his headquarters and a company's worth of armoured vehicles. After an interlude consisting of a talk from the Brigade Commander it was our turn. The OC and a composite platoon led by Lieutenant Rob Preston demonstrated two up and bags of smoke after a helicopter ride.

During the presentations at the end of the day we were treated to a display by a German Youth Band. Rather unusual in a tented camp no doubt, but they performed bravely in the face of two Battalion's worth of calls and cheers. Our football team was presented with a number of footballs 'to practice with' and a game of volleyball-with-no-net ensued between the assembled multitude. Any remaining ice was broken when Oberstleutnant Schmidt lifted up the ex-Adutant, Captain Wood, so that he could speak into the microphone to announce the German teams required for presentations. Burma actually hosted 3 Company of 171 Pz Gren Bn during the evening. They proved to be much like ourselves: they like barbeques, they like beer...



Exercise "Bold Guard" - cross training.

Burma Company football team receive their prizes from the O.C. 173 Panzar Grenadier Battalion.

CORUNNA COMPANY

OC	Major D. L. J. Harrap
2IC	Lieut M. A. Twelftree
CSM	WO2 T. E. Cooper
CQMS	CSgt D. A. Hughes

7 Platoon

Lieut M. A. Lodge
Sgt M. Varley

8 Platoon

Lieut T. A. Brear
Sgt A. J. S. Sutcliffe

9 Platoon

Lieut R. C. Holroyd
Sgt D. E. Dowdall

Following many months of build up, it was no surprise that the move out to Germany for exercise "Bold Guard" from our barracks in England went smoothly, half the Battalion going by sea and the remainder by air. Despite taking the best part of two days to get there, the sea party undoubtedly had the better of the bargain with an 18 hour crossing from Harwich to Brunsbuttel and its unfettered opportunities to sample an excellent Danish smorgasbord washed down in traditional style with plenty of good German beer. Certainly by the time we got into the Battalion camp on Holtigbaum training area, just outside Hamburg, morale was sky high. We looked forward first of all to exercise "Initial Canter" (a tough and demanding 48 hour inter platoon competition), a day of cross training with a local German Panzer Grenadier Battalion, a day of R. & R. sampling the delights of Hamburg (not just the Reeperbahn) and finally the FTX itself.

Exercise "Bold Guard" was one of the largest NATO exercises due to take place this autumn involving some 65,000 service personnel from 5 nations, our own 1 Infantry Brigade coming under command of the 6th German Armoured Infantry Division. As such it was the first opportunity for many of our soldiers and junior officers to experience the scale of such an exercise and the freedom offered in Germany to operate almost without restriction over the open countryside and through the towns. Lieut Twelftree, the company 2IC, was heard to say on more than one occasion. "I can't believe it - not only have we dug holes all over the fields and then the farmers give us all a wave as they go by, but then they ask if we mind if they carry on ploughing!". It was a very noticeable feature of the whole exercise, the warmth with which we were received by the local people and their friendly tolerance of the noise and disruption they inevitably suffered to their daily lives.

The first phase of the FTX was a defensive battle. The 'Dukes' battle group was deployed on the forward southern flank of the brigade area facing south west towards the inner German border; the centre of the battle group area being a large armoured killing area with A company in depth, at the bottom of the 'sack', B company forward left and C company forward right. The whole of the Battalion area was a network of small fields and built up hedgerows which made siting of weapons difficult. However the main concern to the soldier in the trench was the incredible ease of digging in the sandy soil and a novel problem, for most, of the high water table. Quite a number of trenches in the Battalion area had to be re-sited to avoid their occupants spending 4 days standing knee deep in water.

Once dug in, the company had a quiet time while everyone's attention was focused on the



Exercise "Bold Guard"
'Revetting' - Corunna Company dig in.

demonstration by A company. Light relief was provided by a platoon commander lost down one of the overgrown wells while touring his platoon's position and later his frenzied contact report of a major enemy armoured assault which turned out to be the dress rehearsal for the demonstration - at least, that was the story being put around by the sergeant of his platoon, anxious to find nominations for the Rupert of the Year award.

Immediately the demonstration was over the company was visited by the GOC Major General Barry Lane. True to his reputation he asked a series of searching and detailed questions. All went well, though he was a puzzled man when he spoke to Pte Sutcliffe, the 7 platoon air sentry, asking him, "Are you on weapons tight?". Pte Sutcliffe firmly gripped his Larch pole mounted (Air Defence Mount) GPMG, gave it a vigorous shake and replied with confidence, "Yes Sir, its very tight." Overall the General's major concern was the lack of activity we had till then on the exercise - so far only one contact by LCpl Mosley's section when an alert sentry spotted a Danish long range reconnaissance patrol trying to infiltrate their position in the dark and opened fire. The General left us promising to ensure we would not be left idle for long. Barely had he gone than we received a warning order for the battalion to secure a start line forward of the FEBA for a counter attack by 16 German Brigade.

For Corunna it was a night of considerable activity. First a very hurried move by truck in the dark along narrow, winding, forest tracks during which one of the trucks slid off the road rolling over till it was propped

up by a tree and all its passengers consequently having to debus and squeeze onto the remaining vehicles. This was followed by a ferociously fast march to catch up with the other two companies who had been able to set off directly on foot for the battalion assembly area and which was due to be secured by B company. However, they found two enemy tank companies had got there before them and had leaguered up for the night. They had some grand sport hunting tanks through the woods in the dark to the immense consternation of the armour. Nevertheless, it all called for some 'hot' planning by the CO to amend his original plans. The luck of the gods was with him when, at the critical moment, wondering how he was going to be able to summon an 'O' group, all three company commanders suddenly loomed out of the dark.

From then on everything worked like clockwork. Corunna's task was to clear and secure the town of Hohen Lochstadt for which we had an extra platoon under the command, 3 platoon. The main opposition we encountered was a platoon-plus of Dutch mechanized infantry supported by two Leopard 2 tanks based on the railway station in the centre of town. A fierce battle developed first of all with 3 platoon who had initially caught the Dutch napping, and then 7 platoon as they came in to support them. The battle was an amazing sight; smoke, thunderflashes, machine gun fire, rifle fire and the Dutch 20 mm cannon blank all being furiously fired while the civilian traffic continued to flow around and through us and the German populace carried on their daily lives as they started the days work.

To the intense frustration of the Dutch we were adjudged the victors. Their response was to drive their armoured personnel carriers directly at any of our soldiers they could see. It rapidly became a dangerous place to be. Lance Corporal Easeman was knocked off his feet three times by a hard turning APC and in the confusion the Dutch took two of our lads 'prisoner'. Tempers were on the verge of breaking before the umpires regained control. Nevertheless it still took them some time to negotiate the release of the 'prisoners'. Fortunately for the Dutch we didn't meet them again on the exercise - we had a score to settle. Having secured the town the remainder of the day proved comparatively quiet. Most enjoyed the opportunity of snatching a bit of rest in the sunshine while some luckier ones were treated to coffee and cakes by generous Hausfraus. At the end of the day it

was back to the old defensive position before carrying out a notional relief in place and a night road move to the brigade concentration area ready for the subsequent operations part of the exercise.

This was to be a brigade dismounted attack against an 'enemy' force of British Marine commandos who had carried out an amphibious landing 60km behind the Feba. The Marines after landings had taken up positions on what was in all respects an island, a large feature of land surrounded by rivers, dykes and canals, with their headquarters centred in the town of Ostenfeld. Our brigade commander's plan was to carry out a silent night river crossing and advance with 1 R HAMPS using a 'pontoon' bridge and 1 DWR using boats. Daylight was taken up with recces, orders and practicing the totally new skill of paddling assault boats. We moved out that night. C company was tasked with crossing first, clearing the route to the start line and securing it, a task we were to find easier said than done. B company, moving behind us, were diverted via the 1R HAMPS pontoon bridge with the result that they approached the first fence line and ditch on the far side at the same time as us. Watching the negotiations of this minor obstacle provided them with considerable amusement.

Cpl Murten was the first man across. Weighed down by a radio, caught between the legs by barbed wire as he straddled the fence, told not to be such a whimp and get a move on, he leapt on to what appeared to be firm soil, only to completely disappear save his helmet till he was rescued by the strong arm of Major Best who was thoroughly enjoying the entertainment. So started a hard night's march forcing our way along overgrown banks and over innumerable electric and barbed wire fences, it was particularly demanding of those in the support platoons with their heavy weapons to carry. The battalion made it into position ready to cross the start line on time. C company was now in reserve for the advance till contact was made.

The enemy had concentrated their positions around Ostenfeld which called for a good full blooded battalion attack. Needless to say the final approach for B and C companies was along a very muddy little stream - that's the nature of good approach routes. The battle was an excellent finish to the exercise.

In hindsight the tempo of the exercise was varied with long periods of inactivity followed by bursts of very hard work and little sleep - as we could expect of war.

SOMME COMPANY

	OC	Major J. Wood	
	CSM	WO2 L. Hepworth	
	CQMS	CSgt G. Staniland	
Mortar Platoon	Recce Platoon	Milan Platoon	Drums/MG Platoon
Capt. C. S. T. Lehman	Lieut J. C. Preston	Capt P. M. Lewis	Drum Major K. Shinn
CSgt D. Maillard	CSgt D. A. Campbell	CSgt L. Birks	

MORTAR PLATOON

After a long and tiring ferry trip we finally reached Germany for Exercise "Bold Guard". Prior to the main FTX the Mortar Platoon, along with the other

Support and Rifle Platoons, were put through their paces on Exercise "Initial Canter." This was to be the main Annual Inter Platoon Competition. The tests ranged from map reading to patrolling. We unscrewed

our mortar heads and inserted our cobwebbed infantry heads, and remembering the famous cry that 'You are Infantry men first, Mortar men second' we embarked on 36 hours of intense competition. It was good to see that the basic skills were still there and the platoon performed particularly well on the platoon attack stand. The exercise passed fairly quickly and in the back of our minds lurked the knowledge that "we had" to take R. & R. in Hamburg. The main FTX followed, and the platoon dug itself in, in preparation to support the battalion in defence. We trailed the new fire trench, and discovered that they make excellent water catchment areas! With the water table being so low and aided by the bad weather we all got our feet wet.

RECCE PLATOON

Since Belize, the last time the platoon operated on foot, the platoon has been mounted in Fox. Therefore every one has been retrained in new weapon systems, namely the 30mm Rarden cannon and the co-axially mounted 7.62mm. L37 GPMG. In addition, the drivers have been trained in Fox driving and maintenance (maintenance is important, as the Fox is not the most reliable of vehicles).

The highlight of the years training as far as the Rarden is concerned was the live firing at Castle Martin in early May. There were two weeks pre-training in Bulford before the platoon moved to

Wales. The weeks firing consisted of a progression from static targets to moving targets and finally a combination of the two.

The week was highly enjoyable and Tenbigh, the local town, provided some fruitful excursions during the evenings.

The training showed everyone the problems that gunnery gives and to the commanders the difficulties of commanding, navigating, operating the radio (on two nets), firing the gun and finding the targets at the same time!

The platoon returned with a good report from the school of gunnery making all the hard work worthwhile.

The Recce Platoon is now changing its identity and role once again in preparation for Northern Ireland. Training is now underway for the move but the valuable experience of working with the Fox and the 30mm Rarden will be useful in the future when we eventually go to work with Warrior.

MILAN PLATOON

With Kenya a fading and very dusty memory, 'Globetrot' and 'Druids Delight' were tucked comfortably under the belt (thanks to a kind British climate) and the Milan Platoon knuckled down for its annual point of high interest - namely live firing. With the template drawn and the range day booked the mighty admin machine rolled into action. Sandbags



Milan Platoon

What happens when the bridge is missed!

were drawn and there followed a mad search for unemployed sand. Details were thrashed out and finally buried one by one. Any attempts to build the protective wall on the firing point were gratefully received and trampled down by the resident cattle club members leaving the night before.

With all hands on deck and a convoy of well laden trucks, the firing point was finally completed. This year's live firing was to be different as we engaged hard targets using heat ammunition for the first time. The detachments were put through a varied and interesting exercise before arriving hot and breathless (and damp) to the safety supervisor. After a quick brief and under covering fire from mortars, machine guns and 84mm, the firers released missile after missile at the distant rusting hulks. With the day successfully completed we returned to camp and began the task of cleaning up. All the new members are now fully fledged badge wearing "Milaneers". Our sights were then set on the UKMF masterpiece and culmination of training - "Bold Guard '86." So apart from winning the inter platoon competition (a modest reference) we now lower our heads and charge headlong into the reorganisation for Northern Ireland.

DRUMS/MG PLATOON

After Kenya the drummers and a section of machine gunners took part in the KAPE tour, the drummers working with the band on concerts and the machine gunners under the watchful eye of LCpl "Dangler" Draper acting as part of the KAPE Display Team, LCpl "The Fox" Samerson was showing off while the rest showed the public the ins and outs of the GPMG in the sustained fire role.

Pte Johnson has now fully recovered from his injury in Kenya when he fell off the back of the vehicle.

In September we packed our instruments and weapons and set sail for Exercise "Bold Guard."

During the exercise the Platoon took part in the Inter Platoon competition. We came a respectable 8th overall. We even managed to thumb a lift on a Chinook helicopter to get from one stand to another.

In the middle of the exercise we packed away our CEFO and picked up our drumsticks and went to work with our Regimental Band and the Band and



Exercise "Bold Guard"

Private Acklam of the MG Platoon with his usual load.
(Reproduced by kind permission of the "Huddersfield Examiner")

Drums of The Royal Hampshires. We then took part in a "Massed Band" Beating of Retreat near Itzehoe.

In the second week of the exercise we were despatched to our respective companies for the main part of Exercise "Bold Guard." The first part of being the defence phase. LCpl Lodge thought of a new game for the local children called "fill the sandbags". They played for hours!

The exercise was concluded by an advance to contact and an assault of an enemy village.

HOOK COMPANY

CO
CSM
CQMS

Major S. C. Newton
WO2 F. Butterworth
CSgt F. Hanley

SIGNAL PLATOON

One of the Signal Platoon's many demanding commitments this year was the 1 Brigade Inter Unit Line Laying Competition which was held between 26-28 June 1986.

The Dukes' entered three teams and they were as follows:

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Cpl Cooper	Cpl Denton	LCpl Ambler
LCpl Sharp	Pte Mason	Pte Smith
LCpl Ward	Sig Day	Pte Moore

Following a verbal brief by the controlling staff and a thorough inspection the competition started in

earnest with the Commanders issuing their instructions and preparing their equipment. Although they had to carry sufficient line and equipment for a two mile lay, the course was approximately one mile long with some eight different types of crossings.

The teams were evaluated on command and

control, skills and method and team work throughout the lay.

With the hot sunny weather it proved to be quite an arduous event but out of the 22 teams entered our teams 1, 2 and 3 came 3rd, 6th and 13th respectively with a final placing of 2nd overall in the competition.

REGIMENTAL BAND

Bandmaster
BSM

WO1 K. Taylor
WO2 K. Walker

Since our return from Kenya the band has had a very full and active life with engagements ranging from a steam engine rally in the New Forest to passing out parades in Yorkshire. We were also delighted and honoured that while we were playing at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show, His Grace The Duke took the salute at one of our performances.

Another highlight of the year was our involvement on Exercise "Bold Guard". Massed with the Hampshire's band and as the finale to the pre exercise Cocktail Party we performed a very successful Beating

of Retreat in the magnificent setting of Schloss Breitenburg. We then joined 144 Field Ambulance for the exercise which enabled us to practice our secondary roll as medics and our skills were tested to the limit in a very enjoyable 5 days.

We are about to make a new record which hopefully will be available very early in the new year. It will have a very wide and varied selection of music including our new Slow March "Stratfield Saye". All profits to Retired Bandsman's Benevolent Fund.

CATERING IN THE FIELD

Catering in the field becomes easier as time goes by. Gone are the days of digging burner trenches, now we have the MK 5 which is ideal for our uses. They are run by petrol or gas, the latter being preferable. By using gas all the cook does is turn on the gas, select the required knobs and Hey Presto! just like home with your gas cooker fully operational. The added advantage of this is less noise (the No. 1 burner was exceptionally loud) - cook in comfort!

The 250 man cookset is now being used by larger companies and, as with the MK 5, is much improved and contains everything you need (except the dishwasher!) The trailer is equipped with Norwegian containers, hay boxes, ovens and tables to mention but a few.

Whichever rations are being used, there are naturally setbacks. With fresh rations the cook has his meat, two veg and gravy - great! First get hold of them! With composite cooking, variety is limited. There are 7 different menus and compo is designed to provide essential qualities such as protein, vitamins and carbohydrates and is not designed for 'Please sir can I have some more?'

One fundamental problem is that of water. There

are few taps on location and while most water is drinkable, this is not always the case as on 'Bold Guard'. The chef might tell you that the water is OK - when its green, murky and has tadpoles swimming in it, he's not always believed! To combat this problem, all water is boiled to kill any germs. The M67 water heater or boiler is used for this and is invaluable in the field.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of all this new equipment is that it can be accommodated in a 12" x 12"!! Gone are the days of standing outside in the snow watching the No. 1 burner go out, now its all the creature comforts - at least the chef is comfortable when the mist comes down or the wind whips up a storm!

In all eventualities the most welcome improvements of the day have to be those of the new style 24 hour ration pack. It has been re-vamped so that it is not too bulky to carry or too difficult to dispose of. It now contains boil-in-the-bag foods. This cuts out the cans and means less washing up! It is ideal for the soldier sitting in his trench, giving him the independence of self-cooking when he can and is perhaps one of the most traditional ways of eating in the field.

TRAINING FOR THE NECIC COMPETITION

The Northern European Command Infantry Competition (NECIC) is held annually in Europe to promote international relations within the Northern European Command (Norway, Canada and the United Kingdom). Each year teams representing each of these countries compete in a section size competition testing basic skills.

The competition lasts approximately forty eight hours during which teams compete in five different phases, a night recce patrol, an individual skills circus, a night shoot, a cross country march/physical endurance test and a day shoot.

In 1985 we provided the Umpire to give us some small insight into what the competition was about and

now in 1986 the Dukes are representing the United Kingdom Army when the competition is held in Putlos Germany.

Selection of a suitable squad and their training was to start some four months before the actual competition. A list of forty possible competitors was drawn up by the Battalion from the best NCO's and private soldiers that the Battalion could offer. These underwent a difficult two week selection programme from which twenty five possibles were retained.

Training continued as a continuous assessment programme during which the squad was reduced to sixteen from whom the team would be chosen. The training began in earnest. The essential characteristics for the team were a very high standard of physical fitness, excellent shooting ability and a thorough knowledge of basic skills.

The many hours put in by Sgt Shaw and his PT staff were to show clearly in the later stages of training when the squad reached a tremendously high level of fitness (even the PTT's from 1 PARA were impressed).

The programme was very varied including watermanship work with 22 Engineer Regiment and a visit to the Parachute Regiment Depot to try the infamous Trinasium (Confidence Course), Obstacle Course and Steeplechase.

Many hours were also spent on ranges, both day and night. We saw such an improvement in shooting in such a short period of time that we foresaw no problems in this aspect of the competition.

With the basic skills such as judging distance, grenade throwing, AFV, map reading and so on, it was a case of continual practice. This practice was often tedious in that it was so low level, but despite this there was a marked improvement in every aspect seen in each man in the squad.

The making of the team was the period around "Bold Guard". A week at Sennybridge Camp, in Catterick brought the squad together as a unit and a team.

The team came 7th in the competition.

REGULAR ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING - BISLEY 1986

After returning from Kenya there was little time left in which to produce a team which would give a fair indication of the level of marksmanship within the Battalion. A glance at the results will show that the team achieved a standard higher than any team in the past 30 years, an indication that the long hours and hard work put in by all members of the squad paid off.

The team arrived at Bisley on July 1 having travelled straight from a day on the ranges, and moved into our new base at the England XX Clubhouse. This was provided by the Club in return for minor repairs and decoration and gave us a good club room for admin and the occasional quiet beer!

After a day of zeroing and practice the team launched straight into the individual rifle events. 3 days later we lay in 13th place with Capt. Lehmann and Cpl Brown in the top 100, and Bisley veteran WO2 Hepworth at 101 with Pte Bates in the top 200 and LCpl Parr (B Class) in the top 300. Sunday 6th July was Target and Sniper Rifle Competition day and Capt. Lehmann finished the day a very respectable 4th. On Monday the LMG Match gave us a steady 17th place.

Tuesday provided our only disappointing day as we failed to achieve our best in the Section Match and Falling Plates. However Wednesday raised spirits with good results in the Roberts, putting Capt. Lehmann and Cpl Brown firmly in the Army 100. This pair also gained a creditable result in the Sniper Match.

Thursday was the big day, our first real attempt at the Parachute Regiment Cup. The team knew that fitness was high but range practice of the competition had been unavoidably limited. Accordingly the team flew round the two miles in a little over 15 minutes allowing nearly 3 minutes recovery before the shoot/run down which was as good as we hoped for, placing us 6th (ahead of the Para's) and our best result. The afternoon was the team snap shoot watched closely by the CO and RSM, and another reasonable result.

On Friday, the final day, Capt Lehmann and Cpl Brown competed in the Army 100 and both represented the Kings Division in the afternoon. On our return to Bulford we left Capt Lehmann to gain a place in the Army Short Range Target Rifle Team.

Results (40 Major Units Competed)

Rifle Team Match	13th
SMG Match	23rd
Parachute Regiment Cup	6th
LMG Match	16th
Section Match	18th
Team Snap Shoot	13th
Infantry Rifle Championship	8th
Gurkha Welfare Cup	2nd
Henry Whitehead Cup	25th
Association Cup	11th
Major Unit Championship	11th

Army 100

Capt Lehmann	25th
Cpl Brown	63rd

RAMEGNIES - CHIN, 21st JULY 1986



British graves in the Cemetry at Ramegnies - Chin

A CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

Ramegnies - Chin is a small village 4½ miles North-West of the city of Tournai, South-West Belgium.

It was here that four soldiers from the 1st Battalion died on 22nd May 1940 whilst on retreat to Dunkirk. They were:

4614376	Pte	Norman Blenkinsop	Age 22
4611371	LCpl	Patrick Burns	Age 27
4611467	Pte	James Evans	Age 20
4615276	Pte	Henry Harding	Age 21

How they died is unknown but their bodies were found in the village when the Battalion left and with seventeen other soldiers from the North Staffs, The Loyals, The Royal Scots, Grenadier Guards, Ox & Bucks, LI and the Cheshires were buried in a small graveyard to the north of the Parish Church.

In 1985 an invitation arrived at the Battalion from the Federation Nationale des Combatants Beligues (FNC) to a small Remembrance Service to be held for all the soldiers. Lt James Adams, LCpl Dave Carter and LCpl Gary Ryder were sent as regimental representatives.

We met M. Jules Lotigier, the President of the local FNC, whose family looked after us extremely well. We had our own wreath, a small flag and a bugler (LCpl Ryder). An hour or so later, with patchwork O-Level

and CSE French and the help of a Belgium/English dictionary we had an inkling of what was to be done.

There were to be four parts to the Service. Firstly, a thanksgiving inside the Church. LCpl Ryder played the 'Last Post' and both National Anthems were played on a somewhat ancient gramophone.

From there we moved outside to the cemetery and the first of the ceremonies. We started at the Belgian resistance plot. Lt Adams laid a wreath presented by the British Embassy in Brussels. The 'Last Post' was played once more.

At the British plot Lt Adams laid the Regimental wreath which was followed by other wreaths, by the 'Last Post' and by the raising of the flags.

Everybody then left to go to the Belgian War Memorial in another part of the village; this was to honour their own dead. The Roll of Honour was read and LCpl Ryder played the 'Last Post' for the last time.

Once the whole ceremony was over the champagne flowed and we were taken out for a celebratory meal. At all stages we were treated like Kings.

If any relative wishes to gain more information please write to Lt Adams c/o the 1st Battalion or M. Lotigier at:

11 Rue De Templeuve,
Ramegnies Chin
Belgique.

SPORTS, GAMES AND RECREATION

Rugby Football

It is still early days in the season; both the 1st and 2nd XV's have had 3 games and the first match for the Army Cup being some three weeks away at the end of October. Foreseeing the future is and always has been a precarious business particularly as far as Dukes' rugby goes, so I will make no promises for this season. However we have got off to a most promising start; the whole squad includes a number of seasoned players (CSgts William and Walker, Sgt. Holliday, Capt Harvey and Brear, Lt Kelly and Cpl. Jones) as well as some very promising young talent.

We began the season with inter company 15-a-side designed to promote the game throughout the Battalion as well as spotting future players. This competition has been an undoubted success (with Somme being the undisputed winners) and each match was fiercely contested. The Battalion squad trains regularly and we are extremely fortunate in having the services of Major Ken Lawson, the Army Coach, to assist us in our preparations. Indeed his work paid enormous dividends when we played the Welsh Guards at Hohne; it was a keenly matched game which was won largely as a result of the outstanding play of the pack.

Army Rugby Cup results

1st Round v Royal School of Artillery. Won 13-0
 2nd Round v 30 Signal Regiment. Won 26-6
 3rd Round v SEME, Bordon. Won 6-0
 UK Semi-final v 7 RHA
 UK Final to be played on 28th January 1987

Football

We entered the SWDIST 6-a-side Competition held at Warminster on the 10th September, in which 24 sides competed for the shield and a place in the Army 6-a-side Competition held at Aldershot on 15th October 1986. The day was a long hard slog but the 'Dukes' reached the final in true style to beat our old enemies 22 Engr Reg 4-1 and take full honours.

Our first league match in the SWDIST against 15/19 H was a good result 3-1 and the first round of the Army Challenge Cup against 5 INNIS DG, a typical cup tie battle if there ever was one, with the 'Dukes' coming out on top 4-2.

Cpl (Addo) Adamson actually got his name on the score sheet after six long years. Could this be Addo's year?

In the 3rd round 1DWR played REME Aborfield and won 3-2.



The 6-a-side football squad, winners of the South West District 6-a-side competition 1986.

Golf

All the free golf and tuition in Belize 1985 was continued in Kenya early in 1986 and is now paying dividends. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Battalion Open/Silver Putter where 48 players started out with high hopes on a beautiful day on the 3rd of September 1986.

After coffee at the Clubhouse from 7.30 a.m., came the morning round, a medal competition. Lunch in the clubhouse was followed by the officers v warrant officers and sergeants mess match in the afternoon, at the same time a ladies putting competition was being run (for which there were 24 entries). Prize giving was at 6.30 p.m. followed by drinks and supper in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess for all competitors.

The Battalion entered the South West District Scratch Team Competition and reached the semi final stage before being knocked out by the Royal School of Artillery Team, however playing team matches off handicaps the battalion has played 3 friendlies, winning them all.

All battalion golfers are looking forward to Palace Barracks and the good golf courses on our doorstep and are hopeful that 1987 will be as successful as 1986.

Sub Aqua 677(S)

The Battalion Diving Club has been quite active since it was first formed in 1971. Since going to Gibraltar it has increased in size and has been able to dive in some of the best seas in the world including those around Gibraltar, Morocco, Belize and Kenya.

Since coming to the UK we have been able to train regularly on Monday evenings at the Bulford

Garrison Pool. This has been good for the Club and we now have some new members who were able to attend our small diving expedition which took place over the summer leave. The diving expedition included a series of ten dives in and around Weymouth on the South Coast. The most demanding and enjoyable dive took place towards the end of the expedition, which aimed to survey a small wreck. Despite the cold and average visibility the aim was achieved which made for a highly satisfying conclusion to the weeks' activity.



Sub Aqua Club
Members of the Club at Weymouth

EXERCISE "VIRGIN'S FOLLY"

It was refreshing to hear a group of ladies, wives of 1 DWR soldiers, suggesting a reversal of usual roles. They would do an exercise while their husbands would run the house. And exercise "Virgin's Folly" was conceived.

Directed by staff from the training wing 21 volunteers formed up for muster parade and kit check. Standards of dress and equipment were high, as were the spirits, but a hard 24 hours lay ahead.

Basics complete, a half hour drill, designed to sharpen up the reflexes and knit together the team, instilled a little discipline. Our recently arrived Assistant Adjutant, 2Lt Kate Willis was the instructor. It turned out exceedingly well. Alright, we did have a few giggles but 2Lt Willis did an excellent job and the 'recruits' responded in fine style. Next came weapon training and the mysteries of the Self Loading Rifle. Again the girls displayed sharp minds and quickly grasped the basics of the weapon.

By late afternoon, the ladies were itching to leave barracks and start the field training phase of the exercise. A short drive in a 4 tonner brought the group to the selected area where they re-formed into three squads of seven. They were to remain in these squads for the rest of the exercise.

After a short briefing, 'basher' sites were selected and with a minimum of fuss the squads set about the task of settling in. Shell scrapes next, and wielding a pick held no horrors at all.

By 1800 hours everyone was absolutely starving. It was time for the delights of hexamine and the 24 hour ration pack. There were certainly some very odd mixtures bubbling away in mess tins but doubtless it was all good, sustaining stuff!

After a short break the squads were given a patrol task. One group was instructed to approach a wood (about a mile away) and to attack a company of soldiers from another unit who were seen to be occupying that area. The Directing Staff obviously realised that this was something of a micky take: and tried to hide their smug expressions as the briefing continued. Eventually, one 'recruit' piped up, "Excuse me sarge, how many are there in a company?"

"Oh, about 112" replied the sergeant. "Good Lord," bounced back the 'recruit', "I thought you said it would be hard?" When the laughter died down the real tasks were delegated and the patrols set out in fading light. The missions were successful and stories were later swapped around a camp fire with hot



Exercise "Virgin's Folly"
The ladies and their instructors return from the war!

soup and tea warding off the rapidly chilling air. Eventually, the camp settled for the night - or so they thought!

At 3.00 a.m., a rude awakening with bangs, flashes, whistles and cries of, "stand to, stand to" shattering the stillness. Shouts of "God it's cold," and "Where's me gun?" were heard as bodies scrambled out of sleeping bags and into pre-allotted defensive positions. The attack over, sentry duties were increased for the remainder of the night.

By this stage a little of the glamour of soldiering was wearing thin. Tiredness was taking its toll and the night, although fine and dry, was very cold. All the same the Directing Staff heard no complaints and indeed all had a good deal of admiration for Mrs Julie Booth who showed great initiative by scrounging fried egg butties from a group of Yorkshire Volunteers who happened by!

First light, and again cries of, "Stand to" roused the off duty girls. While they had rested, the intelligence gained from the previous night's patrols had been

sifted and orders were issued for an advance and attack on the enemy. Under careful control the ladies launched into an enthusiastic final assault under the cover of smoke and other 'special effects'. After mopping up, the weary squads returned to base camp for a hot breakfast before clearing the 'basher' site and moving back to Kiwi Barracks. By mid morning weapons had been cleaned and the girls had recovered from fits of laughter after seeing 'Virgin's Folly - The Movie', a video film of the previous day's drill session.

Finally, a group photograph and a mad rush to the coffee shop to relate tales of war to other wives who have yet to enjoy the delights of infanteering.

Quite frankly the ladies were magnificent. The spirit, enthusiasm and determination throughout were quite exemplary. They were all thoroughly tested and richly deserve their Certificates of Merit awarded by the Commanding Officer after the exercise. In short, "Virgin's Folly" was a great success... now, when is the NCO's cadre?!!

THE JUNIOR INFANTRY BATTALION (Scottish and King's Division)

"THE LIFE OF A JUNIOR SOLDIER"

Written by Junior Soldier Oxley, DWR, currently undergoing training at The Junior Infantry Battalion. JSdtr Oxley is from Sheffield and is due to pass-out to the depot at Strensall in December with a view to joining the Battalion in the Summer of 1987.

The life of a junior soldier is hard. It means a lot of Physical Training (PT), a lot of drill and a lot of

education. You have to be very dedicated to do these things well.

I found the hardest part for a new recruit, was the discipline. There are a lot of little things, all to do with discipline, that seem a bit stupid at first, such as making bed-blocks, inspections every morning, marching around the camp and many other things.

In a normal week we would do PT three times. This

involves long gruelling runs in boots and combat suits, gym work which involves things like press-ups, sit-ups, squat-thrusts, and many other things that will make you ache for at least 3 days! We also do an Assault Course which is a more enjoyable part of PT because we have Inter-Section competitions. There is so much PT, it would be impossible to remember it all!

We go on a few different types of exercise camps, for example Fieldcraft, Battlecraft and Defence Camp. They are all based on the same things, that is being able to survive for months on end, able to fight in the field and personal camouflage. They are all very hard, involving a lot of walking, very little sleep and a lot of learning.

An infantry man has to be, if not brilliant then certainly above average at shooting the 7.62 mm Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) because it is his main weapon when fighting in the field. This means a junior soldier has to do a lot of practice. We learn to shoot from 25 mm to 300 mm at a very high level. We have to do a lot of shooting to achieve the expected high standard.

In the Army you have to learn about all sorts of things such as Signals, Military Law, First Aid, NBC and general things to do with the Army (Military Studies).

In Signals we learn how to use and speak on the

issued radios, and how to use codes. Military Law is about the laws that we as soldiers have to abide by.

First Aid is all about saving somebody's life or relieving pain for someone, for example, a gun shot wound or broken leg. We are taught to be able to do this in civilian life or in the field.

NBC is all about chemical warfare and how to survive and carry out our normal job in a chemical, nuclear or biological warfare atmosphere.

In Military Studies we learn about map reading, the history of the Army, NATO and the Warsaw Pact as well as military calculations.

All the training staff in these barracks are good and fully qualified to train juniors. They make sure we know exactly what we are supposed to do whenever we go either on a camp or are in the barracks. Whenever we aren't getting 'beasted' ('Given the run-around' - Ed) for something we have done wrong, they have a good laugh with us, and try and make it as enjoyable as possible, at the same time teaching us everything we need know.

There is still a lot more to the Army that I haven't come across but soon will. Overall, it's a hard but a good life for anyone with a bit of guts and determination and a sense of humour.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Anzac Day - Brisbane

From: Mr. J. M. Reddington
c/o Brisbane College of Advanced Education
P.O. Box 82 (Mount Gravatt)
Old 4122, Queensland, Australia

The Editor *'The Iron Duke'*

Sir,

It may interest readers of the Iron Duke to know that the group I join on the Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane includes ex-soldiers of the Korean, Malayan and Borneo campaigns. The contingent is led by ex-corporal Matt Rennie who was wounded in Korea with the 3RAR. Some will remember that the 1st Battalion took over from the 3RAR in 1952 in the quiet Yong Dong position, when it first entered the line. A few may recall the Commanding Officer of the 3RAR, Lt. Col. Francis (Frank) Hassett seated in a

canvas chair at battalion headquarters reacting cryptically to incoming radio reports. After being knighted he retired in 1977 as a full general. His last appointment was Chief of the Defence Force Staff. Matt Rennie remembers the Dukes' as very youthful looking - although all were at least nineteen.

The composition of Anzac Day marchers in Brisbane, besides Australians, includes a surprisingly large body of British ex-Guardsmen, a proud assembly of Poles, a small French unit, and, this year for the first time, representatives of what was once the South Korean Army. They were accepted by the "right wing" Anzac committee (R.S.L.) as the result of a divided vote. An application to march by a group of ex-Italian Partisans was, however, unanimously rejected!

Yours sincerely,
J. M. Reddington

THE HISTORICAL EVENTS LEADING TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE BOER WAR IN 1899 AND TO THE BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG 18-27 FEBRUARY 1900

Sometime ago I was sent a copy of a letter written by Corporal G. E. S. Major shortly after the battle of Paardeberg. As 'Paardeberg' is a Battle Honour it seemed ideal material for publication in the 'Iron Duke'. All it needed was to put the letter into the context of the battle, together with a description of the Relief of Kimberley which took place at the same time. As I was

about to make a start on this events in South Africa once again became increasingly prominent. So it seemed relevant to include the events which had led up to the Boer War. One matter I have not been able to establish is why the Warrant and Sergeants Mess honours Paardeberg with a ball. As the story goes so many officers became casualties during the battle that the

WOs and Sergeants were obliged to take over their duties. However, the fact is that only one officer was killed and four were wounded during the short campaign of the relief of Kimberley and the battle of Paardeberg. If any reader has any additional information on this subject will he please inform the Editor so that it can be published in the 'Iron Duke'.

A.C.S.S.

The Historical Background

The Dutch possession of Cape Town was originally established in 1652 solely for re-victualling ships of the Dutch East Indies Company en route to the Spice Islands. However the need for supplies led to the arrival of free burghers to grow grain and make wine. The population grew steadily throughout the 18th century. In step with this process the frontiers of the settlement were pushed eastwards along the coast and northwards into the veldt.

In 1795 the Dutch garrison at the Cape surrendered to a British fleet acting under the mandate of the exiled Prince of Orange. The purpose of this seizure was to prevent the Cape, like Holland, from falling into the hands of the French. In 1803 the British returned the Cape to the Dutch, but three years later the garrison once again surrendered to a British fleet. In 1814 the British secured definite possession in return for a payment of £6m. to the Dutch. British colonists began to arrive and in 1822 a proclamation provided for the gradual establishment of English as the official language.

1834 saw the abolition of slavery throughout the Empire with compensation for the owners. In South Africa 35,000 slaves were freed, accompanied by many complaints about inadequate compensation. The Great Trek of the Dutch (Boer) cattlemen and farmers followed from 1835 to 1837 as they sought new lands and escape from the restrictions on slavery and the sympathetic native policy of the government. Some 10,000 moved northwards, in the process passing the Vaal River (hence Transvaal). In 1852 the British government recognised the independence of Transvaal and two years later withdrew from the territory north of the Orange River, which led to the settlers establishing the Orange Free State. By 1877 the finances of the Transvaal were in hopeless disorder due, in part, to it being in a state of almost continual warfare with its native neighbours. As a result the state was annexed by the British in flagrant violation of the 1852 Convention. During 1880 and 1881 the Boers of the Transvaal revolted and overwhelmed small British force at Laings Nek and Majuba. This led to the treaty of Pretoria, which gave the South African Republic Independence, but under the suzerainty of Great Britain.

The discovery of gold in the south of the Transvaal in 1886 led to a rush to the Rand from all parts of the World and to the establishment of Johannesburg. As the mining population grew the Uitlanders (Outlanders) soon began to outnumber the Boers. They paid taxes - indeed practically all the taxes - but had no political rights at all. Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of Cape Colony, decided to support the Uitlanders and to this end backed the Jameson Raid, which was designed to spearhead a rising of the Uitlanders which, in the event, did not materialise. The raid was defeated on 1st January 1869 when Dr. Jameson's force was cleverly surrounded by Piet

Cronje's commando. Although a failure the Raid had revealed the essential antagonism between Krugerism and democracy. President Kruger, elated by success became even less disposed to offer any concessions to the Uitlanders. On the contrary, he now started to pass law after law directed against those who were not Boers. At the same time he formed an offensive and defensive alliance with the Orange Free State.

In June 1899 the British High Commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, met Kruger at Bloemfontein and insisted on an immediate grant of the franchise to all foreigners who had been five years in residence in the Transvaal. Kruger refused. Because of the deteriorating situation the British Government began to take steps to send some reinforcements to the weak British garrisons in South Africa. This was the pretext for which Kruger, who was convinced of a British intention to acquire the rich Transvaal, had been waiting. On 9th October 1899 he issued an ultimatum demanding the withdrawal of all British troops from the frontiers; the evacuation of all British troops landed since 1st June 1899, and the immediate recall of all reinforcements on the high seas. Hostilities began on 11th October, when that ultimatum expired.

The military background: The opposing forces

The Boers had evolved a system of warfare admirably suited to the South African conditions. It was based on the very sound principle of inflicting as much loss as possible on opponents while running as little risk as possible of suffering retaliation. They shot straight and made good use of cover. When there was no natural protection they dug deep, narrow trenches which not only gave them protection against shrapnel, but, aided by smokeless powder, also hid them almost completely from their attackers. The Boers had another great advantage: almost all were mounted and could move around quickly in attack or retreat. Their main weakness was lack of discipline. Because there were no penalties for disobedience they did what they felt like doing. Thus it was said that "every Boer was his own general".

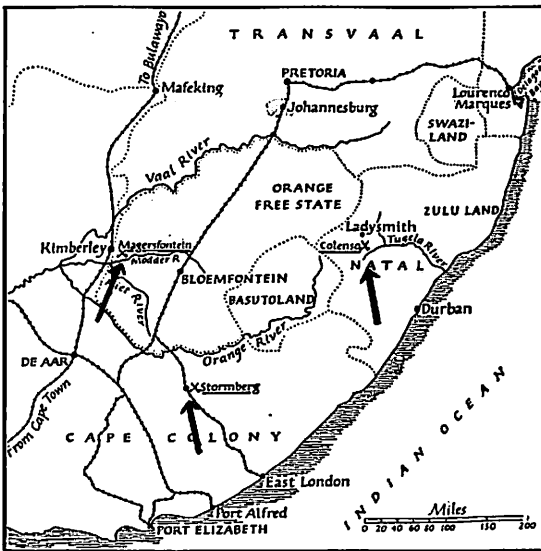
The British, for their part, were quite unprepared for the war they were about to undertake. For half a century Britain had fought small wars against ill armed tribesmen of Asia and Africa, in which there was little need for strategic or tactical maneuvering. To transport and supply his men in desert or jungle was the chief problem of a British general. The campaigns might have taken months, but the decisive battle could be fought in a matter of hours. War was a one day event, as practiced on Salisbury plain. The British soldiers for their part were not as good a shot as the Boers, nor were they as good at making use of cover. Most important of all they had vastly fewer mounted men. In all circumstances it is not surprising that they suffered a number of humiliating defeats in the opening months of the War.

'Black Week': 9th - 15th December 1899

Ten days after the outbreak of war transports carrying an army corps of 47,000 men began to leave England, under the command of General Sir Redvers Buller VC. Buller's initial plan was to advance direct on the capital of the Orange Free State, at Bloemfontein; but by the time he reached the Cape, in late October, the plan had to be drastically altered.



Paardeberg
Cronje's laager seen from Kitchener's kopje.
(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Army Museum).



South Africa. 1899

'Black Week' 9th-15th December 1899. Defeat at Magersfontein, Stormberg and Colenso.

Not only was he faced by imperious demands for relief from Cecil Rhodes, locked up in Kimberley, but it was also necessary to relieve General Sir George White VC whose force had been obliged to withdraw to Ladysmith where it and 7000 civilians were surrounded by the Boers. Buller therefore had to split his force in two. One, under Lord Methuen had the task of relieving Kimberley, the other, under himself, was to relieve Ladysmith. Buller's troops in Natal prepared themselves for the coming campaign by training. However, field days in which the troops were formed into four waves, firing volleys by numbers and halting each time the whistle blew; were hardly ideal preparation for coming events.

Lord Methuen meanwhile was preparing to relieve Kimberley. His advance was at first successful, though at a relatively high cost in terms of casualties. On the evening of 9th December he came up against the Boers established on a low ridge at Magersfontein. His plan was to attack at midnight with the four battalions of the Highland Brigade. They duly advanced in drizzling rain with each battalion in tightly packed formation, one behind the other. At about 4 a.m., with the ridge looming ahead, the Brigade halted to open out in attack formation. As they did so the ground erupted in a blaze of rifle fire, coming not, as had been anticipated, from the high ground, but from trenches dug at the foot of the slope. The folly of a hastily conceived frontal attack against a strongly entrenched position had been fully demonstrated. The total British casualties were close on a 1000 and the fact that the blow had fallen on the Highland regiments which to the public at large were among the cream of the army, seemed to magnify the defeat.

The attempt to relieve Kimberley was broken off.

On the same day Sir William Gatacre, who had been sent with 4000 men to clear the Boers out of Cape Colony, was defeated at Stormberg an important railway junction and Boer camp. Gatacre had also chosen to attack by night, his force being led by native

guides who missed the way. The column had advanced without advance or flank guards. The British lost about 700 men, mostly as prisoners. On 15th December Sir Redvers Buller, in an attempt to relieve Ladysmith, launched 15,000 men against a strong Boer position holding the line of the Tugela at Colenso. The battle was characterised, on the British side, by inept and, in some cases foolhardy, handling of the troops. Major General Hart, commanding the Irish brigade, excelled himself. First he gave the brigade half an hours drill, as though on parade at Aldershot. Then he marched off the battalions in close order, as though they were on Salisbury Plain. It was a drill book advance. One Commanding Officer tried to open out his battalion to twice the parade ground intervals. Hart countermanded the order. He liked to keep the men 'well in hand'. When the leading companies of the Irish brigade were within 200 yards of the river the Boers opened fire with rifles and artillery. The closely packed Irishmen went down in scores, but driven on by their fiery general, who had no patience with taking cover, they plunged into the river which was, in places, 10 feet deep and had barbed wire concealed under the water. The British lost 1100 men and 10 out of 12 guns, which had been brought into action in an impossibly exposed position. With nothing gained Buller ordered a general retirement.

Reinforcements

The events of "Black Week" woke Britain up to the fact that she was faced with a major war in South Africa and not simply another colonial insurrection. The Government, the people of Britain and the Empire reacted rapidly. Lord Roberts of Khandahar was appointed Commander in Chief and Kitchener his Chief of Staff; the Militia was embodied to free regular units for active service; thousands of yeomanry and volunteers offered their services overseas and Canada, Australia and New Zealand all sent contingents. Among the regular units destined for South Africa was the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (then called The West Riding Regiment) which had received orders to mobilise on 2nd December 1899. The battalion was under the command of Lieut Colonel G. E. Lloyd DSO and had a strength of 1030 all ranks. It arrived in Cape Town on 20th January 1900 and was sent forward to Naauport to join 6 Division (General T. Kelly-Kenny).

The 1st Battalion was in 13 Brigade (Major General C. E. Knox) with 2nd Gloucesters, 2nd East Surrey (The Buffs) and 1st Oxford Light Infantry. On 2nd February the Division moved forward to the Modder River. When they arrived the hills to the north, occupied by the Boers under Cronje, were being shelled. However this activity ceased on the 4th - as it was a Sunday.

By 9th of February the whole of Roberts' force, consisting of 37,000 men, 113 guns, 12,000 horses and 23,000 transport animals, had been secretly assembled at the Modder River. It was organised into a cavalry division, four infantry divisions and a brigade of mounted infantry.

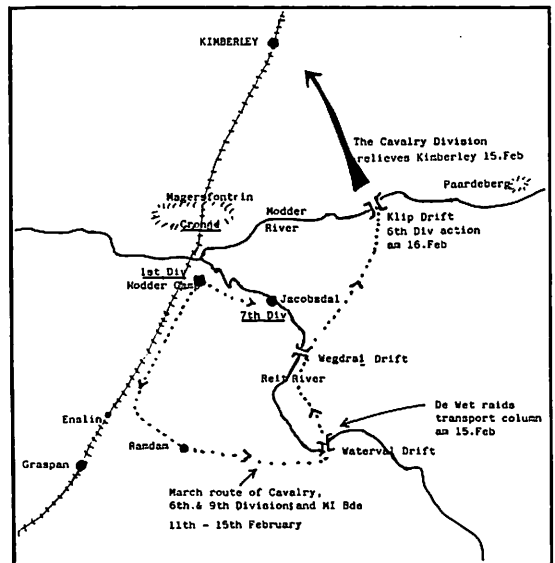
The Relief of Kimberley - 15 February 1900

Roberts original plan, which had he worked out on the voyage to Cape Town, was to postpone the relief of Kimberley until after the capture of Bloemfontein.

This would not only have struck out the Orange Free State; but also have relieved pressure on both Ladysmith and Kimberley. However he had reckoned without Cecil Rhodes locked up in Kimberley, who made a characteristically reckless ultimatum: "make the relief of this town your first priority or I shall surrender to the Boers". Roberts perforce changed his plan and decided, instead, to march on Bloemfontein by way of Kimberley. The tactical plan was simple. The 1st Division was to contain Cronje at Magersfontein while the 7th Division seized Jacobsdal to the south east. The main punch was to be delivered by the Cavalry, 6th and 9th Divisions and the mounted Infantry Brigade. To deceive Cronje these formations were ordered to march 17 miles south to Ramdam. From there they were to move eastwards to the Riet River where they were to turn north in order to ford the Modder River at Klip Drift. It was from there that the advance to relieve Kimberley would be launched. Led by the Cavalry Division (General French) the force commenced its march on the night 10/11 February. The Riet River was reached on the afternoon of 13th February and early on the 14th the march was continued towards the Modder, where the Cavalry, riding one day ahead of the infantry, had already arrived.

However, the vast supply column, which had been organised by Roberts and Kitchener to free the army from the railways, was still at Waterval Drift. Delays in crossing the drift had been so appalling, owing to the deep broken river banks and soft, sticky mud, that the 200 ox wagons, acting as mobile supply column to the divisions, had been left behind for the 3000 oxen to graze and recuperate.

Neither Roberts or Kitchener knew much about the workings of the British army. Roberts had lived all his army life in India, while Kitchener had spent much of his career in Egypt and the Sudan. Their lack of knowledge had not deterred them from quickly tearing into pieces the organisation of the army's transport. It had been organised on a 'regimental' or decentralised system. Instead it now became a 'general' transport system under which all, except 1st line transport, was organised into an army transport column. This soon proved to be the greatest blunder of the War. When a highly technical part of the army system is suddenly replaced in the middle of a war there is bound to be trouble. Added to which many officers drafted into the new service were incompetent misfits. Kitchener of Khartoum (K of K) became known as 'K of Chaos'. The professionals prohesised trouble. They did not have to wait long to be proved right. On 15th February Roberts was at Wegdrai Drift waiting eagerly for news of French's dash to Kimberley. There he was handed a field telegram. It was not about French, who had yet to launch his cavalry charge. It was about his supply column. A Boer raiding party, under De Wet, had ambushed it and stampeded most of the 3000 oxen, stranding the 200 wagons, which made up nearly a third of those available to Roberts. Their precious loads - biscuits, bully beef, medicines and bandages were at the mercy of the Boers. To save time Roberts abandoned the wagons. The effect of the loss was, in part, retrieved by using French's transport which he had managed to keep on the old 'regimental' system. However for the advancing formations the disaster meant an immediate reduction in their rations.



Relief of Kimberley 15th February 1900

The orders for the Cavalry Division were to ignore Cronje, by outflanking him, and to ride like the wind for Kimberley. For the first time in the war a real flying column was available - 5000 cavalry and mounted infantry: enough to out Boer the Boers. Their task was bound to exact a heavy price with half rations for the men and horses dropping dead from hunger, heat and exhaustion. This would have been the case even if the cavalry had been ready for the campaign. But French's eight regular cavalry regiments were not ready, for many of the horses were green after a long voyage and a gruelling train journey.

On the 15th the cavalry swept across the veldt and relieved Kimberley in a dash to self destruction. The mere effort of galloping a few miles was death to many of the horses. It was not only that many of them were unacclimatised: their masters too had to learn that they could not gallop across the country as though hunting. So heavy was the toll in dead and exhausted horses, that the Cavalry Division was virtually destroyed as an effective fighting force - all because of Rhodes impatience.

When Robert's force had left the Modder Camp on the night of 10/11 February the march had been led by the Cavalry Division, followed by the 6th Division, the Mounted Infantry Brigade and the 9th Division, in that order. DWR had not, however, accompanied the 6th division as it had been sent, first, to Enslin, then to GraSPAN and then back to Enslin again. These moves, as it later transpired, were due some ineffective staff work not untypical of that period. On 12th February 1 DWR rejoined the 6th Division at Ramdam for the march to the Modder River via Waterval and Wegdrai. It was a gruelling march, with dust, blazing sun and thunderstorms by day and no blankets or greatcoats by night. There was also a shortage of drinking water and mostly only emergency rations to eat. The arrival of the 6th Division at the Modder River on 15th February had released French's Cavalry

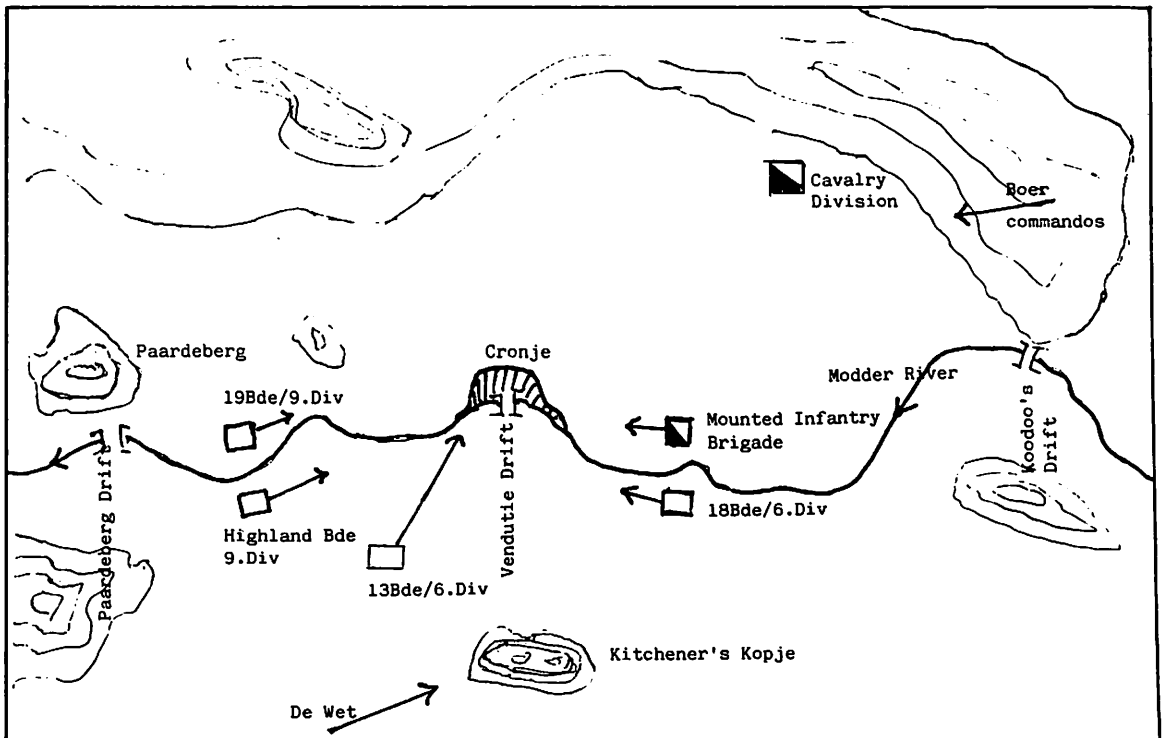
Division for its dash to Kimberley. Very early the following morning the 6th Division received orders to move a brigade forward to clear the Boers from the positions they had taken up overlooking Klip Drift so that the Mounted Infantry could join the Cavalry Division at Kimberley. The initial attack was launched by 2nd Buffs and 1st Oxford L.I. who succeeded in driving the Boers from a ridge they were holding. The Boers thereupon fell back to a second ridge and it was then the turn of 1DWR and 1st Glosters to lead the attack. After a long day the Boers were eventually dislodged from their positions. During the course of these engagements 1DWR incurred 24 casualties, including one killed. This was the final phase in the relief of Kimberley. It now remained to deal with Cronje's army.

Paardeberg: 18th February 1900

By the afternoon of the 15th February Cronje had realised that he was being hemmed in by Roberts, and in the evening he started to withdraw eastwards on Bloemfontein along the north bank of the Modder. His force, 5000 strong, also had a retinue of women and a 5 mile-long train of bullock wagons. Although these wagons restricted the pace of his retirement to about 10 miles a day, Cronje nevertheless nearly succeeded in slipping between French's rearguard and the van of Kelly-Kenny's 6th Division. On the following day the Division brushed with Cronje's rearguard at the Klip Drift engagement; but he managed to shake them off in the evening and

continued his march eastwards. Kitchener, alerted to Cronje's intentions, sent orders to French to ride, without delay from Kimberley to Voodoo's Drift, on the Modder, in an effort to intercept Cronje. French's surviving cavalry, less than 1500 men, with 12 guns, left at 4 a.m. on 17th February on the 30 mile ride to Koodoo's Drift. They covered the distance in six and a half hours and caught up with Cronje's van near Paardeberg. It was Cronje's intention to cross the Modder at Vendutie Drift with a view to joining forces with De Wet and he could have done that if he had kept moving. However he would not purchase safety at the cost of sacrificing his wagons, which were the property and often a large part of the working capital of the Boers who accompanied him. He therefore decided to dig himself into a naturally strong position on the north bank of the river at Paardeberg. Meanwhile, early on the same day (17th February) the 6th Division set out on the south bank of the Modder river towards the Boers new position. After a long and arduous day they were halted at 8 p.m. and, through indifferent staff work, were then obliged to lie out for the night on the veldt. Also on the 17th Roberts, who was prostrated by fever at Jacobsbad, ordered Kitchener to take command. Kitchener as a Major General was junior in rank to Kelly-Kenny the GOC 6th Division, who held the local rank of Lieut General.

Kelly-Kenny had decided to use the infantry to seal off Cronje and rely on the artillery, for which the terrain was ideal, to bombard the Boers into submission. He had already begun to extend his force



The Battle of Paardeberg 18th February 1900

for this purpose when Kitchener brusquely countermanded the plan. Kitchener's alternative, was more aggressive and brutally simple. Kelly-Kenny's 13th Brigade (which included 1 DWR) would launch a frontal attack from the south, while simultaneous attacks were launched by Coville's 9th Division upstream from the west (19th Brigade north and the Highland Brigade south of the river and the mounted Infantry and the 18th Brigade (6th Division) downstream from the east. Kitchener also wanted French's cavalry to attack from the north, but they were, explained French, too exhausted to do so. Instead they would bar the retreat of the Boers should they make the attempt. The defects in Kitchener's hasty plan of action soon became apparent. Kitchener was fighting white men for the first time in his life and he badly underestimated their strength and morale. Nor had he properly appreciated the extreme difficulty of the frontal attack from the south. Added to the tactical errors he had no headquarters from which to direct the battle and virtually no staff to assist him. Even if he had been provided with a staff it is doubtful whether he would have used it as he had an abhorrence of written orders. His alternative was to gallop like a whirlwind from point to point throughout the day. The now ensuring battle was made especially disastrous by his flood of conflicting orders. 13 Brigade launched its attack from the south across 2 miles of open plain. The two battalions on the right incurred heavy casualties and were soon pinned down; but 1 DWR and 1 Oxford LI, on the left, succeeded in charging up to the Modder itself where they captured some outlying Boer trenches on the south bank. The attack of 1 DWR was recorded in the diary kept by Major (then Lieutenant) E. N. Townsend DSO: "We had to advance down a sloping plain without vestige of cover, doing a frontal attack, and were only assisted by two naval guns on our left. The fire was exceeding hot and our men began to fall right and left. They had had no water since 5 p.m. the day before and as the whole advance was carried out under a burning sun, without food, the main object of the troops was to get to the river as soon as possible and to drive the enemy out. The carnage going down this frontal attack was awful. Some of the Black Watch got mixed up with my company and about 40 of us made a final rush of 120 yards and got into the enemy's position on the left bank of the Modder. There was then a general stampede down to the river to fill water bottles during which some of the men got hit... We then had to sit tight till after dark, being under the sniping of the enemy in front and the fire of our 2nd line of attack." Corporal G. E. S. Major, in a letter to his parents, also made reference to effect of thirst. "...at Paardeberg on Sunday 18th February we should not have lost so many men but we had no water for 36 hours and the enemy occupied the river side in strong entrenchments and we knew they would have to be removed before we could obtain water, which we were mad to get and therefore the men became reckless and literally (sic) threw away their lives, but our Regiment with the good old Colonel at our head was one of the first regiments to reach the river side and charge the enemy's left flank."

The link up of the Highland Brigade with the left of the 6th Division came as a surprise to the GOC 9th Division who was unaware that the brigade had received a change in their orders direct from

Kitchener. By mid-day the left flank attack had also petered out. On the other flank things went no better. The mounted infantry was ordered to make a final effort, as according to Kitchener, "All troops have been warned that the laager must be rushed at all costs". This was a strange statement to make, to put it mildly, as none of the infantry brigade commanders had received any such orders. In fact, earlier, when Kitchener had pressed Kelly-Kenny to resume his attack with 13 Brigade, he had successfully resisted the order on the grounds that his troops were exhausted. Not surprisingly the attack from the east was soon halted.

Among the bitter wrangles between Kitchener and Kelly-Kenny had been the matter of how to defend the kopje immediately south of Modder - 'Kitchener's Kopje'. It was upon this vital kopje, stripped of troops on Kitchener's orders, that De Wet, with 500 commandos launched an attack shortly before sunset. The handful of irregular holding the kopje surrendered to De Wet with hardly any opposition. The kopje was the tactical key to Paardeberg. Not only could it make the British positions on the south untenable, it could also provide a life line for Cronje.

On Monday 19th February Roberts reached the battlefield. His first impulse was renew Kitchener's attack, but the generals, though taunted by Kitchener, were firmly opposed. Roberts then swung to the other extreme. Perhaps he was shaken by the sight of the British wounded. Before leaving Cape Town he had cut the number of regimental ambulance wagons by three quarters, in order to save transport. So 800 odd wounded had to be sent back to the railway line in bullocks carts, an agonising experience. On the Wednesday Roberts had a confidential talk with Kelly-Kenny in which he strongly urged retirement. Fortunately for him Roberts was saved by a sudden twist of events. For three days Kitchener had tried to sweep De Wet off the kopje. An hour or two before Roberts was to abandon the hunt, De Wet himself abandoned the kopje. The following Tuesday (27th February) General Piet Cronje and over 4000 Boers surrendered. This was the first major defeat of the Boers and a turning point in the war. The British losses had totalled 1262, including 303 killed, of which the Regiment's casualties amounted to 23 killed and 127 wounded. After the conclusion of the War the Regiment was awarded the Battle Honours "Relief of Kimberley", "Paardeberg" and "South Africa 1900-02".

Acknowledgements

1. 'The Boer War' by Thomas Pakenham. (Weidenfeld and Nicholson)
2. 'Kitchener - Portrait of an Imperialist' by Philip Magnus. (John Murray)

Regimental Association

TRUSTEES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS

A meeting of the Trustees took place at Halifax on Thursday 18th September 1986. Present were: Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, Colonel of the Regiment; Major General D. E. Isles CB, OBE, Mr T. Briggs MC, LLB; Brigadier W. R. Mundell OBE; Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth OBE; Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE, Major F. B. Murgatroyd; Major K. M. McDonald TD, JP, BA and Major A. C. S. Savory MBE. Captain T. Pickersgill and Mr. J. Russell were in attendance.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 1986

The audited accounts were examined and approved.

Investments

A total of £25,000 had been invested in the M & G Charifund during the year. Despite a recent decline in shares prices the value of the investment now stood at £28,000.

The US Trustee (the Custodian Trustee of the Funds) had advised that the Association's holdings of Consols and War Stock, which were now substantially lower in value than when purchased, many years ago, should be sold. On the other hand the investment gave a very good rate of return. The matter was referred to the Investment sub-committee for their investigation and for action as the committee considered appropriate.

Donations and grants

The following donations/grants were approved:-

Army Benevolent Fund	£1,500
Royal British Legion	£200
Salvation Army, Halifax	£50
Huddersfield and District Veterans Association	£100
British Limbless ex-Servicemens Association	£75
Lord Kitchener's Memorial Home and other assisted holidays; to meet costs.	up to £500
The Ex-Servicemens Fellowship	up to £60
The cost of subsidising the visit of the Somme veterans to Thiepval	was £750.

The 'Iron Duke'

The estimated expenditure of the 'Iron Duke' for the current year was examined. It was noted that as income would exceed expenditure no grant from the Association's funds was being requested.

Regimental Association Rules

A final draft of the proposed revised and up dated Rules of the Association was considered and a number of minor amendments were accepted. The Rules would now be submitted to the AGM of the Association for formal approval.



Commemorative Service: Thiepval
Mr. and Mrs. James Gill talking to HRH The Duke of Kent. Mr. Gill served with 1st/6th DWR on the Somme in 1916.

War memorial fund

The Vicar of Halifax Parish Church had reported that the Altar Rails in the Regimental Chapel were not in good condition and required replating. A quotation for the cost of the work was £598 and the Trustees approved the expenditure.

It had also been represented that the lighting in the Chapel should be improved in order to show off the Colours to better effect and to bring the lighting up to the standard elsewhere in the church. The expenditure of £368 on this work was approved.

An appeal had been made to the Regiments/Corps that took part in the Korea War for funds towards the cost of establishing a Korea War Memorial in St. Pauls Cathedral. The Trustees approved a contribution of £500.

The Trustees also approved the following donations from the fund:

Halifax Parish Church	£50
York Minster	£30
RMA Chapel, Sandhurst	£10

New trust deed

A draft of a new trust deed was considered. Mr. Tom Briggs, who had carried out the discussions with the Charity Commissioners on behalf of the Trustees, stated that under the terms of the new Deed the Trustees would have greater discretion than at present to give financial assistance to other charitable activities connected with the Regiment. Mr. Briggs further stated that all that was now required was for the Trustees to make a formal application to the Charity Commissioners for approval to be given for the establishment of the new Trust. The Trustees, having expressed their appreciation of the negotiations Mr. Briggs had undertaken on their behalf, decided to seek the formal approval of the Charity Commissioners. It was the intention to bring the new Trust into effect at the commencement of the Association's next financial year. (1st April 1987).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND RE-UNION DINNER

The AGM of the Regimental Association was held at Wellington Hall, Halifax, on 11th October 1986. The Colonel of the Regiment presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies for their absence were received from Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth, Colonel J. Davidson, Major L. Hill, WO2 P. Berry, Mr. Bob Temple, Mr. John Rutherford, Mr. N. H. Bryson and Mr. Victor Simpson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on Saturday 19th October 1985, were read, approved as a true record, and signed by the Colonel.

3. Matters arising

Major Hoppe asked if National Servicemen are eligible to become full Association members. The Colonel confirmed that they are.

Mr. Kennedy asked whether TA members who had been on an 18 month attachment to the Dukes' were eligible to become full members of the Association. The Colonel stated that any ex-soldier who had served under the Dukes' cap badge was eligible.

4. General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary gave his report for the year ending 31st March 1986.

"There are 300 sitting down to dinner this year. The numbers are steadily increasing, much to our satisfaction, as it shows that more and more ex-Dukes' are showing an interest in maintaining their links with the Regiment.

Financial assistance

96 applicants for grants were received but regrettably included 24 cases we felt we could not help; like the gentlemen who wanted us to pay for the Road Tax on his Rover and the one who wanted us to pay his fines.

The remaining 72 were allotted £5,091.09 from the Association Funds and a further £3,680.00 from the A.B.F., a total of £8,771.09

The 1st Battalion and all the branch Secretaries have received details of the grants made and why, but

without the personal details of applicants.

Interest free loans were obtained from A.B.F. for four pensionable soldiers in the last two years of their service. This is repaid monthly until discharge and the balance is then taken out of their gratuity.

Five persons received the OCA Special Allowance and I'm glad to report they are all in good health.

This year only two members attended the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre.

State of Funds

Copies of the audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 1986, are available for inspection both here now and at RHQ at any time.

Activities

Tonight Mossley Branch are entertaining their Comrades from the French town of Hem. This is the first time that the Hem visit has coincided with our AGM and Dinner.

The London dinner, next year, is on the 25th April 1987 and once again Mr. Cliff Frear is organising a trip to London. The coach leaves on Friday 24th April and returns on Sunday 26th April. Cost £55 to include travel, two nights Victory Club and dinner ticket. Anyone interested please contact Cliff, your Branch Secretary or myself at RHQ.

All the Branches are functioning well but we could still do with more attending members. When one thinks of the thousands of ex Dukes' in the area covered by our branches we should be packed out."

5. Accounts

The Colonel reported that the accounts had been examined and approved by the Finance Committee and the Trustees.

The Colonel said he felt the level of assistance, both from the Regimental Funds and Army Benevolent Fund was a good sign and an indication that ex Dukes' who are in need of financial assistance are being put in touch with RHQ. The Colonel expressed the view that there are still cases unknown to RHQ and hoped that, through the efforts of the Branches and ex members, more of these cases may be brought to light.

6. Progress Report on new Combined Trust Deed

The Colonel explained that the Charitable Funds are regulated by five separate Trust Deeds relating to the individual funds.

The new Trust Deed combines all these five trusts and although retaining the original objects of these Deeds has the added advantage of allowing funds not required for these objects to be used for other charitable causes for the good of the Regiment.

7. Proposal for the adoption of the rewrite of the Regimental Association Rules

Copies of the final draft of the new Rules were available to all present at the meeting. This draft included minor amendments inserted following its circulation to Branches.

Following an explanation by the Colonel on the background of the rewrite of the Rules and a brief discussion on the changes, the new Rules were accepted by the meeting.

Although the new Rules conformed to the wording in the new Combined Trust Deed the new objects of that Deed could not be included in the Rules until the Deed is officially introduced on 1st April 1987.

The Colonel then read out the proposed amendment No. 1 which will add the new objects of the Combined Trust Deed to the Rules. This amendment was approved by the meeting and is to be effective on the introduction of the new Trust Deed.

8. Proposal for the election of Associate and Honorary Members under the new Rules

The Regimental Secretary pointed out that the new Rules allowed for the election of Honorary and Associate Members by an Annual General Meeting. 18 nominations were proposed; Halifax (4); Huddersfield (4); Keighley (6) and Mossley (4). The nominations were approved.

9. Proposal from York Branch to advance to September the date of the AGM and Annual Dinner

It was proposed by Mr. J. Hemming, on behalf of the York Branch, that the date of the AGM and Annual Dinner be advanced to September as it is felt that October is getting into the period of inclement weather which makes travelling difficult.

This proposal was put to the meeting and representatives from Huddersfield, Keighley and Bradford gave it their support.

It was explained that many factors determine the date of the function and these include; availability of the Drill Hall and TA staff to assist, the commitments of the 1st Battalion when in this country, the availability of the Colonel of the Regiment, the dates of Trustees and Finance Committee meetings prior to the AGM, and the preparation of the accounts. A September AGM and Dinner would tend to push these events into the holiday period, thus causing difficulties of attendance.

However in view of the support for the proposal the Colonel directed that an investigation be carried out and the date advanced next year, if at all possible.

10. Any other business

Mr. T. Dickie asked if we had any records at RHQ of soldiers who have been wounded and what action is taken to visit or assist them.

The Regimental Secretary said that there was no such a list at RHQ. There have been many soldiers wounded who are not currently suffering from their wounds.

However, if any soldier who had been wounded and is either suffering from the effects of his wound or is in need of financial assistance; then the Case Committee investigate his case and assist when and where possible.

The Regimental Secretary concluded by assuring the meeting that he will investigate what, if anything, could be further done.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

After the completion of the Annual General Meeting 300 members, wives and friends sat down to an excellent dinner during which the Regimental Band played appropriate music. After the meal the Dance Band took over.

The toast of 'The Regiment' was proposed by RSM Brian Sykes who also gave an account of the recent activities of the 1st Battalion.

As last year, Bill Norman's photographic display created much interest, while the ladies of Halifax Branch contributed to the success of the evening by selling £136 of tickets for the raffle.



Annual Reunion Dinner: 11th October 1986

Back row (left to right). Lieut Col E. J. W. Walker; Lady Huxtable; Maj. Gen. D. E. Isles; Mrs. J. Mundell; the Colonel of the Regiment; Mrs. S. Walker and Brig. W. R. Mundell.
Front row: M. Marcill Amadis (President of the Anciens Combattant Assn. in Hem); M. J. Naert (Councillor); Madame M. Massart (The Mayor of Hem) M. C. Massart (husband of the Mayor).



On 7th November 1986 the Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress held a dinner for representatives of the Regiment at Halifax Town Hall. The dinner was held as a thank you to the Regiment for the help and hospitality which it has given the civic officials in the area over the years.

Left to Right: Capt. C. A. Harvey, WO1 (BM) K. Taylor, Mrs. C. A. Harvey, Mrs. K. Taylor, WO2 T. Butterworth, Mrs. T. Butterworth, WO1 (RSM) B. W. Sykes, Major D. Whittaker, Mrs. D. Whittaker, Councillor D. J. Fox, Mayor of Calderdale, Mrs. D. J. Fox (seated) Mayoress, Mrs. E. J. W. Walker, Lieut Col E. J. W. Walker, Mrs. T. H. Wood, Deputy Mayoress, Councillor T. H. Wood, Deputy Mayor, Mrs. P. D. D. J. Andrews, Lieut Col P. D. D. J. Andrews, Lieut Col (Ret'd) W. Robins, Mrs. W. Robins.

(The Photograph is reproduced by kind permission of the "Halifax Evening Courier")

BRANCH NOTES

London

The branch Annual General Meeting was held at Vivian Court, Maida Vale on Sunday, 14th September and eleven members attended.

Afterwards there was an excellent buffet lunch provided by our ladies to whom we are most grateful.

The minutes of the AGM will be sent to all members in due course. Major Miller and Mr. Owers were re-elected to the posts of Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer respectively.

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate, on Saturday, 25th April 1987. The price of a ticket will be £10.50. We look forward to seeing the Yorkshire branches again and hopefully in even greater numbers than last year.

For the first time both our Chairman and Secretary were able to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association in Halifax, which was followed by the Annual Dinner. This event will be reported elsewhere, but we would like to record what a great pleasure it was to meet so many friends again.

Our monthly meetings take place on the 1st Monday of each month at 20.00 hours at Flat 316, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9. Do come if you can.

Bradford

December is both a good time for looking back and for looking forward. At Bradford we can look back on a year of Branch activities which gave us a great deal

of enjoyment. The occasions are too numerous to mention but if we had to highlight one, it would be our night out at the Floating Restaurant in Shipley.

We are forward to the London Branch Dinner, which we usually attend as a Branch. If the last two years are anything to go by 1987 will be another great weekend.

Finally we are pleased to welcome four new members and we are hoping there will be many more.



Halifax Branch

Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE presenting Mr. Bill Holt with a statuette of the Duke of Wellington on behalf of the members in appreciation of all his work, over many years, on behalf of the Branch.

Mossley

The main events to have taken place since our last report has been the annual visit of our friends from Hem. This year marks their fifteenth visit to Mossley and we were especially pleased to welcome, for the first time, the Mayor of Hem, Mme M. Massart and her husband Dr. C. Massart. Some ten members and wives made their journey and they all arrived safely on Friday 10th October. On Saturday morning they were received by the Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Councillor and Mrs. J. Pettit, at Ashton under Lyne Town Hall and were entertained to drinks. The highlight of the weekend came on Saturday evening when we took our guests to the Regimental Association reunion dinner in Halifax. We all had a wonderful evening. Our friends were much taken by the occasion and especially by the performance of the Band of the 1st Battalion and that wonderful display by the Corps of Drums.

On Sunday there was a Church Parade and a short service of Remembrance at the Mossley Cenotaph, where President Marcel Amadis laid a wreath on behalf of Les Anciens Combattants. Lunch was taken at the Civic Hall and in the evening we held an informal gathering at our HQ. So ended the "French Weekend".

Come and see us if you can, at the Woodend Club, Mossley at 8.00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. We are just opposite the Old Drill Hall where most of us started - there must be a moral around somewhere!

8th BATTALION DWR/145 REGIMENT RAC

The 42nd officers' annual reunion and dinner took place at the St. Ermins Hotel. London on 18th October 1986. Lieut Colonel L. Lusted presided. There were 15 members present and two guests. The latter included the Editor who attended at the invitation of Major F. J. Reynolds who, unfortunately, was unable to be present himself.

The Battalion was re-raised in July 1940 and was converted to 145 Regiment RAC one year later. Subsequently the Regiment saw service in North Africa and Italy. The Regiment was disbanded in January 1945 and it is a matter worthy of note that this small band of Dukes' is still meeting once a year 41 years later.

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL SERVICE IN YORK MINSTER

The annual Regimental Service, which took place in York Minster on All Saints Day, Saturday 1st November 1986, was well attended by serving and retired members of the Regiment and their families. As the Regimental Chapel has proved to be too small to accommodate the numbers normally attending the service it was decided, on a trial basis, to hold the Service in the adjoining Lady Chapel this year. The Service was conducted by the Dean of York, the Very Revd John Southgate, who was assisted by Canon R. I. J. Matthews. The Colonel of the Regiment read the Lesson which was taken from Romans Chapter 12 verses 1 to 10 and the Address was given by Father Alberic Stacpoole MC OSB who, as many readers will be aware, served in the Regiment from 1951 to 1960 before joining the Benedictine Order at Ampleforth.

He was awarded the MC for service in Korea, served for a time with the Parachute Regiment and was ADC to Major General K. G. Exham while the latter was Colonel of the Regiment.

Father Alberic opened his Address by saying "We come together today, in a time of comparative peace in our society, to give remembrance to all those who have ever served with our Regiment, whatever their rank, whatever their contribution, whatever their length of service or dedication." He went on to mention the return to our Regimental Chapel of two stands of Colours of the 33rd Regiment; those carried from 1782 to 1853 and from 1879 to 1925; and one stand carried by the 76th Regiment from 1830-1863. These colours, which were laid up in our Chapel with full ceremony in 1926, became too threadbare and dilapidated for further display and are now lodged in a container below the Altar in the Regimental Chapel.

Father Alberic also spoke about the life and service of the late Major General R. K. Exham, CB CBE MC in whose memory an Alternative Service Book was dedicated by the Dean at the end of the Service. The book which has been donated by the family of Major General R. K. Exham for use in the Regimental Chapel, matches the bible donated in 1975 in memory of his brother, Major General K. G. Exham CB DSO.

Following the service, lunch was provided at the Depot The King's Division at Strensall. The guests at the service and lunch were Major General and Mrs. K. Burch. General Burch took over the post of Chapter Clerk, York Minster, last year.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

John Reddington, who holds a Masters Degree in Psychology, is at the Brisbane College of Advanced Education, where he is a senior lecturer. He has an interesting job teaching students who will become teachers of physically and intellectually handicapped children.

His address is: c/o Brisbane College of Advanced Education, PO Box 82, Mount Gravatt 4122, Queensland, Australia.

Herr H. Vermeulen of Verl Maanderweg 150, Ede, Holland, would like very much to renew his acquaintance with **John, Leslie, Knowlson**, who stayed with the Vermeulen family in 1945. Should any reader know the present address of Mr. Knowlson, would they please contact RHQ.

Lieut Colonel M. M. Davie, who now lives in South Africa, was recently taken ill while on holiday with his daughter in the UK. He is now well on the way to recovery and it is anticipated he will shortly be well enough to return home.

Robert Campbell-Lamerton was recently appointed Officer Commanding 'F' Company (HSF) 3rd Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Forester's Regiment.

Major Bill Burke has re-married and is now living at 37A Moorallerton Drive, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 6RY.

Recent visitors to Regimental Headquarters include:-

Major Tony Randall - who joined the 1st Battalion in 1939 and served with it throughout the War, until his release in 1945.



Korean War Memorial Service
Westminster Abbey: 24th June 1986.

From left to right:- ex-private Scot Bainbridge, Captain R. J. M. Pugh, ADC to the Colonel of the Regiment and ex-C/Sergeant Tom Dickie.

Scott Bainbridge - who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea as a member of the Signal Platoon. He was attached to 'D' Company for most of the time, including their period on the Hook.

Captain Bob Huffam called in during a quick visit from Northern Ireland. He is looking forward to the return of the 1st Battalion to Palace Barracks.

A recent admission in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea is ex Colour Sergeant Reg Alton, aged 76, who enlisted into the Regiment as a drummer boy on 30th March 1925 and was discharged on pension in 1955. Reg served with the 1st Battalion in Africa, Italy, Palestine and Korea.

Changes of address

Capt & Mrs. S. H. Dixon: 6 Darling Road, Dering Lines, Brecon, Powys LD3 7PR.

Capt & Mrs. R. J. M. Pugh: Buckets Lodge, St. Botolph's Mansions, Milford Haven, Dyfed.

Lt Col & Mrs. S. J. Nash: 2 Hunters Way, Dringhouses, York YO2 2JJ

Brig & Mrs. A. D. Firth: Topping House, Bildeston, Ipswich, IP7 7ED

Lt Col D. R. D. Newell: The Old Bakehouse, Woodhouse Lane, Winster, Derbyshire DE4 2DN

Capt D. Battye: Wayfield, Hazeley Road, Twyford, Hants.

Lieut Col and Mrs. J. F. B. Power: 15 Broad Oaks Crescent, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6RP

Colonel & Mrs. J. R. P. Cumberlege: Ibonia Estate, Box 25, Kiambu, Nairobi, Kenya.

REGIMENTAL BENEVOLENT FUNDS

MANAGEMENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1986

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
£		£	£		£
175	Regimental Service.....	253.85	400	Transfer: R. A. Account	500.00
98	Branch Expenses	283.64		-do-	
63	Refreshments	58.84	456	Regimental Dinner subsidy	420.09
30	Miscellaneous Expenses	-	10	Donations	0.25
534	Regimental Dinner (Deficiency).....	420.09	43	Proceeds of Raffle (Regimental Dinner) ..	-
9	Excess of Income Over Expenditure	-		Excess of Expenditure Over Income	96.08
909		1,016.42	909		1,016.42

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 1986

429	GENERAL FUND.....	428.89	396	Cash at Bank	313.51
	LESS: Excess of Expenditure Over Income	96.08	33	Cash in Hand.....	19.30
		332.81			
429		332.81	429		332.81

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1986

EXPENDITURE		INCOME			
£	£	£	£		
3,948	Personal Grants	12,526.09	9,687	Interest on Investments (Gross).....	11,756.13
	Grants		228	Bank Interest	812.92
122	Iron Duke	112.00			
1,376	-do- Subsidy	1,000.00			
345	Membership Cards	-			
400	Management Fund	500.00		Convenanted Subscription	
	-do- Regimental Dinner		308	Officers (Net)	340.79
456	Subsidy	420.09	9,278	Days Pay Scheme: Soldiers (NET)	10,501.72
123	London Dinner	220.39			
59	Wreaths & Poppies	292.45		Income Tax Recovered	
	- Arnhem Trip	602.50		Officers Subscriptions	128.22
462	Lord Kitcheners Holidays	210.00	3,355	Days Pay Scheme (Soldiers)	-
		3,357.43			
	Donations			Grants and Donations	
1,500	Army Benevolent Funds	1,500.00	350	Army Benevolent Fund	7,954.00
	-do- Raffles & Prizes	9.12	66	Subscriptions	59.00
200	Royal British Legion	200.00	100	G. Turner Trust	100.00
50	Salvation Army	50.00		- Sundries	59.10
50	Blesma	50.00			
54	Ex. Servicemen's Fellowship	46.00	104	Salary	-
	- Huddersfield Veterans	100.00		- Profit on Sale of Ties etc.	103.60
		1,955.12			
	Sundries				
300	General Secretary's Honorarium	300.00			
758	-do- Expenses	562.80			
243	Printing, Postage & Stationery	48.30			
162	Trustees Expenses	193.73			
100	Audit & Accountancy	166.75			
88	RAFA Gloves & Carriers	52.89			
98	Refreshments	51.58			
	- Write Off: Debtor-Tandy RHQ	79.92			
	-do- Stock	16.80			
	- UST Charges	49.28			
		1,522.05			
12,582	Excess of Income Over Expenditure	12,454.79			
23,476		31,815.48	23,476		31,815.48

MITCHELL TRUST FUND

EXPENDITURE		INCOME			
£	£	£	£		
30	Trustees' Expenses	20.00	354	Interest on Investments (Gross).....	390.61
20	Audit & Accountancy	-			
304	Excess of Income Over Expenditure.....	370.61			
		390.61	354		390.61

McGUIRE BATE TRUST FUND

544	Grants	477.00	1,614	Interest on Investments (Gross).....	1,717.94
30	Trustees' Expenses	20.00			
30	Sundries	-			
	- Iron Duke	14.00			
51	Wreaths	57.00			
	- UST Charges	53.10			
959	Excess of Income Over Expenditure.....	1,096.84			
1,614		1,717.94	1,614		1,717.94

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 1986

£	LIABILITIES:	£	£	£	ASSETS:	£	£
	CAPITAL ACCOUNTS				INVESTMENTS (AT COST)		
	Regimental Association Fund	100,246.42			Regimental Association Fund		
100,246	Add: Excess of Income Over				£5,000 14 ¹ / ₂ £ Cardiff Corporation 1989	5,052.33	
	Expenditure	12,454.79	112,701.21		£4,616.80 6 ¹ / ₂ £ Greater London 1990/92	4,497.39	
	Mitchell Trust Fund	4,883.68			£5,410.70 9 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1994	5,475.56	
4,884	Add: Excess of Income Over				£4,500 15 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1998	4,320.00	
	Expenditure	370.61	5,254.29		£8,415.23 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1992	8,475.15	
	McGuire, Bate Trust Fund	17,431.52			£1,000 10 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1997	962.40	
17,431	Add: Excess of Income Over				£22,052.21 13 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1990	24,132.06	
	Expenditure	1,096.84	18,528.36		£2,323.70 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1992	2,500.00	
					£2,050 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1999/2002	1,995.37	
					£8,704.51 13 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1987	8,637.50	
					£9,116.77 14 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1994	8,469.65	
					£9,517.29 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1990	9,500.00	
					£9,054.32 11 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1991	9,000.00	
					2622 Units Charifund Income Units	8,031.03	
				88,695	(Market Value- £109,894)		101,048.44
					Mitchell Trust Fund		
					£400 5 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1986/89	393.35	
					27 Units Globe Investments Trust Ltd. 25p		
					Ord. Stock	32.00	
					£2,451.82 2 ¹ / ₂ £ Consolidated	997.50	
					£361.50 3 ¹ / ₂ £ War Loan	205.25	
					£892.29 6 ¹ / ₂ £ Southwark Corporation		
					1983/86	883.20	
					£455.41 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1992	462.97	
					£971.86 14 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1994	921.70	
					£170.38 13 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1990	200.00	
					167 Units Charifund Income Units	501.50	
				4,096	(Market Value- £4,638)		4,597.47
					McGuire Bate Trust Fund		
					£1,582.80 6 ¹ / ₂ £ Greater London 1990/92	1,543.65	
					£437 8 ¹ / ₂ £ Barclays Bank Unsecured		
					1986/93	437.00	
					£500 15 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1998	480.00	
					£3,719.68 9 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1994	3,746.75	
					£1,182.12 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1992	1,198.33	
					£1,735.50 13 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1987	1,732.00	
					£1,575.48 14 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1994	1,492.30	
					£448.48 13 ¹ / ₂ £ Treasury 1990	500.00	
					£2,486.60 12 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1990	2,500.00	
					£1,997.34 11 ¹ / ₂ £ Exchequer 1991	2,000.00	
					502 Units Charifund Income Units	1,505.97	
				15,656	(Market Value- £17,735)		17,136.00
				108,447			122,781.91
				1,595	Stock of Ties		1,761.40
				80	Debtors: Tandy RHQ		-
				18	Cash in Hand		14.38
					Cash at Bank		
				9,858	Regimental Association Fund		9,876.99
				788	Mitchell Trust Fund		656.82
				1,775	McGuire, Bate Trust Fund		1,392.36
122,561		136,483.86	122,561				136,483.86

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the Balance Sheet and Accounts of the Associations' Fund as set fourth and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion, such Balance Sheet and Accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the affairs of the Associations' Fund and are in accordance with the books and papers produced to us.

The 19th day of June 1986.

K. W. HOWARTH & CO.

Chartered Accountants, 36 Clare Road, Halifax.

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION (1st & 2nd Battalion DWR) FUND
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1986

f	EXPENDITURE:	£	£	f	INCOME:	£	£
540	Pensions & Special Allowances		400.00	1,631	Interest on Investments (Gross)		1,532.17
60	Trustees Expenses		-	34	Bank Interest		89.65
45	Audit & Accountancy		51.75	6	Subscription		6.25
2	UST Charges		-	10	Donations		-
11	Grant		30.00				
1,023	Excess of Income Over Expenditure		1,146.32				
1,681			1,628.07	1,681			1,628.07

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 1986

£	£	£	£	£	£
	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	21,352.84		INVESTMENTS (At Cost)	
	Add: Excess of Income Over			£4,225.99 9 ¹ / ₂ % Treasury 1994	4,263.23
21,352	Expenditure	1,146.32	22,499.16	250 Shares Thomas Tilling Ltd. 5 ¹ / ₄ %	
				Cum. Pref. Shares	250.00
				£9,075.30 2 ¹ / ₂ % Consolidated	4,018.79
				£3,613.53 3 ¹ / ₂ % War Loan	3,581.08
				£1,000 7 ¹ / ₂ % Birmid Qualcast Ltd.	
				Unsecured 1987/92	1,023.34
				£1,000 7 ¹ / ₂ % Rockware Group Ltd.	
				Debenture 1988/93	980.62
				£998.58 12 ¹ / ₄ % Exchequer 1992	1,012.32
				£369.56 12 ¹ / ₄ % Treasury 1992	400.00
				£1,334.36 13 ¹ / ₄ % Exchequer 1987	1,350.00
				£494.95 14 ¹ / ₂ % Treasury 1994	475.00
				£911.80 13 ¹ / ₄ % Treasury 1990	1,000.00
				£961.40 12 ¹ / ₂ % Exchequer 1990	1,051.80
				(Market Value- £15,560)	19,406.18
				Income Tax Recoverable	
				27	
				1,919	
				Cash at Bank	3,092.98
<u>21,352</u>			<u>22,499.16</u>		<u>22,499.16</u>

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet and Accounts of the Old Comrades Association (1st and 2nd Battalion DWR) Fund, for the year ended 31st March 1986, and have obtained all the information and explanations received.

In our opinion such Balance Sheet and Accounts are properly drawn up as to exhibit a true and correct view of the affairs of the fund and are in accordance with the books and papers produced to us.

19th day of June 1986.

K. W. HOWARTH & CO.
Chartered Accountants, 36 Clare Road, Halifax.

Obituary

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

Captain T. C. Dalton, MBE

Tommy Dalton died on 26th August 1986, age 83, after a short illness. He first enlisted into the Royal Munster Fusiliers and following the disbandment of that Regiment, in 1922, transferred to the Dukes'. He later joined the 2nd Battalion in India and rose to be RQMS. He was much respected for his professional ability and his cheerful personality made him many friends among all ranks.

During the Second World War he was commissioned into the Indian Army and was awarded the MBE for his wartime service. On his retirement at the end of the war he worked in the Ministry of Defence in London where he again earned the respect of all who came in contact with him.

Mr. Bob Temple represented the Regiment at the funeral service.

Mr. M. Ford

Mr. Maurice Ford died on 7th October 1986, age 75. He joined the "Huddersfield Examiner" in 1947 after wartime service with the RAPC and for a time wrote a regular article on military matters called "Redcoat". He was a frequent visitor to the 1st

Battalion and over the years made many trips to see it in BAOR, Norway, British Honduras, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland.

He was a good friend of the Regiment and maintained contacts with RHQ even after his retirement in 1975.

Major K. M. McDonald represented the Regiment at the funeral service.

Mr. T. H. Blacow

"Bob" Blacow died suddenly on 2nd August 1986 whilst on holiday in Canada with his family.

He enlisted in 1944, serving with the Gordon Highlanders and the Royal Military Police before transferring to the Regiment in 1952. After a period at the Depot he joined the 1st Battalion serving with the Mortar Platoon and in the Quartermasters Department.

Bob was an able senior NCO who was greatly respected for his quiet but capable manner.

On his release from the service he settled in Halifax and was a regular attender at Regimental Association functions.

Mr. C. Dinsdale

Charlie Dinsdale, a wartime member of the 1st Battalion, died at Steeton near Keighley on the 13th July 1986. Charlie was a student at Leeds University when called to the Colours on 1st September 1939, age 19, following his enlistment in the Territorial Army in 1938. After a short spell at the Depot he joined the 1st Battalion in France in January 1940. Having failed to get out of Dunkirk, when the boat he was aboard sunk, he eventually escaped on one of the last boats to leave St. Malo. In 1942 he went with the 1st Battalion to North Africa, later taking part in the operations at Pantallaria, and in heavy fighting at Anzio and Monte Ceco. He was with the Battalion in Palestine and Syria before it moved to Egypt, from where he was sent home to be demobilised in May 1946. He was CQMS of B Company for much of the War and his Company Commander wrote "No one could have been served by a better CQMS". He finished his service as RQMS, a position in which he became firmly established in the affections of the Battalion.

Mr. F. Scott

Fred Scott died at Sheffield on 16th September 1986, aged 80. Fred was a great sportsman who played rugby for the 2nd Battalion in Singapore and later, in India, was the Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the Deccan. While in India he transferred to the School of Cookery at Poona and during the War he served with 9th Battalion/146 Regiment RAC as cook sergeant.

NOTICE**Townsend Thoresen Anagram Competition**

The result of the competition featured in one of the advertising pages of the April edition of the 'Iron Duke' was :-

1st Prize:

WO II P. Morgan, 201 General Hospital
RAMC

Runners up:

- (i) Major J. M. Wright RA (retd) Tenby, Dyfed.
- (ii) L/Cpl G. G. Webb, 17/21st Lancers.

Timothy Taylor

Championship Winning

Traditional Real Ales

KNOWLE SPRING BREWERY KEIGHLEY 603139