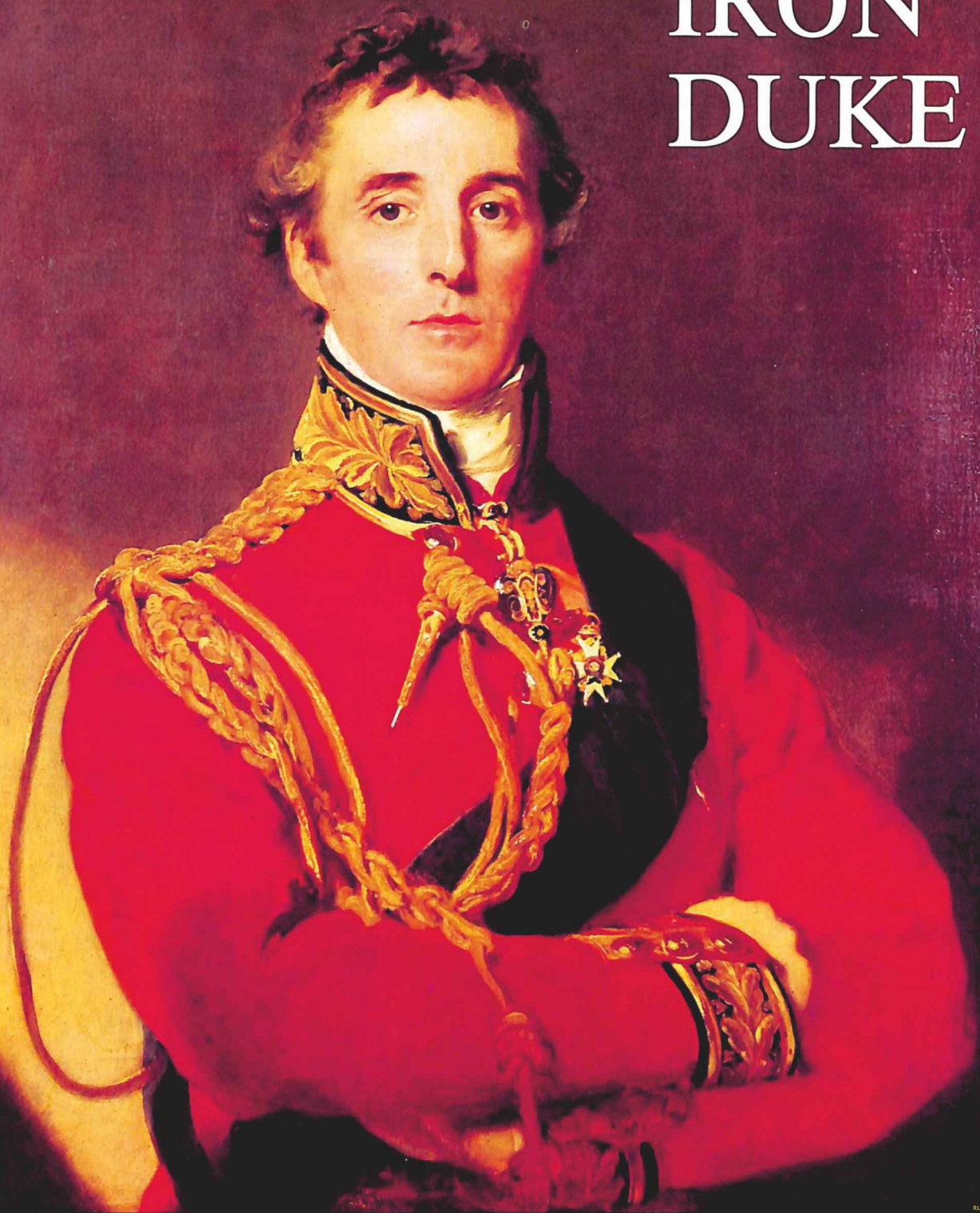


No.204 August 1987

THE
IRON
DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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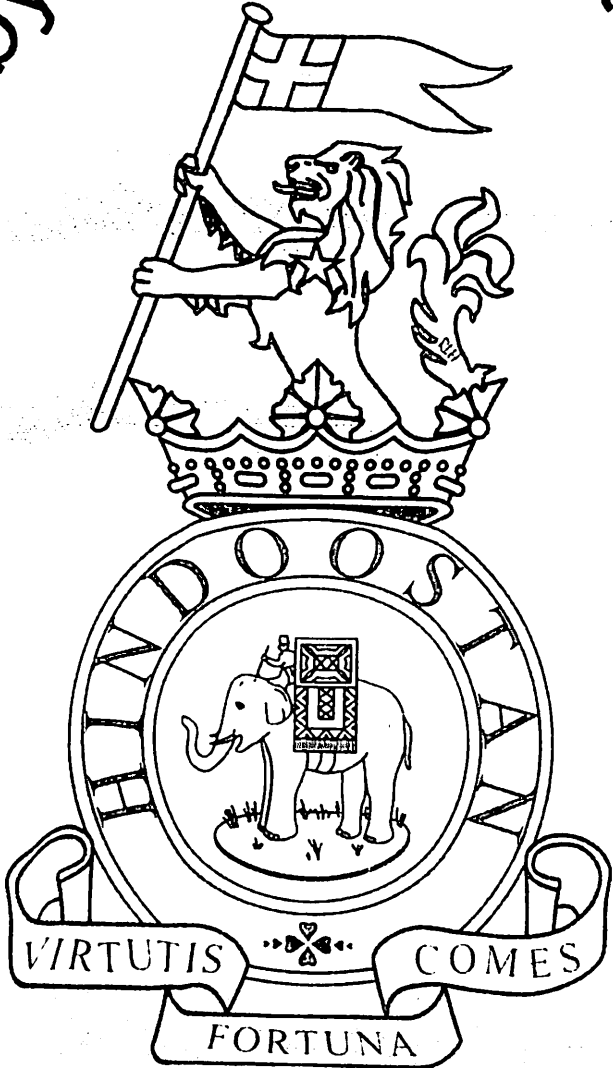
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Digitised by The Regimental Archives



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: Captain S. C. Newton

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Assistant Regimental Secretary:

THE 1st BATTALION

Palace Barracks, Holywood. BFPO.806
CO: Lieut Colonel A. D. Roberts MBE Adjutant: Captain C. A. Harvey
RSM: T. Butterworth

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Commander: Major B. D. Richardson

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

3rd BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS
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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
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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



The 33rd storming Seringapatam - 4th May 1799
(Reproduced from a painting in the possession of the Colonel in Chief)

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

The Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB CBE, is to be promoted to the rank of General in October 1987.

The following Officers have been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1988: Major A. D. Meek, Major J. R. A. Ward.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Colonel E. J. W. Walker and Lieut Colonel R. L. Stevens MBE were both awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Colour Sergeant G. O. W. Williams was awarded the BEM.

H.M.S. 'YORK'

Captain D. A. J. Blackburn LVO, RN assumed command of H.M.S. 'York' in April 1987. The ship was in Hull from 18th to 24th June and the Regimental Band was on the quayside to play the ship in, when she arrived. The Band performed again, in the evening, at a cocktail party on board which was attended by a number of members of the Regiment.

An earlier affiliation with a ship of the Royal Navy was recently recalled when Mrs L. M. Darley, whose late husband served as a Royal Marine on H.M.S. 'Iron Duke', gave the Regiment a copy of a photograph of some of the ship's crew taken in front of three of the ship's 13.5" guns. The photograph clearly shows the tampions fixed to the muzzles of the guns which display The Duke of Wellington mounted on a horse. Four of these tampions are now in the possession of the Regiment.

ASSISTANT REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

Major C. D. d'E. Miller took over the vacant post of Assistant Regimental Secretary on 13 July 1987. He has also taken on the mantle of Business Manager of the "Iron Duke".

David Miller was commissioned into the Regiment from the R.M.A. Sandhurst in August 1952 and joined the 1st Battalion in Korea in early 1953. He remained with it until 1956 when he was seconded to the Somaliland Scouts. He returned to the 1 DWR, then at Palace Barracks, Holywood, in late 1958. Two years later he went to Mons OCS, Aldershot for a tour as a Platoon Instructor before rejoining 1 DWR in 1962 for duty in Catterick and Osnabruck. In 1964 he was posted to the West Riding Battalion in Huddersfield as Training Major. That appointment was followed by a four year secondment to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment. He was created a Dato of the Most Honourable Order of the Crown of Brunei in 1970.

In 1971 he returned to the 1st Battalion as Families Officer in Catterick and Ballykelly. He took up the appointment of OC 601 TACP (FAC) in 1973. He remained in this post for four years during which time he did two operational tours, one with UNFICYP in 1974 and one to Belize in 1975. He retired from the

Army in 1977 and has spent the last ten years pig farming. To be coming to RHQ in Halifax is, to quote his own words, "like coming home to the family".

Both his father and elder brother served in the Regiment.



*The Assistant Regimental Secretary
Major C. D. d'E. Miller*

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Through an introduction from Brigadier Michael Bray, RHQ has been in contact with His Honour Judge Rowlands QC, the son of Lieut Colonel Charles Rowlands, who served in the Regiment after the first World War until 1933 and again during the second World War. Judge Rowlands has donated for the Archives copies of GHQ Constantinople and 1 DWR Orders of September 1923 relating to the ceremony for the handover of Haida Pasha Barracks in Turkey to the Turkish Army, together with three photographs of the ceremony.

Colonel (Ret'd) Barbara Laverack, MBE MM, has donated to the Regiment the medals of her late father, Major (QM) T. V. Laverack MBE MM. This very interesting set of medals spans two World Wars and is made up as follows:- MBE, MM, 1914 Star with bar (5 August - 22 November 1914), British War Medal 1914-1920, Victory Medal 1914-1918 with MID Oakleaf, King George V Silver Jubilee Medal 1935, King George VI Coronation Medal 1937, 1939-1945 Defence Medal, 1939-1945 War Medal, LS & GC Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.

THE 1st BATTALION'S NEXT MOVE

In February 1989, following completion of the current tour in Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion will move to Ternhill - approximately 15 miles north of Wellington, Salop.

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

It has been decided that henceforth the 1st Battalion and RHQ should combine to produce one Christmas Card which will be available to all members and ex members of the Regiment. The card to be used for 1987 will be the one produced last year by the 1st Battalion which has on the front a coloured photograph of the Band and Drums at Stratfield Saye with the Colonel in Chief, Brigadier His Grace The Duke of Wellington, LVO OBE MC BA DL. The inside of the card has the badges of the 33rd and 76th along with an appropriate greeting. These cards are available to members of the 1st Battalion through the PRI and to all others from RHQ, price 25p each. Cheques with orders please payable to "DWR RHQ Fund".

DEEDS OF COVENANT

Some members of the Regiment who make covenanted subscriptions to regimental or other charities may not be taking full advantage of the

income tax concessions available to them under such covenants. The following statement on the subject which was recently circulated by the Ministry of Defence is therefore published for guidance.

"A deed of covenant provides a simple and tax-efficient way to transfer income. As you are already aware the charities you support are able to claim back the basic rate of income tax on any covenanted sums from your total income before calculating your liability to tax. This means that those paying a higher rate of tax will save the difference between the higher and basic rate of tax for any sums covenanted.

However HM Inspector of Taxes will not automatically apply this benefit and it is up to the individual to advise the inspector of the sums covenanted. The simplest way to do this being to enter the amounts covenanted in the appropriate box on the tax return form. Finally to ensure you continue to receive this benefit you must repeat the process annually."

THE REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

The Regimental Council met at Apsley House on 19th June 1987. Present were: The Colonel in Chief; Lieut General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, Colonel of the Regiment; Major General D. E. Isles CB, OBE; Brigadier J. B. K. Greenway OBE; Lieut Colonel P. D. D. J. Andrews; Lieut Colonel A. D. Roberts MBE; Lieut Colonel W. Robins OBE; Major K. M. McDonald TD, JP and Major A. C. S. Savory MBE. Major C. D. d'E. Miller was in attendance. Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth OBE was unable to be present.

Opening the proceedings the Colonel in Chief, referring to his recent visit to the 1st Battalion, stated that he had been most impressed by all he had seen. The following matters were discussed.

Old Regimental Colours: A plaque has now been affixed to the wall of the Regimental Chapel in York Minster, describing the Colours that once hung there but which are now deposited in a container beneath the Altar.

Colonel C. J. Pickering CMG, DSO: Colonel of the Regiment from 1938 to 1947. The Regiment recently commissioned a portrait of Colonel Pickering which has been completed and is now in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion.

Friends of the Regiment Fund: The Colonel of the Regiment informed the Council that the income of the Fund for the year ended 31st March 1987 was £3,200. The balance of the fund was nearly £17,000 notwithstanding some major expenditure during the year e.g. towards the cost of refurbishing the Regimental Museum.

Regimental Colour of the 4th West Riding Volunteer Rifle Corps: This Colour, which recently turned up in an antique shop in Halifax, has now been handed over to 'C' (DWR) Company 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers.

Recruitment: The Colonel of the Regiment advised that both officer and soldier recruitment continued to be very satisfactory. Among the potential officers are

the sons of four members of the Regiment.

Officers' Dinner Club 1988. It was decided that the Dinner will be in York in 1988 during the same week end as the Regimental Service at York Minster.

The 'Iron Duke': The financial forecast for the year ending 31 March 1988 indicated a deficit of £300. The effects on revenue of the decline in advertising was noted. In April 1982 there were 12 pages of advertising; in April 1987 there were only 6½ pages. The finances of the 'Iron Duke' would be considered by the Trustees of the Regimental Association funds at their meeting in September 1987.

Regimental History: The short history is now at the page proof stage and should, therefore, be available shortly. It was anticipated that it would sell at £1.50 per copy.

Detailed proposals for the production of a new full length history of the Regiment were considered. The proposals were agreed and a small committee is now to be established by the Colonel of the Regiment to oversee the project.

Regimental Service, York Minister: It was agreed that the experiment of having the Service in the Lady Chapel had been a success and the Colonel of the Regiment decided that the service 1987 and thereafter would be on the same basis.

Silver model of AFV 432. Some time ago a proposal had been made that the Regiment should purchase a silver model of an AFV 432. However other expenditure had necessitated the postponement of the proposal. The Colonel of the Regiment advised that an investigation would be made about ways of meeting the cost.

Christmas Cards: In recent years the 1st Battalion and RHQ have each produced separate and different Christmas cards. It was agreed that in future the Regiment should have a single card; probably one with a suitable Regimental photograph on the front and the Regimental badges inside. Existing stocks of cards would, however, have to be used up first.

1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

The Battalion has now been in Palace Barracks, Hollywood for 5 months. We slipped smoothly out of Bulford, handing Kiwi Barracks over to I D & D in excellent condition and assumed duties from 1 Kings Own Border in Palace Barracks on 18 February. We brought 240 families with us which means that only 30 married soldiers are unaccompanied, mostly for understandable personal reasons.

There has been a significant upsurge in terrorist activity so far this year, coinciding almost exactly with our arrival! We were therefore thrown in at the deep end early in the tour and have been extremely busy ever since. Actually, this immediate blooding was very good for everyone, testing people, procedures and equipment alike. Modifications were made where necessary, and the early apprehension was soon forgotten as Dukes were involved in shooting, booby traps and mortar attacks. We are now a Battalion confident in ourselves, our soldiers and our commanders. Thankfully we have suffered no casualties. The worst enemy inflicted injury was a badly bruised shoulder received during the mortar attack on Bessbrook.

The life of the rifle companies is full of variety. Each company takes a turn as No. 1 Company, deploying for approximately one month at a time. Until 1st June this was to South Armagh, under command of the Armagh Roulement Battalion, manning hill top observation posts (OPs), patrolling the countryside and protecting the bases. Life in the OPs was primitive but surprisingly popular. Rural patrolling was arduous with frequent obstacles to cross - ditches and blackthorn hedges - often at night and in poor weather. Since 1st June the No. 1 Company has deployed into Belfast under command of the Belfast Roulement Battalion, and a further platoon from No. 2 Company has worked in Armagh City with 2 UDR. The remainder of No. 2 Company does the guards and duties in Palace Barracks. No. 3 and 4 Companies therefore meet emergency and extra planned deployments, of which there have been many (including the three days spent trying to bury Larry Marley in the Ardoyne) and try to fit in all the other normal activities of training, sport, adventure training and leave.

Because we in Battalion Headquarters commit our companies to under command others for most of the

time, I am very keen that we direct any spare capacity to providing a secure, well equipped and well maintained barracks, particularly for the single soldiers when they return from their deployments and for the families when the husbands are away. Life is relatively normal and Belfast is a thriving shopping centre, but there are still a great many restrictions and constraints on day to day life. Palace Barracks has therefore to be the focus of social and sporting activities for all ranks. To this end we have made great efforts to raise the standard of the amenities, whether it is the refurbishment of the squash and tennis courts, the creation of a Youth Club with its own premises, or the major improvements in the Community Centre with its excellent facilities - coffee shop, families bar, library, creche, kindergarten and knick knock shops - all of which are thriving. We have been given considerable help by everyone - Brigade, Headquarters Northern Ireland and PSA alike. As a result Palace Barracks is now beginning to feel and look like 'home'.

We have won the all army 7-a-side Rugby Cup and the Northern Ireland Rugby 7-a-side, Swimming, Athletics and Half Marathon Competitions. Individuals have represented the Army in England at rugby, swimming, athletics, cricket and cross country. With our operational commitments this is a bit of a juggling act but worth it.

We have also been visited by a great variety of people. The highlight was the 2 days in early June when the Colonel in Chief and the Duchess stayed with us. They took a keen interest in all we are doing, both operationally and for the welfare of the soldiers and their families. We felt privileged that they should take the trouble to visit us in what might appear to be inhospitable surroundings. Similarly we were very pleased to be hosts to the Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale, Councillor and Mrs. David Fox, who have done a great deal during their year in office to maintain the close links between the Regiment and its main recruiting area. And we had an early visit from the Secretary of State, Mr. Tom King and, of course, frequent visits from the Northern Ireland military hierarchy.

As usual, I can report that we are working and playing hard and finding the operational challenge thoroughly worthwhile.

ALMA COMPANY

Operation "Bullet"

The task given to the Battalion would have been entirely familiar to anyone who had served on the North West Frontier of India; namely to secure a route. Visions of picketing the heights came to mind. However, in reality the problem was quite different from that posed by the Pathans all those years ago.

The countryside of South Armagh is ruggedly beautiful and not dissimilar to parts of Wales. A small range of hills rising sharply to over 1500 feet dominate the area. The valleys are patterned by hundreds of small fields. The hills are barren and offer a stark contrast to the farmland with its mixture of drystone walls and thick blackthorn hedges all of which seem to



Border patrol
Privates Robson and Sutcliffe near Cullyhanna. The border runs 50m beyond the road.

be reinforced with barbed wire. The roads follow the low ground with even the major highways meandering through what on more pleasant days is lovely countryside.

Over the years the Provisional IRA has planted numerous land mines on the roads with the result that military vehicles hardly ever travel along them. Instead we have come to rely on the helicopter for all transport requirements be they troop redeployment or resupply of Mars Bars to distant outposts.

The aim of operation "Bullet" was to implement major improvements and repairs to a number of observation posts along the border south of Crossmaglen. Helicopters could not possibly take all the heavy equipment and stores to the separate sites and so a road move had to be planned.

The Battalion was given the task of securing the route from Bessbrook south to the village of Silverbridge (3 miles east of Crossmaglen), a route of some 9 miles overall. Battalion Headquarters deployed to Bessbrook where Corunna Company was already in situ and Alma, Somme and C Company 1 PWO were deployed along the route. Having considered the threat (a bomb on the route) it was decided to position platoons close to the road to

enable them to react quickly should it become necessary. The road itself was dotted with a mixture of observation posts, platoon positions and vehicle check points.

Everyone was flown direct from the barracks by helicopter 24 hours before the first convoy was made. Each man carried his personal kit for 2+ weeks in the field, rations for 48 hours plus 50 sandbags, entrenching tools, essential observation devices, weapons and ammunition. If the helicopters had not delivered us to our platoon locations the operation might never have got off the ground so loaded down was each soldier.

The first task was to physically clear the route which took the whole of the first day and was done by Royal Engineer Search Teams protected by our teams. Concurrently platoons began the task of digging in which was to prove one of the major problems. Despite the fact that some platoons were sited in lush green fields, solid rock was only inches below the surface. Other positions were in rocky outcrops. Thus it took 3½ days constant work to build up (and dig down). Pneumatic drills were used to break the rock, thousands of sandbags were filled and fields of fire cleared. And all the time the task of protecting the

route had to continue to allow the engineers to get their machinery to the observation posts.

Once the positions were completed we remained on the ground for over two weeks. Each platoon had its own area of operations and the major problems were avoidance of boredom, administration and protection from the elements. However hard we tried it was extremely difficult to dream up new ways of operating and thus after 10 days the novelty of the job lost its shine to a large degree. Administration was a constant headache but throughout the operation we always received essential items either by helicopter or on the night-time CQMS resupply run. It was with the weather that we were luckiest: despite Ireland's reputation we had many days of glorious sunny weather and only 72 hours of truly atrocious weather.

After 18 days of living in the field (in itself a major accomplishment for the majority of us) the Engineers had finished their job and we were ready to pull out. Positions were filled in (the prospect of a bath and clean clothes meant that this took less than 6 hours) and we then withdrew to Hollywood via Bessbrook in 4 tonners. By the end of it all an enormous number of lessons had been learnt, many of them basic ones. Gortex bivvy bags and waterproofs had been issued and had proved a godsend, which is the reverse of what could be said for the issue boot! Radios were problematic as were the army cookers, but despite everything we returned in one piece. We had ensured that the route remained open at all times, and there was not one operation mounted against us by the opposition.

BURMA COMPANY

The Inter Platoon Competition

When details of an inter platoon competition appeared on the notice board, alarm, panic and rush preparations began to take place because we did not want to be shown up by the other platoons.

The competition began with a March and Shoot which left 6 Platoon at the bottom of the score board.

It was a win or die competition and the pressure was on, particularly for Pte Alty from the gym who had to go round the combat fitness test twice due to the emergence of a fourth team headed by the Company Commander.

The March and Shoot consisted of a march of 8 miles in 1 hour 50 minutes followed by a few exercises.



*Burma Company: Inter Platoon competition
6 Platoon tackle the cross country course*

The shoot which took place straight after the march, was even more exhausting as it involved a sprint down from 600 metres to 100 metres with a brief pause at the firing points in between, to shoot at fleeting targets.

5 Platoon entered a monkey into the gym circuit competition. The complaints were just about to go in when the monkey was recognised as LCpl Coggon. Pte Lewis from 6 Platoon is probably still standing at the side of the hockey pitch. He was sent off for failing to differentiate between the ball and peoples' legs - it's surprising how short sighted one can get when the honour of the Platoon is at stake!

The swimming competition took place after a few false starts with 4 Platoon entering Mark Spitz, alias Pte Stannard, although unfortunately for 4 Platoon, he wasn't quite able to win the competition on his own.

The football seemed to be one of the prestige events although everyone claimed not to be bothered and they certainly weren't going to make any extra effort for it. Both 5 and 6 Platoons when questioned claimed it wasn't football training they were doing but fitness work. Well, no amount of training could overcome the skilful partnership of Sgt Nutter and the CQMS who took their team to victory with a large amount of heavy breathing and wild kicking. Pte Shaw educated the opposition in the black art of football known as the body check at which he is an unchallenged champion. Ethel Donnelly came over from the Arsenal specially to wash 6 Platoons' strip which had been begged, borrowed or something from somewhere by LCpl Barratt.

Cpl Jones from the gym dreamt up a rather nasty assault course competition which involved not just one trip over the assault course but two, combined with a log race over a cross country horse trial course. Everyone now has a great deal of respect for horses!

Just to cap it the OC had his own competition lined up for the last day. In the first event platoon commanders had to test how far they could run away from a guard dog before it savaged them. At the same time Cpl Clarke had a team trying to design the best company sweatshirt motif. The CQMS meanwhile had people driving Her Majesty' Landrovers blindfolded, and other similarly easy to acquire military skills were also tested.

Just for the record, 6 Platoon came first, followed by 4 and 5 Platoon.

Another Patrol

Spud takes a long draw on his cigarette, Fletch finishes oiling his weapon and Chalky makes his way down the corridor for a shower. Several faces appear at the door, blood shot eyes, cam cream still on but fading and another ammunition check begins. Next patrol out at 0800 hours, with luck the lads will get six hours sleep. Although it is not enough you soon get used to it.

Orders at 0710 arrive: "ready to move," that means, if we are called to the helicopters at 0715, as happens, we can get there. South Armagh is familiar ground to all of Burma Company now, and particularly the old sweats who have been there before in 1982. But for many rural patrolling is new. The rolling hills, the small fields, those thick hedgerows and the barbed wire.

Another patrol prepares to leave the Mill. Kit on, cam cream on. It is not such a bad day out, or is it? There is little natural light in the old Victorian fortress. At least it's not raining. No need to go through the ground in much detail, we know what it's like. The situation is brought up to date and the multiple commander goes through the task and how the six hour patrol will run. A quick re-cap on one or two other points and the heavily laden figures get up and move down to the helicopter pad.

A couple of RUC men meet us at the waiting hut, the usual jokes fly round, "how much do you earn a month?" Everyone laughs. It is quite funny really.

"Next Lynx in, that's yours", and off we go, picked up and dropped in a field. The ride is brief, the adrenalin no longer pumping. It is hard to remind the lads continually of the threat, which is always there, but the speed of the exit from the chopper means that the drills have been working. Spread out, go for cover and wait for the order to move.

On occasion the patrols may turn out to be quite interesting and often amusing - there is always something funny about falling in a bog. More often than not the patrol will stop traffic on small country lanes, possible routes used by the terrorists, or perhaps make a house check to find out who's living where. By the end of our short time in South Armagh, VCP's, Lurks (a night spent watching somewhere or someone when it can get very cold, but you get used to that) become routine tasks.

A light flashes in an isolated field, the multiple races for the helicopter, through the blast of warm air and into the cramped cabin. The noise fades into the darkness and the airborne taxi flies off in the direction of the Mill. The remainder of the patrol waits patiently in the hedgerow. The boss's team is always last to fly out. They hate it but you get used to that.

The second pickup flies in, and the multiple is reunited back at the Mill, another patrol completed. A quick debrief, who we saw, where we went and then the weapon cleaning and kit handing in begins again. Another ammunition check and the next patrol is due out at 2000 hours. A few hours sleep if you're lucky.

Hard work, cramped conditions and the challenge of an operational month in South Armagh, - Burma Company survived it all and look forward to a repetition. The job has a certain appeal, compared with the relatively tame time we have back at Palace Barracks.

First Steps in 1 DWR by an RAPC Subaltern

In March this year I sat at breakfast in a bleak Nissen hut in Sennybridge. It was then, soaked to the bone after 11 thoroughly miserable days in the Brecon Beacons, that I received my posting order to 1 DWR. My first comment was "who or what is 1 DWR" - shortly followed by "where is 1 DWR?"

A month later I arrived at a Belfast Dock somewhat apprehensive at my first visit to Northern Ireland. How was it really going to be?

From the quayside I telephoned the guard corporal at Palace Barracks asking him which would be the best direction to take. His candid advice was that I should turn the car round, drive on the ferry and head back to England. Oh dear I thought.

Arriving at my destination I found that most of the Dukes were out. Something called 'Bullet' was

occupying their time, and only a skeleton staff was left behind to ensure the security of the rugby pitch. Consequently the band did not turn out to greet my arrival, although this should not have surprised me as I had arrived 24 hours early. At the time I didn't know it, but my keenness saved me from some very dark and machiavellian plans which had been laid to welcome me. Even so certain ideas were implemented at short notice to make me feel at home from the start.

My pantomime sketch commenced with the CQMS impersonating the OC and LCpl Pugh the CSM. I was told I had one hour to draw and pack my kit in order to take over command of 6 Platoon in South Armagh. Somewhat surprised I proceeded to the stores where the CQMS promptly issued me with almost its entire contents - including the sink! To my credit I returned an hour later, ready for war, to receive a cancellation of plans together with an interview with the real OC Burma whose most important question was "can you play rugby?"

My second day began with a flight over Belfast in glorious sunshine. Certainly from a few hundred feet the city looked quite pleasant. Later Sgt Able introduced me to the responsibilities of Orderly Officer, including the pressures of accounting for the tins of peas in the ration store, casualties in the hospital, weapons in the armouries and prisoners in the nick.

My education continued the following day with a flying visit to the war zone of South Armagh. Here I found 6 Platoon out on "Bullet". However, "Bandit Country" seemed more akin to the Costa Brava as the multiples were concentrating more on catching the rays than the Seans and Michaels. However it came as a welcome surprise and contrasted the horror stories I'd heard, though with the mortar attack on the Mill fresh in everyone's minds, the threat was obviously only too real.

My training continued for a fortnight in the same guided tour fashion because I had not yet got my "licence to kill" (or be killed) from attending the course at NIRTT - No Idea Really Though Trying... or something like that. At Ballykinler, everyone who joins a unit already stationed in Northern Ireland, undertakes the basic training to be "allowed out" in the Province. To newcomers such as myself the experience was valuable and at times very interesting and informative.

Well now, after a whole five weeks of being attached to the Dukes, what do I really think of you? Without a doubt you're the finest Regiment in the British Army and mine's a pint of bitter the next time I see you in the bar!

CORRUNA COMPANY

A Company operational tour in South Armagh

Work for us in "Bandit Country" started with a bang, literally, or rather sixteen bangs as the IRA launched its largest attack yet against the Bessbrook Army Base, not eighteen hours after Corruna Company had assumed responsibility for the security of the Mill and its TAOR. The mortar attack signalled the end of 3 months quiet in South Armagh and it was clearly meant to be a "spectacular", from which by the grace of God, we were saved. Of the sixteen rounds fired only three exploded in the camp, all of them in the courtyard which is normally full of soldiers but which at that time was miraculously almost empty. Nevertheless about 20 vehicles were destroyed, some beyond recognition. Only two soldiers, both Royal Hampshires were injured. The Guard Room, only feet away from the seat of the explosion, where Sgt Dowdall and his men were on duty, was severely damaged. The force of the explosion hurled soldiers across the room, dislocating LCpl Bramwell's shoulder, our only casualty in the attack. As soon as the last explosion was over the business of cordoning, clearing and searching the Mill for blinds started and as the day unfolded we all realised how lucky we had been.

A further seven blind rounds were found inside the camp area, in the Cookhouse, Officers Mess, Sergeants Mess, Kitchens, QMs Store and finally ablutions where the Royal Hampshire's RSM had been currently doing his business. Finishing it face down face on the floor required some dexterity and care, he tells us.

The mortar attack was the start of what was to dominate the remainder of our tour, the round the clock protection of Bessbrook Mill. Our seniors realised just how lucky we had been and were determined that it should not happen again until the planned long term protection measures were completed. However, for those on the ground carrying out protection duties, manning vehicle check points and endless patrolling around the town, it was a long and gruelling task. It took some five days before relief came and patrols could start to look again beyond the confines of Bessbrook. During the next five weeks, until we left, a non-stop series of different cap badges from all over the province came into the Mill, under our command, to assist in maintaining its security. They came to love the Mill as much as we had done.

Outside the Mill life continued much the same. All our companies took our operational deployment in turn under command of Armagh Roulement Battalion, 1 Royal Hampshires. We had a Platoon and a half with Company Headquarters based at Bessbrook Mill, half a Platoon at Newtown Hamilton RUC Station together with another Platoon from Incremental Roulement Battalion, 1 Queens, all under our company control, and a Platoon worth of soldiers manning three OPs situated on the tops of Camlough, Sturgen and Sugarloaf mountains, part of a chain of OPs throughout South Armagh.

It was good to see that for once everybody thought that the grass was greenest on their side and no one took the opportunity to change jobs with others; apart



Lieutenant Brear surveys the aftermath of the mortar attack.

from Sgt Varley, commander for Sturgen OP, who found life in an armoured box, perched on top of a mountain, with the ever present odour of a malfunctioning 'humus' toilet definitely only for the birds. Everyone else in the OPs thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to get away from it all secure in the knowledge that the Company Commander's visits were always preceded by the distant flapping of a helicopter's rotors. Those on patrol couldn't understand how anyone could bear to be couped up for weeks on a mountain top while they had the freedom to get out and about and do something, even if it did involve an endless battle

against blackthorn hedges, bogs, streams and barbed wire, or to find oneself roundly abused by a belligerent lady refusing to have her car searched.

Before the end of our tour we learnt that the Battalion's operational Company would no longer be deployed to South Armagh, which was a piece of news which delighted us all. With our home base being on the outskirts of Belfast it had always seemed more sensible to us to work in the city where we already had commitments. Besides, nearly all of us found it more interesting and stimulating environment to work in. Nevertheless, South Armagh was good experience for the Company and the Battalion.

SOMME COMPANY

Visit of the Colonel in Chief and Duchess of Wellington 7 - 9 June 1987

The arrival of the Colonel in Chief and the Duchess of Wellington on a typically blustery, showery and overcast Northern Ireland day signalled the start of a full and diverse visit to the 1st Battalion in Holywood.

Security was tight throughout the visit which began on Sunday evening with a Beating of Retreat on the Palace Barracks Rugby Pitch, followed by a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess.

After a brief on operational matters on Monday morning (leaving the Duchess in Palace Barracks to meet families and view community amenities) the Colonel in Chief was taken on a whistle stop tour to South Armagh and Belfast. Meeting an Alma Company platoon detachment at Bessbrook Mill was followed by an air recce of the key areas in South Armagh where the Battalion was deployed during the first three months of the tour.

Lunch was taken 'en route' to Belfast by car via Armagh City to see a Corunna platoon and to meet

the remainder of a widely dispersed Alma Company, all of which demonstrated the distinctly different urban and rural roles we have to fulfil in the Province. This busy day was concluded by a ladies Dinner Night in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Tuesday, the final day, gave the Colonel in Chief a chance to see Palace Barracks. The programme included many departments and locations as well as

Somme Company on the 30m range and a demonstration by the security dog section. The Colonel in Chief was particularly interested in seeing, handling and firing for the first time the new rifle - SA80. He was also shown at several stands a display of the latest equipment issued in Northern Ireland today, an area in which he showed great interest. The 'finale' was a ladies lunch in the Officers' Mess.



The Colonel in Chief firing the SA 80 on the 30m range.

Signal Platoon

The Signal Platoon has enjoyed a busy and profitable year so far. Although no link can be proved, signallers have performed well and course reports have been favourable since Captain Bruce and CSgt Brooks were lured to the bright lights of Warminster - no doubt keeping a watchful eye on all.

The magic radio system used in Northern Ireland - Cougar net - has finally been tamed (it is rumoured a few even understand it!) and the platoon fights its own little war by attempting to meet the demands and complexities of electronic life in Belfast to keep the Battalion "all informed".

When not running our busy schedule of Electronic Counter Measure, Cougar and Standard II cadres the platoon hobbies are exploited to the full. These appear to be fishing, marrying and increasing the world population - with Hawkeye and Lee Martin first off the mark. It is rumoured that Bagdad and Palace Barracks have the same Birth Rate.

Other activities have included Adventurous Training swans led by; Colour Thompson and Sig Stenhouse (sailing), Cpl Ward (diving) and Mr. Mac (leave passes) combined with a good fitness training programme helping Baggers along.

It's dogs life

Since the beginning of the tour in February 1987 dogs and handlers alike have become more experienced. Initial training, although thorough, still needs to be followed by planned experience on the ground. If not properly organised and planned needless repetition can cause boredom for both dog and handler, which may result in a breach of security or an attack on innocent people. The average dog has a bite of 100lbs per square inch, can run at 30-35 miles an hour and can bite through a chain link fence in 20 seconds. A formidable opponent or ally - depending on who you are and how well your dog is

trained/disciplined! All the more reason for interesting training, good working conditions and a healthy diet.

The normal day starts with an intake of meat, vitamins, protein and roughage (usually in the form of a handler's finger or two). Next comes a visual inspection to confirm that no injuries have developed, followed by thorough cleaning and disinfection of the whole kennel area.

Then into the glorious sunshine and up to the exercise area.

"Oh no not the usual 'sit' 'stay' routine - still the sooner we get this over with, the sooner we can get stuck into that joker in the padded suit. They still insist in wearing trainers with it. I'll bite his ankles later - he'll learn."

"What does this boy mean? 'Don't sit there - sit here', I'm big enough - I'll sit anywhere I want, and if he doesn't watch his manners he'll lose another finger."

"Over the poles, under the gate, over the roof - he must think I'm super pup or something. I'll just speed up a bit, he'll soon get sick of it."

"That's it! you sit down for a fag, I'm going to sleep - foolish boy, Grimmer. Oh do shut up Archie! - yes I know - behind the guard again with feed bowl gleaming or else! Better get on with it Grimmer, or you'll be up to see Boss Hog again. CSM huh! struts around as if he owns the place, he'll need new lightweightes if he's not careful."

"Oh! that sun, I could just go five minutes with that Golden Lab from next door.....Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z."

"Oh! what! on the move, oh dear. I'm on duty tonight - oh drat! Still 0030 they kick the girls out - a good sniff and bark - wake up the Sgts Mess again, and again at 0230 when the lads get back in from town and every hour thereafter. If I'm up - they're up."

"Oh it's a dog's life."

OFFICERS MESS

The Mess is situated in a leafy corner of Palace Barracks, surrounded on three sides by mature gardens and trees. It is a large, high ceilinged, red brick building with impressive ante rooms.

Unfortunately, the fourth side of the Mess backs onto the helipad!

Enemy Forces

All helicopter pilots (especially those who take off between the hours of midnight and 0600 hours!)

All painters, significantly those who bear down on you in the corridor carrying white sheets.

All workmen, in particular those who insist on starting work at meal times.

Friendly Forces

The Movements SNCO

The local hairdressers, models and air hostesses.

Execution

General Outline:

The Mess has become the focus of social life in Palace Barracks. The families are frequenting it and we have

introduced some highly successful curry lunches on Sundays - cooked by the camp barber!

The Dukes arrived in the Province by holding a cocktail party on 3 April. Everybody we could think of was invited - civilian and military alike.

This was followed by a visit of the Mayor of Calderdale from 4-6 April, which culminated in a Mess Members Dinner. We have had several "working" lunches for military personnel but the highlight of life here so far was the visit of His Grace The Duke of Wellington in early June. There was to be a Beating Retreat on the Sunday evening, but by mid day Murph's Law dictated that the black clouds rolled in off the sea and the PMC and 21C debated whether or not to cancel, and furiously re-wrote the wet weather programme. However the Duke declared "on with the show" the rain held off and, despite the wind, the band gave us a splendid performance.

Life in the Palace has been successful and enjoyable. We have many more functions tucked up our sleeve - Ladies Dinner Nights and Summer Ball. Long may it last.

SPORT

Rugby

On arrival in Palace Barracks the buzz was soon going round "there's no rugby pitch, what will we do?" "Worry not" said a leprechaun. Sure enough one fine morning the camp awoke to find the football pitch had been mysteriously changed into a rugby pitch. The RSM and RQMS are still bewildered by the whole episode.

Our arrival in Northern Ireland was met with great enthusiasm among the rugby folk of the Province. Many remember the Regiment's famous side of 1959 and still seek revenge for past defeats. Fixtures are no problem at all, so season 1987/88 has a promising

look to it.

We finished the season on a high note, playing several matches against civilian opposition and making our mark on the rugby scene in Northern Ireland. It was also a chance to bring on some of the younger players who tend to be neglected during the Army Cup campaigns. The emergence of Ptes Andrew Lewis, Owen Simpson, Capt Phil Lewis, and Lt Andy McNeilis bodes well for the future. CSgt Ena Elwell donned his boots once more and adds the needed experience to the side.

The highlight at the end of the season was undoubtedly the success of the Seven a Side squad.

Three competitions were entered culminating in our assault on the major prize, The Army Sevens in Aldershot.

The first tournament, RAF Bishops Court 7s nicely set the tone for the campaign. The seven, Capt Mark Lodge, Capt Craig Preston, Lt Stewart Neath, CSgt Ena Elwell, Sgt Taff Shaw, Cpl Paul Jones, Pte Andrew Lewis, after settling into a pattern in the early rounds, played some magnificent sevens in difficult conditions to beat the previous holders the Coldstream Guards in the final by 40 points to 6. The most difficult match was against a very determined DERR side in the semi final, a result of only 6-4 in our favour. We were to get to know the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment very well in the next two competitions

The Northern Ireland Sevens held at Ballykinler and hosted by the PWO was organised into four leagues of four teams in the qualifying period. Both 1st and 2nd VIIIs won their respective leagues and unfortunately had to meet in the semi final stages which the 1st seven won convincingly. The seconds took the scalp of the Green Howards in the quarter final stages of the competition. There were two changes to the team who won the Bishop Court Sevens, Lt Hugh Kelly came in for Lt Stuart Neath and 2Lt Rob Preston for Capt Mark Lodge. These two inclusions added more all round pace to the side. The final was against the DERRs and this time not taken lightly, the result a comfortable 38-12 win for the real Dukes.

So on to Aldershot. The competition was arranged on the same lines as the NI Sevens. Unfortunately the Depot fielding five Dukes were in the same league as ourselves. Both ourselves and the Depot qualified for the knockout stages of the competition and indeed nearly met in the final but for a last minute score by the DERRs against the Depot. The quarter and semi finals were difficult affairs. The much fancied 21 Engineer Regiment from Germany boasting seven army players were a force to be reckoned with. In the end it was sound defensive play and more commitment which narrowly won the game 10-4. The final was a one sided affair against yet again the DERRs. The result 30-6. The team was Capt Craig Preston, Lt Hugh Kelly, Lt Andy McNeilis, CSgt Ena Elwell (Capt), Sgt Taff Shaw, Pte Andrew Lewis, Cpl Paul Jones, replacements 2Lt Gary Knight and Pte Owen Simpson.

Athletics

Due to operational commitments a full season on the track has proved impossible. However the NI Major Unit Championships were entered and all opposition duly crushed!

On a typical June Day at the Antrim Forum, with the wind and rain moving faster down the back straight than Pte Sammerson, the Battalion Athletics Team swept all before them in an impressive display beating the 2nd Battalion the Grenadier Guards and 1st Battalion the Duke of Edingburgh's Royal Regiment by a high margin.



Athletic Meeting

Alan Alty and Dene Oxley, first and second in the 3000m Steeple Chase - great training for the cross country.

Notable performances came from WO2 Walker who won both the hammer and the pole vault. Cpl Jones won the 1500m and the 5000m and still looked fresh! Ptes Alty, Oxley and Maloney and Sgt Wheelan provided the Battalion with a 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the 3000m steeple chase and the 4 x 400m relay saw Cohen finish the final leg a good 70m ahead of the nearest runner.

Another event worthy of note was actually seeing Pte Sammerson beaten in the 100m! He still managed to win the triple jump and has since gone on to win the Army Championship in Aldershot with a jump of 15m. He will be representing the army in the Inter Service Championships later in the year.

NI Athletics will provide the Battalion with a base to work on for our return to the mainland in '89.

Swimming

Since their arrival in Northern Ireland, the Dukes' have taken the scene by storm, not only on the rugby field and athletics track but also in the swimming pool.

We arrived in the Province too late to enter the league which left the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment sure of a win in the team Championships a fortnight later. The Dukes, however, had a trick up their sleeve. They had started training in earnest under the auspices of Cpl Earnshaw and Sgt Shaw and arrived on 20 May ready for a win.

And win they did. We swept the board, coming first in six of the nine events, with wins for Lt Hugh Kelly in the 50m Butterfly, Sgt Shaw in the 100m Freestyle, Pte Stannard in the 100m Breaststroke and the Freestyle, Medley and Breaststroke relays.

The win meant that the Dukes qualified for the zone B finals in Catterick. However, due to operational and course commitments, we could not send a team. We do hold the Northern Ireland Championship - and

the cup that goes with it - and are looking forward to and equally successful season this year.

The team was: Capt Hill, Lt Kelly, Sgt Shaw, Cpl Jones, LCpls Buckingham, Innes and Capel, Ptes Stannard, McNally, Marsh, Christie and Johnson.

Cross Country

The 1986/87 army cross country season ended in February by which time the Dukes had really established themselves as one of the strongest teams in the army.

Having won the West Area Championship against all units from South West District and Wales, we qualified for the Army Championships which took place in Aldershot in February. The Army Championship covers a tough six miles course and the race seems to get harder and more professional each year, probably as a result of the national running boom throughout the UK. The team consisted of ten runners, the placings of the first eight counting towards the team result. At the end of the race the Dukes finished a very creditable third in the major unit championship.

In addition to the team success, some of the individual runners were selected to run for the army teams. Cpl Chris Jones and Pte Alan Alty in the Army Senior Squad, and Pte Paul Tranter in the under 20 years Junior Team.

On our arrival in Northern Ireland the team very quickly gave notice to other units by winning the Northern Ireland Half Marathon Championship in April.

During the summer months the boys are keeping in shape by taking part in track and road races and indeed played a major part in the Dukes winning the Northern Ireland Inter Unit Athletics Championship in June this year.

"BUT WHAT OF OUR FAMILIES?"

Officers and soldiers expecting to move to Northern Ireland were lectured, trained and honed to the fine edge necessary for successful operations against the terrorist. They knew that any thought of a leisurely introduction to life in Northern Ireland could be forgotten, and that some would be on the streets on urban patrols within hours of arrival.

But what of our families? Many could, if they so wish, stay in England. Most knew only the Northern Ireland portrayed by the media and this, understandably, clouded visions and raised very real worries. There was concern that friends and relatives left behind would be worried; concern that children might be badly treated at school and concern that life would be restricted to the confines of Palace Barracks. But a concerted effort was made to bring to our families a realistic view of what could be expected in Northern Ireland, and has undoubtedly paid off. We now have the highest ratio of accompanied families in the Province.

Our greatest asset is undoubtedly the Community Centre, a large old building which started life as a hospital and later became the Officers' Mess before



The Community Centre
Mrs. Babbington runs a well stocked library.

being converted into its current use. The daily social life revolves around the 'Chatterbox' coffee shop run by Sindy Rabjohn and Shirley Stewart. In the evening the families bar, managed by Sergeant Ken Shinn and assisted by his wife Lillian, is well supported and provides a major source of revenue for community functions. A properly fitted out ladies hairdresser offers a useful service as does an excellent little library and a well equipped health club. A creche and kindergarten cater for up to 100 children each day making the Community Centre the liveliest building in the Barracks!

Important though the centre is, our families have quickly learned that there is life outside Palace Barracks. Weekly shopping trips to one of the large complexes in Belfast, Bangor or Newtonards are usually fully booked and families generally are a good deal more confident than they were a few months ago.

The extra cash paid for service in Northern Ireland is obviously very welcome. The excellent facilities, riding club, swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, NAAFI, SSVV and post office, together with our Community Centre, ensure that we are all well catered for.



The Community Centre - focal point for families.



The Community Centre
Mrs. Doreen Archer (third left) holding court in the coffee shop.

“WEREN’T YOU TAUGHT THAT AT THE DEPOT?”

This will be the last contribution from me here at the Depot. As I am about to leave I would like to compare memories of what I thought of the Depot when I was in the Battalion with what I now know as reality. There is a world of difference!

I shall never forget that when I was involved in an upgrading cadre in Burma Company, I repeatedly asked ‘weren’t you taught that at the Depot?’ It was very clear to me then that something was amiss. Many others have no doubt shared these thoughts, but it is far too easy to point the finger at the Depot. Is it the Depot’s fault? Well it is certainly not the fault of the instructors. Everyone involved in training here puts a lot of effort into their work - it is after all a matter of professional pride. So where does the fault lie? The answer is not that easy as there are a lot of factors involved, namely the type of recruit being processed into Depot via the ACIO’s and Sutton Coldfield, the time and resources allocated to training, the objectives of the Common Military Syllabus and the expectations of the battalions receiving the newly trained soldiers.

There is little one can do with regard to the time and resources allocated to training, although people are working hard at making the programme more relevant and using resources more efficiently.

Regarding the lads who turn up for training at the Depot, they have already been through a number of selection processes and should in theory be capable of handling the training. But not all of them can. Many

find it difficult to cope with the resultant physical and mental stresses. It is now generally accepted that today’s recruits are weaker individuals than their counterparts of a few decades ago.

Obviously if we could extend the training period it would allow the weaker recruit time to adapt both physically and mentally (especially attitudes) but this is not an option. So it is inevitable even with our ability to monitor the recruits’ progress and backsquad those who need more time, that some recruits end up joining their battalions ill prepared.

So what of the expectations of the battalions who receive these young soldiers? The soldiers who are ‘ill prepared’ are a small percentage of the Depot’s output, but clearly attract a disproportionate amount of attention. Perhaps the best answer is to accept that these lads will slip through, and if the Battalion is not prepared to lower its expectations it must accept the role of being the last stage of the selection process. After a probationary period and extra training if this is possible to arrange - there should be a laid down procedure whereby an unsuitable soldier can be discharged.

So don’t blame us. As I have said we are all doing our best here.

Having got that out of my system, I shall go off for a drink with my training team. Before I go though, I’ll let you into a secret - we will be drowning our sorrows having just passed out another platoon!

A. Downes

C (DWR) COMPANY, 1st BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

Visit to the Regimental Museum

Members of C (DWR) Company 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers paid a visit to the Regimental Museum, Bankfield on Tuesday, 2 June. The aim of the visit was to familiarise the Company with the history of The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment and of the volunteer movement. Lieut Colonel (Ret’d) W. Robins OBE, Regimental Secretary outlined the history of the Regiment and Mr. Keith Matthews Asst Curator (Military), Bankfield Museum, described the early years of the volunteer movement in Halifax. The evening was planned as a backdrop to the handover of the Regimental Colour of the 1st Volunteer Battalion DWR 1860-1908 and of the 4th DWR Recruit Shooting Trophy of 1912.

Colour Returns

The Regimental Colour of the 1st Volunteer Battalion The Duke of Wellington Regiment 1860-1908 has finally returned home and now hangs framed in the Wellington Club, C (DWR) Company 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers. The Colour, which had recently been recovered after its theft from All Souls Church, Halifax, was received by Major B. D. Richardson, OC C Company on behalf of the Company from the Regimental Secretary, The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, Lieut Colonel (Ret’d) W.

Robins OBE. Major Richardson said, ‘It was an honour to have the Colour. C Company had always maintained a strong link with the Regiment and this Colour is tangible evidence of our long Volunteer tradition.’

Recruit Shooting Trophy

Following the hand over of the Colour, the Recruit Shooting Trophy of ‘D’ Company 4th Battalion The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment was also handed over. The Trophy, presented in 1912 by the wife of the Company Commander, Captain R. E. Sugden (later Brigadier R. E. Sugden CMG, DSO, TD), was first competed for in that year. In 1913 it was won by Bugler George Wardingley. It was still in his possession when the Battalion was mobilised in 1914 and he has kept it ever since. Now in his 91st year Mr. Wardingley decided that it should be returned to the Regiment. George was one of three brothers who served in the Brighouse Company of the 4th Battalion. Their father was the CSM. The Trophy was handed over by Mr. and Mrs G. Horne as Mr. Wardingley and his wife were too frail to attend. Mrs Horne is the niece of Mr. Wardingley.

In accepting the Trophy Major Richardson promised that in the coming year it would be competed for and awarded to the best young shot.



C (DWR) Company 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers
Major B. D. Richardson with the Regimental Secretary,
Lieutenant Colonel W. Robins O.B.E., at the handover
of the old Regimental Colour of the 1st Volunteer
Battalion DWR.



C (DWR) Company 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers
Bugler George Wardingley with the D Company 4th
DWR Recruit Shooting Trophy, which he won in 1913.

Yorkshire ACF

Brigadier W. R. Mundell, OBE, Deputy Commander, NE District & HQ 2 Inf Div., visited Halifax and Huddersfield Cadet Detachments on Thursday 11th June and was afterwards entertained at Huddersfield by the Area Commander Huddersfield and officers and adult instructors of Wellesley Company.

During the past 18 months the Duke's Cadets have been getting to grips with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Two Cadets from Mirfield have completed Silver and the Company is hoping for a total of 30 Bronze Awards by the end of summer. Much of the credit for this success must go to Captain Joe Ashforth, the Area Training Officer, who, assisted

by Colour Sergeant Brian Kaye of Huddersfield, has developed interest in the Award Scheme within the Company.

A repeat of the gold expedition in the Black Peak area around Holmfirth will take place in August again with the help of 3 YORKS. Eight DWR Cadets will be attempting to complete the four day 50 mile 'Slog'.

Four cadets from Huddersfield Detachment will be taking part in a 17 day canoe expedition along the Dordoyne in France, organised by Yorkshire ACF.

An inter 'Dukes' Three Peaks Weekend is planned for Autumn. Detachment teams of 4 cadets will compete to complete the Peaks in the fastest time. Perhaps our best team could give our Regular counterparts a run for their money in a future event.

LES VOLTIGUERS DE QUEBEC

Many readers may have forgotten or even been unaware that an affiliation exists between The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Les Voltiguers de Quebec. In March the Colonel of the Regiment received an invitation to attend ceremonies commemorating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment. Unfortunately neither he nor the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion were able to attend so Colonel Johnny Walker represented the Colonel of the Regiment and Major Peter Mellor represented the Commanding Officer.

The Regiment's first link with Canada was in 1783 when, after the conclusion of the American War of Independence, the 33rd was sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia and where it remained until 1786. In 1812 the second war against America broke out. Among the reinforcements was the 76th who arrived in 1814. The war ended the same year and the 76th remained in Canada for the next 14 years. During that time it was twice then stationed in Quebec. In later years both the 33rd and 76th undertook tours in New Brunswick or the adjoining province of Nova Scotia - the 76th from 1841-42; the 33rd from 1844-48 and the 76th, again, from 1853-57. The 2nd Battalion was stationed in Nova Scotia from 1889-91.

Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart (Colonel of the 76th, 1813-1814) was Governor of Lower Canada from 1811 to 1815. He was succeeded by General Sir John Sherbrooke (Colonel of the 33rd, 1813-1830). Ill health obliged him to resign the appointment in 1818. The town of Sherbrooke, about 150 mile south of Quebec, is named after him.

There was a Canadian affiliation between the North Saskatchewan Regiment and DWR following the Great War and indeed 2 DWR was commanded by a Canadian, Lieut Colonel F. Paulette DSO, from April 1918 until the end of the War.

Les Voltiguers were formed in 1862 and were later involved in a number of actions in Canada. During the Great War they provided individual reinforcements but did not leave Canada. In the second World War it left for Europe and retained in an armoured reconnaissance role at Bordon Camp. It never saw action as a Reconnaissance Battalion but provided reinforcements for the Royal 22nd Regiment in Sicily and Italy.

In 1952 the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Philip Christison, instructed Brigadier K. G. Exham, who was on an Imperial Defence College tour of Canada, to investigate a possible affiliation. The Canadian Adjutant General in Ottawa was particularly keen to strengthen links with French Canadian Regiments and talks took place in Quebec between Brigadier Exham, Brigadier Bernatchez and later with Lieutenant Colonel Pratte and Lieutenant Colonel Corbet the Commanding Officer of Les Voltiguers. Subsequently the Queen gave her approval to the affiliation on 5 May 1953.

Several Dukes have visited Les Voltiguers during the last 35 years, including Brigadier Webb-Carter in 1953, and Lieut Colonel (later Brigadier) Firth who attended their centenary dinner in 1962 at which he presented the officers of Les Voltiguers with a silver salver. Other visits have been made by Major General Exham in 1964 and General Sir Robert Bray accompanied by Captain (now Colonel) Walker in 1968.

In 1965, during the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo celebrations in London, the Commanding Officer of Les Voltiguers visited the Regiment attending the annual dinner and evening tattoo on Horse Guards Parade which followed the Trooping of the Colour ceremony held earlier that day.

Today Les Voltiguers, a French speaking Reserve Infantry Regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces, whose war role is to provide individual reinforcements to the 22nd Royal Regiment (The Valorous), in Quebec, are based in their Drill Hall, Manège Militaire on the Grand-Allée in Quebec City.

Colonel Walker and I were made most welcome by the Honorary Colonel, officers, NCOs and men of Les Voltiguers who had laid on a busy programme which included a conducted tour of Quebec City and its famous battlefield, the barracks and museum of La Citadelle, home of the 22nd Royal Regiment who were our accommodation hosts, dinner at the world famous Chateau Frontenac, an evening at the opera La Bohème, a church parade, reception with the Mayor of Quebec, followed by a Regimental Dinner again at

Chateau Frontenac. We were delightfully startled to discover that it is their custom, after toasting La Reine followed by our National Anthem, to toast the Duke of Wellington's Regiment followed by the Regimental March.

Throughout celebrations the friendship and hospitality shown to us was superb and we met among others Lieut General Giles Turcot and Lieut Colonel Paul-Emile Defoy who was in command during

Brigadier Firth's and Major General Exham's visits in 1964.

An exchange of gifts was made and Colonel Walker presented a Regimental Spode Plate and we were given two Regimental plaques, one of which is now with Regimental Headquarters and the other with the 1st Battalion.

P.J.M

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for the Branches of the Regimental Association

From: Lieut Colonel J. R. A. Ward
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HE
10 June 1987

The Editor
'The Iron Duke'
Sir,

I attended the London OCA reunion on 25th April at the Park Hotel and was much impressed by the organisation of the evening. It was very nice to meet old friends and in particular Cliff Frear, the Bradford Branch Secretary, who joined the Dukes' with me at Strensall back in 1965.

My purpose in writing is to say how sad I thought it was that there wasn't a soul present under 40 years of age. Clearly we are failing in trying to get people who leave the Colours to join their local branch and I wonder why. I spoke at length to both Cliff Frear and Rodney Owers, the London Secretary, and neither branch has any young blood in it. Both also told me they not only have difficulty in recruiting from the ranks, but also much regret the lack of support from officers, serving and retired.

To my mind the OCA is a very important supporting organisation for the Regiment. It is ideal for renewing old friendships and making new ones, and it is a very good way for RHQ to keep in touch with ex-Dukes' - its grapevine hopefully helping to draw attention to those who have fallen on hard times or are unwell. Without support from the under 40's it will wither and die, which bodes badly for the Regimental spirit and comradeship. It has been said the younger element don't join because the Branches don't provide what they want. This of course is a defeatist attitude since the Branches will always cater for the majority and if people want something different, this will only be attained by working from the inside.

So come on you under 40's. Get around to your local OCA and breathe some new life into it.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. A. Ward

"Where are you now?"

From: Mr. S. R. Howorth
2 Cow Close Cottages,
Wyke, Bradford,
West Yorkshire BD1 29EB.

The Editor
'The Iron Duke'
Sir,

As a subscriber to the 'Iron Duke' may I say how much I enjoy it. It is particularly interesting to me as I still know a lot of names as I served with them in the 60s and 70s. However one thing is missing and that is a "Where are you now?" column. I appreciate you have cost and space to consider, but on the other hand it may encourage more subscribers once word gets round. On numerous occasions when I've met ex Dukes' at some time in the conversation I've been asked "where has so and so got to?" I attend the Regimental Dinner every year and for four years I was treasurer at Bradford, but it is the usual faces that are to be seen. Is it possible to insert a contact page in the magazine?

I am organising a reunion for the members of Burma Company during the Hong Kong tour. Any members of the Company during that period and who would like to attend the reunion (date to be arranged) please contact me on Bradford 607547 or ex-Corporal Nosh Cowburn on Halifax 833654.

Yours sincerely,
S. R. Howorth

(The section of the Regimental Association notes headed "Keeping in touch..." was introduced to meet the need described by Mr. Howorth. Space is not a problem. All that is needed for the section to be expanded is for more information to be sent to RHQ or to the Editor.)

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?

The following article was published in the 'Daily Telegraph' on 6 July 1987 and is reproduced here with permission of the Editor.



A proposed reorganisation of the Army changing the way units are assigned postings at home and abroad has been met with disquiet in the ranks. The proposals would create in effect, a "continental army" a "home army" and an "out of area" army - changes which threaten regimental traditions.

General Sir Nigel Bagnall, chief of the General Staff, gave John Keegan our Defence Correspondent, a rare interview in an attempt to allay concern.

Sir Nigel is concerned that his plans for reform are being "misunderstood" within the Army. He fears that the "misunderstanding" may hinder moves which he regards as essential to efficiency.

Speaking exclusively to the Daily Telegraph he explained that the present organisation of fighting units makes it difficult for the Army's commitments to be met without damaging unit training and individual careers.

His principal concern is with the deployment of Infantry Battalions.

At present all 48 battalions, which form the largest contingent of the Army's fighting strength, take an equal share of its varied duties. He believes that the system must now change.

Choice necessary

"It will be for the battalions to choose" he told me. Each battalion, on a 16 year cycle, now serves in Germany, in Britain and "out of area".

In future, he believes, some battalions will have to serve more or less permanently in Germany, as the armoured cavalry and tank regiments already do.

Personnel should be posted from one battalion to another, he advocates, to avoid people spending their whole careers in one posting. Such a plan, however is difficult to reconcile with the Army's cherished regimental system under which a battalion is "home" to a soldier for the whole of his career.

The Chief of the General Staff, regards the regimental system as the "bedrock of the army". He recognises the strength of emotion among soldiers about any tampering with it.

But he believes that the "strict application of the regimental system must not be a bar to progress".

Progress in Army re-equipment now requires, he believes, that battalions posted to Germany as "armoured infantry" with the advanced Warrior fighting vehicle must spend at least six years in the Rhine Army. That period is "necessary" for them to acquire the degree of technical and tactical skill imposed by Warrior's characteristics.

To do so, however, battalions could no longer move between postings as complete units. Individuals and families would then risk becoming expatriates.

Instead officers and soldiers must be "trickle posted" from one battalion to another.

This is particularly necessary for the careers of long-service officers and NCOs, who require training in different skills at progressive levels.

"Any proposal that damages the regimental system would be unacceptable," Sir Nigel stressed to me. He is not, therefore, prepared to impose a future role on any particular battalion.

Instead he intends to ask each of the groupings of battalions to nominate which of their number should serve in Germany, in Britain or "out of area." In that way the regimental system would be "adjusted to serve the requirements of the army efficiently and effectively".

The need will be to find 13 battalions to serve continuously with the British Army of the Rhine and 3 more to serve continuously with the new 24th Air-mobile Brigade. The remaining 32 battalions would be available for service in Britain or on overseas commitments "out of area."

The Chief of the General Staff recognises that his proposal for "battalion choice" will be easier and more acceptable for large regiments of several battalions like the Foot Guard and the Greenjackets. But he believes that the single-battalion regiments, like the Gloucesters and the Cheshires, must also accept a change in their traditional way of life.

Although Sir Nigel is committed to the option of "choice" for the battalions, no battalion's choice will commit it to permanent duty in Ulster. All soldiers will continue to be available for duty in the Province.

The "choice" on the other hand, will not allow any battalion of the large regiments to opt out of service with the Rhine Army.

Growing Disquiet

Sir Nigel's decision to discuss plans for the reorganisation of the infantry was prompted by evidence I had gathered of growing disquiet within the Army over the future of the regimental system.

The plans have been circulated within the Army in a documentary form, reports of which gave rise to the "misunderstanding" which is causing Sir Nigel anxiety.

The "Save the Argylls" campaign of 1970-71 demonstrated how deeply soldiers - and localities - are dedicated to their historic regiments.

The fact that the historic regiments consisted largely of single battalions (of 600 men) has, however, made the deployment of fighting strength increasingly difficult.

The Army tackled this problem in the 1970s by persuading numbers of the historic regiments to form so-called "large regiments" of several battalions. Notable among them are the Greenjackets, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Queen's Regiment, the Royal Anglians and the Light Infantry, each of three battalions.

In the process some of the ancient regiments lost their identities. In the last 15 years, the large regiments have reconciled themselves to such losses and have made new identities for themselves.

But a considerable number of small regiments remain, notably from the western counties and Scotland. They have been grouped, with the large regiments, in "divisions" of infantry, which theoretically permit cross posting. But the small regiments are highly resistant to cross posting.

Moreover, the individual battalions of the large regiments have become increasingly resistant to cross

posting. Some have resumed the titles of their old counties, in which they recruit, and oppose the posting in of men from the "wrong" county.

Organisational considerations argue against the traditional system on almost every score.

It entails frequent moves, and, therefore makes training difficult. It is expensive.

It disrupts family life, particularly for the new breed of Army wife, who often has a job she does not wish to leave when the battalion moves.

But there is now unarguable evidence that the system contributes powerfully to fighting quality. The

American Army, concerned by the poor performance of its infantry battalions in Vietnam, has introduced a "cohort system" directly modelled on the British regimental tradition.

Its commitment to the "cohort system" was strongly reinforced by its analysis of the Falklands Campaign.

Expectations are that the large regiments, particularly the Foot Guards and the Green Jackets, may accept the systems of "choice" without great demure. The small regiments on the other hand, may now find their future poses even more of a dilemma.

"MYSORE" AND "SERINGAPATAM"

(Continued)

THE 4th MYSORE WAR

The background: 1792-1798

Tipu's defeat in 1792 had been brought about by an alliance of the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Mahrattas and the British. Cornwallis, after the fall of Seringapatam, endeavoured to develop a treaty of guarantee whereby the Nizam would be assured of protection if attacked by the Mahrattas or Tipu. However the Mahrattas, who lived by plunder, would have none of it and Cornwallis left India at the end of 1793, with the matter still unsettled.

The Mahrattas, like Tipu, wished to drive all foreigners out of India and disapproved of Hyderabad's strong links with the British. They soon found a pretext for making claim on the Nizam for tribute. Sir John Shore, Cornwallis's successor, believing that any evil was preferable to war excused himself from giving the Nizam assistance. The Nizam was justly incensed at this renunciation of promised friendship.

The Mahrattas, having learned from experience the value of infantry trained after the European model, engaged a Frenchman to raise a new army which eventually amounted to 24 battalions, all of them commanded by Europeans. This force came progressively under the influence of the French. The Nizam, after his rebuff by the British, followed suit and raised a force of 23 battalions which was also under French influence, even to the extent of carrying the Colours of the French Republic. Tipu meanwhile continued his negotiations with the French seeing in them the power which would help him drive the British out of India. All these developments increasingly threatened British interests and when Napoleon sailed from Toulon on 19 May 1798 towards Egypt the British government surmised that his next move would be an attempt on India.

The Wellesleys arrive in India.

As Napoleon set sail for Egypt a new Governor General arrived in India. He was Richard Wellesley, Earl of Mornington (1), a very much more decisive and determined man than his predecessor. Within a month of his arrival he had decided to deal with the

threat posed by Tipu and ordered General Harris, the G.O.C. in Madras, to start assembling an army for a march on Seringapatam. He next set about regaining the allegiance of the Nizam of Hyderabad and within a short time had negotiated for the French led troops to be replaced by six British led battalions. Meanwhile the Madras Council attempted to acquire the 50,000 bullocks needed for the campaign, a task made more difficult because of lack of funds; so it soon became clear that the necessary force could not be equipped and concentrated before February 1799.

The arrival of Richard Wellesley as Governor General had been preceded by his brother Arthur who, with the 33rd under his command, had landed at Calcutta in February 1797. Shortly afterwards the Regiment joined a force of 7,000 men earmarked for an expedition to capture Manila. Part of it, including the 33rd, had got as far as Penang, in Malaya, when it was recalled because it was feared that Tipu might launch an attack from Mysore. By November 1797 the 33rd was back in Calcutta, though not for long, for the Governor General had decided that he wanted Arthur to be in Madras. Accordingly he wrote to General Harris:

"There can be no objection to the public mention of your expectation of the 33rd Regiment. I should even be glad that the news reached Tipu, as it would convince him that I am in earnest... my object being to impress the mind of Tipu with serious apprehension."

The impending arrival of the 33rd was not greeted with enthusiasm by General Harris and the Council in Madras, as part of the deal was that they had to give up their favourite regiment, the battle hardened 36th Foot (2). However the Governor General was insistent, and so the 33rd arrived in Madras in September 1798 after a disastrous journey. The ship ran on a reef and its crew and the 33rd were only saved by their own "bodily strength" in refloating it. Then the Captain supplied them with contaminated water so that the whole Regiment, including the Commanding Officer, "got the flux". Arthur vented his anger by writing a complaint to the Adjutant General, informing him that dysentery had caused the

deaths of fifteen men - "of 15 as fine men as any we had".

Meanwhile the Nizam's contingent of 16,000 men was to be prepared for war. This task had been given to a Colonel Aston, who before he could make a start was killed in a duel with one of his own officers. It thereupon fell to Arthur Wellesley (3) to supply the Nizam's army for its march on Seringapatam.

General George Harris's campaign: February to May 1799

Lord Mornington gave the order to invade Mysore on 3rd February 1799. At one time he had thought of taking command himself but gave up the idea when Arthur, despite having little love for General Harris, wrote:-

"...all I can say upon the subject is, that if I were in General Harris's situation, and you joined the army, I would quit it."

Arthur, on the other hand, had his reward for his work with the Nizam's army. The Prime Minister of Hyderabad decided that as a European officer had to command the state's army in the field, it had better be the Governor General's brother. The 33rd was added to his force as a European stiffener.

The Army, concentrating at Vellore, numbered close on 21,000 men of which the Europeans accounted for about 5,500. Marching westwards on 11th February it was joined, ten days later, by 16,000 troops from Hyderabad. As in the 3rd Mysore War transport and supply proved to be the prime difficulties. The army took with it 30-40 days supplies and moved in a vast parallelogram with the two sides seven miles long and the front and rear two miles wide. Within this space the 120,000 bullocks needed for baggage and grain were crowded, plus the bullocks, elephants, camels, coolies and a rabble of followers belonging to private individuals, as was the luxurious fashion of Indian campaigns. The followers outnumbered the fighting men by five to one. Captain Charles MacGrigor, of the 33rd, wrote in his diary just before the campaign started:-

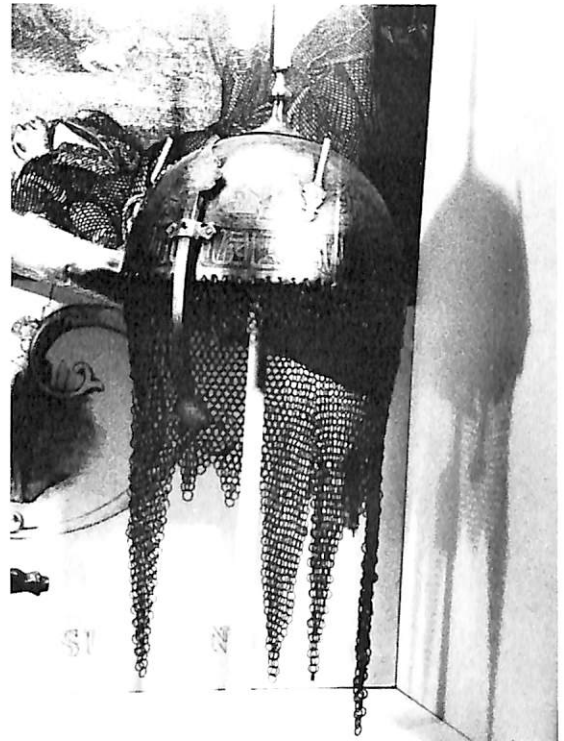
"I am obliged to have an immense number of servants. My complement is now:- A Debash, headman, a second debash, a chair boy, five coolies... two bullock drivers, one washerwoman, one cook, one horsekeeper, one grasscutter... the coolies are employed to carry a bed... two employed in this way, one to carry a table and two for a canteen, a mess trunk and little articles. The bullocks, five in number, are loaded with wine, spirits, biscuits, candles, tea, sugar etc: in short what will answer for two months. A bullock load is three dozen wine..."

On the other side of a Mysore a force of 6,000 men from Bombay, under Lieut General Stuart, marched eastwards and by 2nd March was within 50 miles of Seringapatam, near Periapatam. There, on the 6th of March the force was attacked by Tipu. The attack was unsuccessful and after incurring 1,500 casualties the Mysoreans withdrew. Tipu remained near Periapatam until the 11th when he retired on Seringapatam to regroup. General Harris meanwhile was steadily advancing westward and by 14th March was near Bangalore. From there he had three possible approaches to Seringapatam - by the northern, central or southern routes. He elected the southern route and Tipu hurried to meet him.

Mallavelly: 27th March 1799

At day break on the 27th March the army set out along the road towards Mallavelly (30 miles east of Seringapatam), Arthur Wellesley with the Nizam's contingent moving parallel to it on its left flank to protect the baggage. The cavalry, under Major General Floyd, as usual covered the advance. Within a mile of Mallavelly contact was made with the enemy. General Harris decided to make camp but was bombarded by Tipu's guns. So he formed his infantry in line and was slowly advancing when the enemy delivered two simultaneous attacks on the British left and centre. Ten thousand infantry advanced boldly on Wellesley's force. Captain MacGrigor recorded the subsequent action:

"...After forming on the left of the army, the 33rd Regiment with the five battalions under Colonel Wellesley were ordered to move forward by echelons of battalions from the centre, 33rd in advance. The enemy were at this time marching very regularly down in front of us, at about 300 yards they commenced a heavy fire of musketry but with little effect, we all this time were ordered to charge and set off as fast as we could, at about 10 yards we halted and fired, the enemy's infantry fired in all directions, but their cavalry seeing us not well formed, tried to come round our flanks and were repulsed with great loss, our cavalry, under General Floyd, who were formed in our rear at this time, moved briskly on and did a great deal of execution, about 500 of the enemy were killed and left wounded; 33rd had six men slightly wounded; a most fatiguing day; we marched four miles to our ground."



Tipu's helmet, now on display in the Regimental Museum. It was given to the Regiment by the descendants of General Sir John Sherbrooke.

The approach to Seringapatam and the action at Sultanpettah Tope: 29 March - 7 April

General Harris decided that he would attack Seringapatam from the west which would not only facilitate a junction with General Stuart's troops; but would also very much ease the movement of supplies from the south. Moreover an approach from the west would be unsuspected by Tipu and the forage in that area would therefore remain undestroyed. This proved to be the case and Captain MacGrigor recorded; "there is a great quantity of all kinds of grain and forage in the Fort (Turcilly), also cattle of all kinds in abundance". He added that it was "a fine beautiful country with plenty of forage and grass for our cattle."

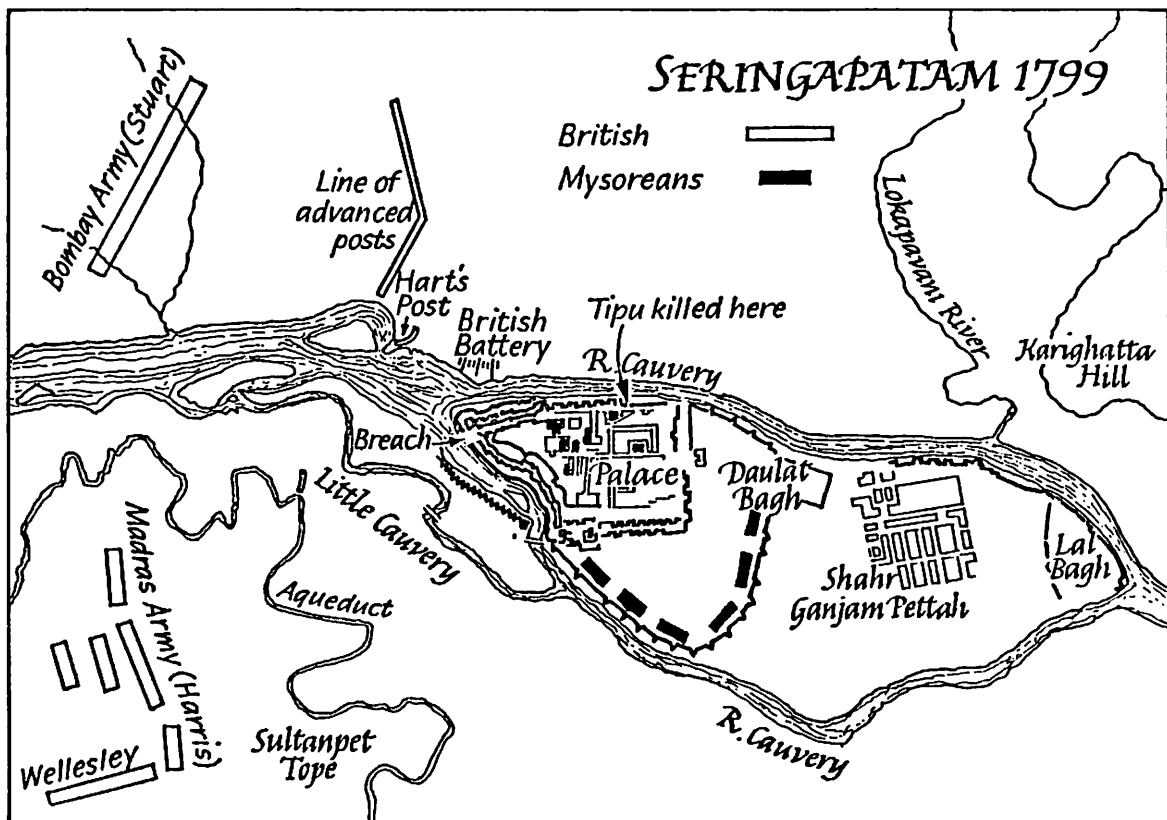
To make the junction with General Stuart the army had first to cross the river Cauvery which was achieved on 1st April. But further progress was slow - it took five days to traverse 28 miles. On one day the 33rd set out in thick jungle at 4 a.m. and 12 hours later camped about two miles from its starting point. At last, on 5th April, the army took its position two miles west of Seringapatam with its siege-train and an abundance of food and ammunition. The main difficulty of the campaign had been overcome.

Although the army occupied a strong position, the broken ground on the right flank gave shelter to the enemy's rocket men and sharpshooters. On the evening of the 7th two parties were sent out to attack the enemy's positions. One of these parties, under Arthur Wellesley, consisting of the 33rd and a Bengal battalion, was ordered to clear a tope or grove of trees

known as the Sultanpettah Tope. Wellesley's plan was to attack at night with five companies of the 33rd while the other five were to remain in reserve outside the grove. Bayonets only were to be used. But the enemy had been forewarned and met the 33rd with intense though ill directed fire. In the darkness and confusion the Regiment lost its way, as well as its commander, and spent the rest of the night sheltering at an embankment. This sharp action cost the 33rd one officer killed and two wounded, 12 soldiers killed or missing, and 40 wounded. Wellesley was much mortified by his failure; but on renewing the attack on the following morning with the Scotch Brigade he carried the grove with little difficulty. The whole episode made an indelible impression on him. He wrote to Mornington:

"I have come to a determination; when in my power, never to suffer an attack to be made by night upon an enemy who is.. strongly posted, and whose posts have not been reconnoitred by daylight"

Nine of the grenadiers of the Regiment, who led the attack, were taken prisoner. According to Captain John Chetwood (33rd) they were later put to death because they "refused to work on artillery while pointed towards their brother soldiers". The method of their death was gruesome. They either had a nail driven into their skull or had their neck broken by having their body held fast as their head was twisted. This information reached the army on 27th April and no doubt accounted for the ferocity of the fighting when Seringapatam was attacked one week later.



The assault on Seringapatam and the death of Tipu Sultan: 4 May 1799

Before launching an attack Harris first established contact on 14 April with General Stuart, who however was short of supplies, while Harris, himself, discovered that his own supplies, due to some rascality, were about a quarter of what they should have been. This decided Harris to hasten his attack.

The north west corner of the fort was selected as the assault point and work began to dig the parallels and to establish the batteries of guns. By 3rd May a practical breach had been made in the fortress wall. His supplies having fallen so low that his army was on the verge of starvation, Harris decided to attack at once.

The command of the assaulting force was given to Major General Baird who, during the 2nd Mysore War (1780), had spent some time as a prisoner of Tipu. The troops were told off into two parties which were to enter the breach together and having mounted the rampant divide, one turning to the left and the other to the right. The left attack, under Lieut Colonel Dunlop, included the 12th and 33rd Foot together with a number of flank companies from both British and Native battalions. Colonel Sherbrooke (4)

commanded the right attack which consisted of the 73rd and 74th Highlanders and several flank companies from other regiments.

All told the assaulting force numbered about 5,000 of which three fifths were Europeans. Colonel Wellesley commanded the reserve.

Although the troops were already in the trenches by day break on 4th May; Harris had directed that the assault should take place at 1 p.m. because he reckoned that the enemy would least expect it in the hottest hour of the day. As it turned out, six minutes later the British flag was waving from the ramparts. The two columns moved swiftly forward and as the enemy retired they found themselves pent in between the outer and inner ditches. The slaughter was terrible. The blood of the British was up, and no quarter was given. Tipu, and the men with him, were forced back through the gate on the northern face of the fortress and here, twice wounded, he was killed, his body being covered by many others. The Mysorean troops took to flight. Many tried to escape by the eastern gateway. But this opened inwards and the crush of men held it tight. As they swayed to and fro they suffered heavy losses from the bayonets of the British. Within two hours all resistance ceased. It was reckoned 10,000



Seringapatam: The finding of Tipu's body.
(The National Army Museum, London)

Mysoreans perished in the storm. The victorious troops broke loose and gave themselves over to pillage.

Meanwhile General Baird, unaware of Tipu's death, sent a flag of truce to the palace to summon him to surrender. After searching the palace in vain General Baird went to the northern gateway. Captain J. W. Knox, who commanded the Light Company of the 33rd, described the events that followed:

"General Baird gave orders for a Body of troops to move with all expedition to that gate and the 33rd being on the spot were ordered there... Guides led us to the gate which we found filled with dead and dying heaped one over the other. General Baird ordered the Regiment to Pile their Arms and look for Tipu. The Light Infantry of the 33rd were ordered into the Gate by Lieut Colonel Shee and the search was immediately commenced... After a tedious search during which it appeared as if there was very little hope of finding Tipu they came to a body which our Guides said must be disengaged from the dead bodies which lay over it. After great difficulty this was effected and on examination was found to be Tipu. At first it was suggested that life might still remain... but on it being examined by Mr. Trevor, surgeon of the 33rd, it was found to be quite cold."

On the evening of the following day Tipu was buried. The funeral party was provided by the flank companies of the 12th and 33rd Regiments under command of Lieut Goodlad, 33rd. On the same day (5th May) Colonel Wellesley had been placed in command of Seringapatam with orders to restore order. The congested island (only 3½ by 1½ miles) was an appalling scene of chaos - loot, murder and Tipu's tigers, which were habitually chained outside his palace, "getting violent". Wellesley acted promptly and four looters swinging from gibbets in key streets rapidly brought the troops to their senses.

A few days later, a party of Prize Agents (5) busy in the Treasury were alarmed to hear a discharge of musketry. Thinking the population had risen they snatched up a "bulse of diamonds" and rushed to the door. There they saw six or seven tigers "scampering about" being fired on by a party of men of the 33rd Foot. After a few wild moments they were all destroyed:- a fitting event with which to conclude this account of the 4th Mysore War and of the death of Tipu, The Tiger of Mysore.

A. C. S. S.

Acknowledgements

1. 'A History of the British Army' by the Hon J. W. Fortescue.
2. 'Tiger of Mysore' by Denys Forrest
3. 'Wellington: The Years of the Sword' by Elizabeth Longford.

Notes

1. *There were five Wellesley brothers. Richard Earl of Mornington, William, Arthur, Gerald and Henry. Henry, accompanied Richard to India where he served as his Secretary.*
2. *The 36th (or Herefordshire) Regiment (later 2nd Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment) was sent to Calcutta. Shortly after its arrival the Regiment was ordered home. As usual in those days volunteers were asked for to join a corps which still had some time to do in the country. 425 volunteered for the 76th and joined it in November 1798.*
3. *In the absence of Colonel Arthur Wellesley command of the 33rd should have been assumed by the 2nd Lieut Colonel, John Sherbrooke. However as he was required to command a Brigade, Major John Shee commanded the Regiment throughout the 4th Mysore War.*
4. *Colonel John Shebrooke particularly distinguished himself in the assault. General Baird wrote in his report to General Harris, "If, where All Behaved Nobly, it is proper to mention Individual Merit, I know no Man so justly entitled to praise as Colonel Shebrooke, to whose exertions I feel myself much indebted for the success of the attack." A helmet of Tipu's and two of his swords, which Sherbrooke acquired after the victory, are in the Regimental museum. Sherbrooke later became a General. He succeeded Wellington as Colonel of the 33rd in 1813.*
5. *The total prize money came to £1,143,216 which was allocated according to rank. General Harris got £150,000 and the sepoy's £5. Colonel Wellesley received £4,000, which just about cleared his debts. In addition there were many trophies taken from the palace. There are, for instance, no less than 23 relics of the Tipu in Windsor Castle alone.*

BOOK REVIEWS

100 GREATEST BATSMEN, by John Arlott. (Queen Anne Press.) £14.95

This recently published treasury has been excellently produced, and is a pleasure to hold and browse through. Mr. Arlott has, in his inimitable style selected his '100' with care and with impartiality dividing his choices as follows:-

England 36 representatives, Australia 25, West Indies 12, South Africa 8, New Zealand 7, with India and Pakistan 6 each. Each essay has one, sometimes

two photographs and full first class career records. Test match details are given separately. There are colour plates which complement the black and white. These portray the moderns save for Grace, Abel and Jessop who are in oil painting and caricature form. The illustrations are well chosen, although I would have preferred to have seen Herbert Sutcliffe's famous hook rather than 'en famille' in plain clothes aboard ship. Beldams famous picture of Victor Trumper has been omitted presumably on the grounds of repetition in numerous books down the years. Ranji's leg glance

is here however, crossed leg stance, no batting gloves and open-work pads. There were giants abroad in those days!

The book is well provided with anecdote. I wonder how many know that Keith Miller "once led the players off the field during a Sheffield Shield match so they might listen to the broadcast of the Melbourne Cup", or that Bobby Simpson's father played Scottish League football for Stenhousemuir? I confess, not I.

His choices are personal ones, and indeed he lists some of the also rans with apologies, for he is a very sympathetic man. Any such anthology is a matter of agreement, argument, discussion (far into the night) and whilst in full agreement with 96, I have four 'niggles'.

For a start, why Botham? One of the worlds greatest hitters, yes. One of the greatest all-rounders, yes. One of 100 greatest batsmen surely not. Basil d'Oliviera, Tuppy Owen Smith and Colin Milburn complete my set of dissensions. All four sterling worth and fit for the next volume of 100. Yorkshire's Percy Holmes, with a total of 85 opening partnerships of 100 or over (74 with the immaculate Herbert) should surely be there, and how about Washbrook, Hardstaff, Jack Hearne, Johnny and Ernest Tyldesley? All good clean debate!

A splendid book, and one which should grace the shelves of any library.

R. A. Burnett
Paymaster 1 DWR 1957-1965

MONTY: THE FIELD MARSHAL 1944-1976
by Nigel Hamilton.

Published by Sceptre in paper back. 996pp. £7.95.

This third volume of Nigel Hamilton's biography of Field Marshal Montgomery is a masterly work based on a monumental amount of research. It throws much interesting light not only on Montgomery, but also on the strategy of the Allies in Europe, particularly following the breakout from Normandy. Monty argued, time and time again, for a concentrated effort on a narrow front. The Americans favoured an advance on a wide front. The American view prevailed, probably thereby not only lengthening the duration of the war, but also opening the way for Von Rundstedt's offensive in the Ardennes in the winter of 1944. Monty saved the situation, but could not resist crowing about his skill in halting the German offensive, much to the understandable annoyance of the Americans. In fact although Monty was a superb field commander and the only equal to the Germans in professionalism, his political antennae seem to have been stunted or non-existent. If Monty had been more sensitive to the problems of the Americans, and particularly those of Eisenhower, he might have been given command of more American troops and thus been able to adopt his narrow front strategy, which he again advocated once the Rhine had been crossed. On the other hand, as Nigel Hamilton points out, the nationalistic gutter press, on both sides of the Atlantic, made rational decisions concerning the higher command of the armies extremely difficult.

One of the many merits of the books is that no attempt is made to disguise Monty's more insufferable characteristics, such as his egoism and vanity. Another is the clinical manner in which the author deals with the 'post facto' recollections of some of the higher commanders. More often than not he quietly deflates them by quoting their own words at the time or that of their staff.

I started reading the book with some doubt in my mind. Surely everything that needed to be recorded about Field Marshal Montgomery and his campaigns had already been written? I soon changed my mind.

A. C. S. Savory

DAWNS LIKE THUNDER
by Alfred Draper (Leo Cooper) 289pp £17.95

It is strange for me that Kipling's words should form the title of this account of the retreat from Burma in 1942, for I carried a slim volume of "Barrack Room Ballads" throughout the campaign.

When the author was embarking on his initial research he sought the names of Burma Veterans, which is how I got drawn in by RHQ. We met and I did my best to talk him out of the idea of yet another book about a predestined retreat far away in "...a cleaner, greener land" on the utmost periphery of the Empire. General Jimmy Lunt was then well on with his book and there had been many others. Why not leave well alone? I said I did not want to help with a book which might again denigrate the British effort. Everyone had done their best, according to his or her ability, in spite of every conceivable disadvantage. Enough was enough. Alfred Draper explained that, on the contrary, his intention was to tell the tale by quoting the first hand accounts of those at ground level, though the higher direction of events might not escape criticism. He has kept his word. As a result the diverse episodes involved in the disintegration of a country of the size and strange complexity as Burma are uniquely and vividly described.

The book starts with a the sudden and unexpected bombing of Rangoon at Christmas 1941. There can have been few countries militarily or materially less well prepared. In addition inertia and complacency lingered over from an easy pre-war life in a hot and backward country. This has to be seen in the context of the role allotted to Burma, which was primarily that of war production in support of the Middle East, Europe and China. Oil and teak were the principal products, but they were not the only ones. The country's military role was minimal and the troops were equipped accordingly. Once the bombing started it was far too late to remedy the shortages of equipment or the shortcomings of earlier planning assumptions.

Individual accounts are linked by a narrative which includes some effective descriptive writing in which one recognises the author's past journalistic experiences. At times he gets a little carried away. For instance, I do not know from whence he got the idea that I was wounded, and those wooden, candle power signal lamps were issued complete by the arsenal in Rangoon and not manufactured by 2 DWR Signals Platoon! It is good to read his account of how Jack Robinson won his MC at the Sittang Bridge, but I

would also have liked to have seen more coverage of the 2nd Battalion's major counter-attack at Paungde and of the break out from the Shewdaung road block, where the Battalion suffered heavy casualties. The higher ranks of Civil Administration and of the Army are possibly over harshly criticised. General Wavell, Hutton and Symthe were distinguished soldiers, who had each made great national reputations in World War I and subsequently - but the doctors must make certain that those in high command are physically fit to carry out their tasks. Their tragedy was that they paid the price of the calculated risks taken by those responsible for the higher direction of the war. As far as Britain was concerned the vital aim was to defeat Germany. For those at "ground level" in Burma the result was often uncertainty and disorder. However

from the point of view of 2 DWR, the situation at unit level was never quite as chaotic as this book suggests. Brigade orders were received by our Commanding Officer and passed on to us. Although poorly clothed and equipped we always had enough to eat, if rarely enough to drink. The transport whether trucks, trains, elephants or paddle steamers, always arrived on time. The moves, more usually on foot, took place correctly right up to the time when finally we reached Imphal. The basic command, control, staff work and battle procedure of the British army functioned well.

The author has produced a unique contribution to the study of the Burma campaign of 1942. The part played by the infantry battalions is well and truly covered, at last.

A. D. Firth

SERJEANT MAJOR JAMES COLBECK, 33rd REGIMENT

James Colbeck was Serjeant Major of the 33rd Regiment from 1813 to 1821. His Waterloo medal and sash are held in the Regimental museum at Halifax and a note book of his is kept in the Regimental archives at Regimental Headquarters.

James Colbeck was born in 1783 and joined the 1st West York Militia in 1803. He served with the militia for 10 years, mostly as a NCO, before volunteering for the 33rd Regiment in 1813. He was immediately appointed Serjeant Major of the Regiment and continued to hold that appointment for the next 8 years. He saw service with the 33rd in Flanders and was present at the storming of the fortress at Bergenop Zoom in March 1814. In the subsequent campaign under Wellington he was captured at Quatre Bras (16th June 1815) and spent three weeks as a prisoner of the French before rejoining the 33rd in Paris. It was there, in the Rue St. Honore, that he purchased the note book, which records from the day he joined the Regiment on 19th April 1813, such matters as every march route he undertook during his service with the 33rd and the succession lists of the officers and NCOs (down to the rank of Corporal) between 1813 and 1821. He also notes, in detail, the orders required to carry out some of the military evolutions of the day; such as moving from a column of companies to form a square 4 deep.

Sad human story

In addition the notebook reveals an interesting, albeit somewhat sad human story. Colbeck recorded his endeavours to obtain an improved pension - his 10 years with the militia not counting towards it. The story starts with a letter from Colonel Arthur Gore (1), then commanding the 33rd Regiment. It reads:-

Windsor.
April 4th 1813

"Serjeant Colbeck,

I have learnt from Major Parkinson (2) your inclination to volunteer your service for the 33rd Regiment, and from the very high character I have heard of you, I do not hesitate a moment in assuring you, that you shall be *at once* appointed Serjeant

Major of the Regiment, and I do this without further stipulation of the number of Men you may induce to volunteer for the 33rd; But, at the same time, I will state to you, that should the Regiment be completed to the full Establishment, we shall undoubtedly have a second Battalion formed; in which case, I cannot but think that your conduct will have been proved to be such as to entitle you to the Adjutancy, which shall have my strong support and recommendation.

After this assurance, and the prospect it holds out to you, I trust that you will exert yourself in obtaining men for the Regiment, and I will add, that, as on the formation of a 2nd Battalion all the other staff of Quarter Master, two Serjeant Majors and the Quarter Master Serjeants will have to be filled, I shall give preference in these appointments to men from the 1st West York that you may recommend as being deserving of such situations from their exertions to obtain Men, and I shall be truly proud and happy if this arrangement can unite the interest of the two Corps in such manner as that hereafter we may not doubt but that the men of the 1st York Regiment shall feel the 33rd to be the only line of promotion together with the County interest that they have to look to, as well as that the 33rd shall consider the 1st York as their support and Ground Work.

Your taking this assurance in the *sincere* light in which I mean it, and explaining it well to the Non Commissioned Officers and men of the 1st York may have the desired effect for all parties, and may be the means of the greatest advantage to both Corps.

I have just seen Serjeant Major Moore on the subject of the discussion that took place between you at Chatham, and as he has given me the enclosed to be sent to you, I hope you will consider that in future he will be as much your friend as I shall ever consider myself to be.

Arthur Gore
Colonel 33rd Regiment"

In a postscript to his letter Colonel Gore gives the number of volunteers he is expecting from various Militia regiments, including some from 2nd York and 3rd York. The letter from Serjeant Major Alexander Moore, to which Colonel Gore refers, was written to

clear up some unspecified misunderstanding that had arisen between Moore and Colbeck. More was appointed Adjutant on 25th March 1813, thereby creating the vacancy for Serjeant Major, which Colbeck assumed on 19 April 1813.

Failed to materialise

The bright prospects opened up by Colonel Gore's letter failed to materialise, with the result that Colbeck became increasingly concerned about his financial prospects after his retirement, due to his lack of pensionable service. In 1819 he therefore submitted a petition to Lieut Colonel C. W. Crookshank, acting as Commanding Officer in the absence of Lieut Colonel William Elphinstone (3), who was on leave. In his petition Serjeant Major Colbeck wrote:-

Guernsey.

14 September 1819

"Sir,

I beg leave to take the liberty of submitting, for your favourable consideration, the enclosed letter (see above), which was condescendingly addressed to me by the late much respected Colonel Gore who commanded the 33rd Regiment at the time of my volunteering from the 1st West York Militia; - and while I shall ever regret the fatal day which destroyed the aspiring hopes he so repeatedly held forth to me, it will still be an animating consolation that I have deserved, during the period of my service, the best wishes of so worthy a character.

In consequences of the very flattering prospects contained in the letter alluded to, I volunteered into the 33rd Regiment; and shortly after my joining, an order was received from the Horse Guards (dated 1 July 1813) to send an officer with a detached party to superintend the volunteering for this Regiment at Dover:- Colonel Gore, considering me well fitted for this Duty, sent me instead of a commissioned Officer, and during my absence the Regiment embarked for Germany:- shortly after its arrival a melancholy event happened in the Regiment which occasioned a vacancy as Adjutant by Mr. Moore's decease.

On Brigadier General Gore joining the army in Holland with his Brigade from Germany, I had the satisfaction of receiving another assurance of his esteem, having told me, that had I been with the Corps at the time of Adjutant Moore's decease I should then have received his full countenance for Promotion, but that as he was obliged to comply with an order from Major General Gibbs for the immediate appointment of an Adjutant on the spot, he could not at the time confirm his wishes for my welfare, but that at some future period he would be happy to do for me what he so anxiously wished. ...

From such high marks of esteem as those which have been conferred on me, it will not appear singular, that I should entertain the greatest respect for a Corps in which I have obtained much credit to myself, and, I hope, given credit to my Commanding Officers. - I am, however, enlisted for a limited period of service, which will expire on 19th of April next, and I fear that connection which must for ever endear me to it's best interests must inevitably be broken, unless by your interference a *special* authority be obtained for my re-enlistment, as I am at present *above* the age specified in the last regulations.

Many years previous to my volunteering I had made offers to do so, which were always frustrated by the Commanding Officer on the plea of my being a useful Man in the Regiment, by which I have lost a deal of service.

I served in the 1st West York Militia for a period of 10 years and 4 months (almost all of which time as a Non commissioned officer). I have now nearly completed my seventh year as Serjeant Major in the 33rd (independant of 2 years for Waterloo) and it will be a matter of much regret to me that all this servitude should be lost (in the event of being discharged at the expiry of my service) amounting together to 19 years.

Having thus far stated to you the circumstances in which I am at present situated (which I sincerely hope may not have been intrusive) I have only to beg, that you will be kind enough to lay this letter and it's enclosures before Lieut Colonel Elphinstone on his arrival, with your kind interposition, in order that (should he approve of my application) he may be pleased to recommend my case in a manner to get me credited with some additional service, that I may still have a faint hope of some future advantage by obtaining a pension suitable to my merits (as I at present can see no better prospect in consequence of the late Reduction) which, only for my having been repeatedly refused the privilege of volunteering sooner than I did, I might now be in possession of, and which, from the great dis-appointments I have already received, is now rendered of double importance to me.

I have the honour to be,

With the Greatest respect,

Sir, your Devoted and very Humble Servant

James Colbeck

Serjt. Major 33rd Regt."

Appeal to the Commander-in-Chief

On return from his leave Lieut Colonel Elphinstone immediately forwarded Colbeck's petition to the Adjutant General at the Horse Guards with a recommendation that he be permitted to re-enlist. Permission was given on 30 October 1819 and Serjeant Major Colbeck promptly re-enlisted for an unlimited period.

Eighteen months later, by which time the 33rd was stationed in Dublin, Colbeck again resumed his efforts to obtain a better pension. This time his appeal was to the Commander-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of York. The substance of the appeal was the same as in his previous petition except that this time, he concluded with a specific request that his service with the militia might be allowed to count for pension purposes. On 24th April 1821 Lieut Colonel Elphinstone forwarded the appeal to the Colonel of the Regiment (General Sir John Sherbrooke) for onward transmission to the Commander-in-Chief, in the following terms:-

Dublin

24th April 1821

"Sir,

I have the honour to forward to you the accompanying memorial from Sejeant Major Colbeck of the 33rd Regiment which I beg most strongly to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Commander of the Forces, as he is a man most deserving of any benefit that can be conferred upon

him; He has served as Serjeant Major in the 33rd Regiment during the time it has been under my command, and I have ever had the greatest reason to be well pleased with him, having on every occasion, both in the field and in other situations, found him a brave and zealous soldier. I am aware that the favour that I solicit is irregular, but the circumstances of his case, the disappointment he has met with, in not being allowed sooner to volunteer from the Militia, and the great claim he has to every exertion of mine as his Commanding Officer in his favour induces me to lay before the Commander of the Forces in the hope that it may be in his power to recommend it, that something may be done for him, and I can only repeat that it will be rendering a service to a deserving Non Commissioned Officer.

W. K. Elphinstone
Officer Commanding 33rd Regiment"

Waited in much anxiety

Lieut Colonel Elphinstone, having handed over command of the 33rd, proceeded to London where he immediately took up Serjeant Major Colbeck's case with the Horse Guards. He was advised that the rules forbade the counting of militia service as if it was service with a Line regiment, but that it might be possible to obtain the Adjutancy of a Militia regiment for him. Colbeck records that he "waited in much anxiety for the decision". His anxiety was due to his pressing need for an early decision because Colonel Elphinstone had left the Regiment and the 33rd was under orders for a tour of service in the West Indies. The reply, when it came in June 1821, was another disappointment, as the response to the official approach from the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary of State for the Home Department brought forth the answer that the Adjutancy of Militia regiments was vested solely in Lord Lieutenants of Countries.

The new Commanding Officer of the 33rd was Lieut Colonel Samuel Moffatt, (4), who, on assuming command, had immediately pledged his best assistance to Colbeck's welfare. Encouraged by this pledge and the sympathetic consideration the Commander-in-Chief had given his case, Colbeck decided to try again. Accordingly he wrote another petition (or Memorial, as he described it). In it he pointed out he had "...been in His Majesty's service without a day's intermission since he was nineteen, but is unlikely... to find himself without any better provision after four years more service at an advanced period of life, in a tropical climate, than an Out Pension of five pence (2p) a day to support himself and family." He concluded with a plea that he might be placed upon the List of officers on half pay on an Ensigncy becoming vacant in the Army, without purchase. In forwarding the petition to the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Moffatt suggested that "should the plan not meet with the approbation of His Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, the Serjeant Major will feel very thankful for any situation that will afford him permanent support, such as the appointment of Serjeant Major at the Royal Military College or Asylum (5), an Assistant Barrack Master, Barrack Serjeant or Officer of Police."

In acknowledging receipt of Colonel Moffatt's letter, Sir John Sherbrooke pointed to the principal difficulty which confronted Colbeck; "...had this application been made at the conclusion of the war (in 1815), or previous to the reduction of the Peace I should have forwarded the memorial with pleasure, as I should then have seen a probability of the Prayer of it being answered; But as I have reason to know that the Commander-in-Chief is desirous of reducing the Half Pay List, I regret that I cannot with propriety ask the indulgence for Serjeant Major Colbeck which he solicits. I will however communicate with Sir H. Taylor (the Adjutant General) on the subject and if I find that there is any hope of success the Memorial shall be put in..."

Of little avail

Meanwhile Colbeck had written to Lieut Colonel Elphinstone, seeking his help. He at once wrote to Sir Herbert Taylor who replied that although he would do his best and write to the Officers Commanding the establishments concerned; "...I much fear that at this period of Extensive Reduction it will be of little avail" Such proved to be the case. The only new suggestion came from Sir John Sherbrooke who wrote that Colbeck might stand a better chance of being provided for in Jamaica, the 33rd's next station.

Not surprising Colbeck was now beginning to despair and a note of bitterness crept in when he next wrote to Colonel Elphinstone (who was Commanding the 16th Lancers), on 12 September 1821.

"...I sincerely trust that the following observations which I have taken the liberty of once more submitting to your consideration, will, as a complete reflection on my present situation, be considered by you in a favourable light, rather than in any way wishing to become trouble some.

It is a matter of extreme regret to me that Sir John did not conceive it prudent to forward my 2nd memorial, particularly when I look around and see a man who has been placed *exactly in a similar situation* (I mean the Serjeant Major of the 52nd Regiment) appointed Ensign and Adjutant, actually by the same mode of procedures as I have adopted, namely through the Colonel of his Regiment Sir John Colbourne, especially as I am now nearly the oldest Regimental Serjeant Major in the Service."

Trained over 1,100 recruits

He then goes on to remind Colonel Elphinstone that even before he joined the 33rd in 1813, he had assisted in getting 116 men for the Regiment and that since he joined he had trained over 1,100 recruits. As a final point he also reminds him that at the engagement at Merxham in February 1814 he had been personally commended by Major General Taylor (the Adjutant General) for his exertions. He concluded "I have still to trust that if there is anything in what I have stated which can be of any service to me, you will be kind enough to put it forward, being well aware that when you go on Service, and that Sir John is now advanced in years (he was then 57!), should anything happen to you (my only friend) I will be entirely laid aside. I shall still hope that something in some shape will be done for my advantage." Although now beginning to despair he still fought on. Early in

September 1821 Lord Sidmouth, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, had been in Dublin and Colbeck's case had been represented to him with a view to his obtaining an appointment in the Police. Colbeck was almost certain that his application would be successful. But it was not to be.

More serious circumstances

On 15th September Lord Sidmouth wrote to the Officer Commanding the 33rd Regiment to say that "being over 35 years of age he was not eligible for the Foot Patrol". Colbeck made one more attempt to obtain justice early in October 1821 when the 33rd was inspected by Major General Sir I. Lambert. Once again he wrote a long review of his case, now making reference to his deteriorating health and the fact that it was such "as to render a tropical climate, of all things the most injurious to me". He also stated "I am most unfortunately placed in respect of a more serious circumstance not unknown to you" (6). The 33rd embarked at Cork for Jamaica on 17 December 1821.

There is no happy ending to the story. The last letter recorded in Sergeant Major Colbeck's notebook is in a different hand:-

Stirling
March 3rd 1828

"Sir,

In thus taking the liberty of addressing you I hope I may not be intrusive on your goodness my late husband Serjeant Major James Colbeck being under your command and well knowing the trouble you took to promote his welfare leaving a little boy entirely unprovided for who is now seven years of age, my anxiety on account of his education has induced me to solicit your interest to get him placed on the

compassionate list as Colonel Elphinstone is acquainted with the repeated promises of advancement which my late husband received begging Colonel Elphinstone pardon for the liberty I have taken in addressing him.

Catherine Colbeck."

Notes

1. *Arthur Gore: Succeeded Arthur Wellesley in command of the 33rd in October 1802. Commanded a brigade at the storming of the fortress at Bergen-op-Zoom, in Holland, on 8 March 1814, where he was killed. His memorial is in St. Pauls Cathedral.*
2. *Edward Parkinson: Commanded the 33rd at Bergen-op-Zoom, after Lieut Colonel Elphinstone had been wounded. 2 i/c at Waterloo. Later a Lieut General and Colonel of the 93rd Regiment.*
3. *Keith Elphinstone: Succeeded Arthur Gore in September 1813. Commanded at Waterloo. Died at Kabul in April 1842.*
4. *Samuel Moffatt: Succeeded Keith Elphinstone in May 1821. A portrait of him was recently for sale in a shop in Worcester, but the price of £2,500 was more than the Regiment was prepared to pay.*
5. *The RMC was originally an orphanage for soldiers' children. The word 'Asylum' was, in those days, used to describe 'shelter'.*
6. *In the next letter, written in 1828, there is reference to a 7 year old little boy. It would seem that 'the more serious circumstance' was the expected birth of the child.*

FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENT APPEAL

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 1987 are published below. It will be seen that a total of £2,737.20 was expended during the year, including a grant of £2,340 towards the cost of refurbishing the Regimental Museum.

Income included £992 received from the 74 regular subscribers most of whom do so by Deed of Covenant. This permits the reclaiming of tax paid on the subscriptions which in 1987 amounted to £374.56.

Ex-members of the Regiment who are not at present supporting the scheme are requested to consider

becoming subscribers. The necessary Bankers Order and Covenant forms may be obtained on application to RHQ. Those who would prefer to make a donation should send it to the Regimental Secretary, payable to 'DWR Central Funds Account (Fof R Appeal).

Recent additions to the roll of subscribers are:- R. J. M. Pugh, A. R. Wescob, J. R. P. Cumberlege and M. J. Campbell-Lamerton.

Donations have been received from:- Far East POW Association, C. A. Bate, Stockport and District Arms Collectors Society and the Dean of Windsor.

Accounts for the period 1 April 1986 - 31 March 1987

I. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	£	£		£	£
Balance of the fund as at 1 April 1986.....		8,883.67			
INCOME DURING ACCOUNT PERIOD					
Subscriptions.....	992.00		EXPENDITURE DURING ACCOUNT PERIOD		
Donation Bulford Garrison Church			Museum refurbishment.....	2,340.00	
from 1 DWR Service.....	120.00		Tax recovery charges.....	27.20	
Donation Dean of Windsor.....	10.00		Refund of overpayment.....	20.00	
Tax refund on subscriptions.....	374.56		Framing of 2 DWR Colours.....	300.00	
Tax refund on dividends.....	114.46		Donation towards renovation of Memorial		
Interest Bank Deposit Account.....	636.20		Boards Keighley TA Centre.....	50.00	2,737.20
Interest Charities Deposit Fund.....	263.12		Purchase of Treasury 10%? Stock 1989.....		3,012.00
Investment Dividends.....	702.33	3,212.67	Total		5,749.20
			Balance as at 31 March '87.....		8,347.14
Totals		12,096.34			12,096.34

2. INVESTMENTS	COST	MARKET VALUE
Exchequer 12½% Stock 1990	2,000	2,049.15
Exchequer 11% Stock 1991	5,000	5,230.49
Treasury 10½% Stock 1989	3,012	3,130.33
<u>Totals</u>	<u>10,012</u>	<u>10,409.97</u>

3. ACCUMULATED VALUE OF FUND AS AT 31 MARCH 1987

Cash at bank or on deposit	£ 6,347.14
Value of Investments at cost	10,012.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>16,359.14</u>

THE OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB 1987

The Officers' Dinner took place at the Army and Navy Club on Friday 19th June 1987. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and the Colonel in Chief and 57 officers were present. The guests were Lieut. Colonel J. A. Charteris MC, RS Commanding Officer, Junior Infantry Battalion (Scottish and King's Division) and Lieut. Colonel E. J. Downham MBE, QLR Commanding Officer 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers. In his speech the Colonel of the Regiment expressed the gratitude of the Regiment to Lieut. Colonel Charteris for the excellent job he had done in setting up the JIB at Ouston. Lieut. Colonel Downham commanded the Regiment's most closely associated Yorkshire Volunteer Battalion and was a particularly welcome guest. The Colonel continued by giving a resume of the 1st Battalion's recent activities, which included 18 days dug in, in South Armagh - probably the longest time the Battalion has spent in trenches since Korea. He then went on to refer to the visit of the Colonel in Chief and the Duchess of

Wellington and how much pleasure the Battalion derived from the great interest both showed in its activities. After referring to the Battalion's sporting successes since its arrival in Northern Ireland he spoke of the Regiment's affiliations with *HMS York* and Les Voltiguers de Quebec. He had been able to visit the ship when she was at the Tower of London, but had not been able to attend the 125th anniversary of the founding of Les Voltiguers. However, Colonel Johnny Walker and Major Peter Mellor had been present and in Quebec where they had presented the Regiment with one of the few remaining Spode plates. Turning next to the meeting of the Regimental Council, that had taken place earlier that day, the Colonel announced the decision that had been taken to produce a new Regimental History. Finally he concluded with a reference to officer recruitment and in particular to the fact that the sons of five members or ex-members of the Regiment are on the list of potentials, as well as at least two great nephews.



A Dukes' party at Brandsby

On 21st June Brigadier and Mrs. W. R. Mundell entertained 67 Dukes' officers and their wives at their home, near York. Among those present: Major General Donald Isles and Colonel Dick Cumberlege.

Regimental Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM of the Regimental Association will be held in The Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield on Saturday 19 September 1987 at 6.30 p.m. The Dinner will commence at 8.00 p.m. Tickets at £6.50 per head are available through Branch Secretaries or RHQ. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to DWR Combined Regimental Association Funds.

YORK MINSTER SERVICE

The Annual Regimental Service will be held at York Minster at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday 14 November 1987. Prior to the Service, St. William's College will be open at 10.30 a.m. for coffee and biscuits to which everyone is welcome.

After the Service, lunch has been arranged, at a small charge, in both the Officers and WO & Sgts Messes at Strensall. If lunch is required could you please notify RHQ so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

BRANCH NOTES

London

The annual dinner and dance was held at the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate on 25th April. The Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Huxtable were able to be with us this year and we were delighted to see them.

Again Cliff Frear of the Bradford Branch organised a party from the Yorkshire Branches. Twenty three people attended from Yorkshire and, as always, it was a great pleasure to see them.

Four of our six In Pensioners from the Royal Hospital attended, namely Messrs, O'Shea, Alton, Peel and Ellis. Ex Sergeant Bob Peel did us the honour of proposing the Toast to the Regiment. His words were few but very much to the point. The Colonel of the Regiment replied to the Toast and gave us all the news of the Regiment.

It was with deep regret that we heard quite soon after our dinner that In Pensioner "Ginger" O'Shea had died. Major Pat Connolly represented the Regiment at his funeral which was also attended by fellow In Pensioners.

On 4 June, Majors Miller and Connolly and Mr. Bob Temple attended the Founders Day Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. This year the reviewing Officer was HRH The Duchess of York. It was, as always, a most excellent parade.

Our branch AGM will be held on Sunday 27 September 1987 at the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate. The meeting will start at 12.00 noon, with coffee and biscuits being served from 11.30 a.m. Full details will be sent to all branch members at a later date. Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday 26 October at Flat 316, Vivian Court, Maida Vale.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 8 November, and it is hoped that as many as possible will join us at 10.45 a.m. at the Regimental Plot at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.



The London Branch Dinner

Mrs. Frear and Mrs. Willoughby with In Pensioners Robert Peel, 'Ginger' O'Shea, Reg Alton and W. Ellis.

The party from Yorkshire

The trip to the London Dinner went like clockwork, thanks to the organisation of Cliff and Joan Frear.

The pickups were at Mossley, Halifax and Bradford, where the members of Keighley Branch also boarded.

After a pleasant run down, with a couple of stops for refreshments on the way, we arrived at the Victory Club in mid afternoon. Cliff had told us our room numbers, so there was no waiting around in the foyer.

That night we had a sing along in the Victory Bar, where little Jimmy Pearce kept the pianist busy.

Saturday was a do it yourself day until the bus came to pick us up for the Dinner in the evening. There we enjoyed a good meal with good company, with dancing thrown in for good measure.

The trip back was broken with a visit to the Wembley Open Market.

There were twenty three of us on the bus going down and twenty four coming back, the extra one

being Edna Fairclough who had gone down via New Zealand.

A trip on similar lines is to be run for the next London Dinner on 23 April 1988. A scheme is in operation where interested persons can pay monthly instalments towards the cost.

Members of the northern Branches attending the dinner were:-

Mossley

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood
Mr. Bill Middleton
Mr. Doug Herod

Bradford

Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Frear
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Willoughby
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Walton
Mr. Sid Archer
Mr. & Mrs. T. Barraclough

Halifax

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Searson
Mr. Bill Holt
Mr. Jimmy Pearce

Keighley

Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Akrigg

Others

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Russell
Mrs. Joan Wood
Mrs. Marjorie Cruden
Miss Edna Fairclough



*The London Branch Dinner
The party from Yorkshire*

Keighley

In March we held a Charity Shoot to help raise money for the restoration of the Boards in honour of the Dukes' from Keighley who served in the Boer War. Our guests were the Police and the Fire Service. Unfortunately the Ambulance Service, who were also invited, got the date wrong. A sum of £28 was handed over to Captain Hamp, 3 Yorks and was gratefully accepted. There is still a need for more donations.

The AGM, in March, resulted in new Branch officers: Secretary, Mike Kennedy; Chairman, Dave Marks and Treasurer, Cedric Akrigg.

We look forward to the Branch dinner in October. We hope it will be as well attended as last year, though we would still like to see some new faces. The dinner will be in Booth's Social Club, Station Bridge, Keighley.

Mossley

We are sorry to record that our Branch President for many years, Captain E. J. B. Mowat TD, is shortly leaving the country to take up permanent residence in Spain. We hope to be able to give details of his new address in the next issue of the 'Iron Duke'.

During the week end of 25th April a number of members and their wives had a very enjoyable trip to the London annual Dinner and they would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Branch for once again organising this superb event.

Our HQ is at Woodend WMC, Manchester Road, Mossley and our meetings take place on the first Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.

COMMEMORATIONS**Passchendale: 1917**

Lieut Colonel R. Stevens OBE represented the Regiment at Ypres and Zonnabeke when the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendale and the 60th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Menin Gate were commemorated on 11th and 12th July 1987.

Liberation of Le Havre: 1944

The town of Le Havre will be commemorating the 45th anniversary of its liberation in 1989 and intends to invite all the regiments involved to be represented. The 1st/7th Battalion took part in the liberation and RHQ will be pleased to hear from ex-members of the Battalion who may be interested in attending the celebrations. Wives will be welcome. Details of the costs have yet to be calculated and the dates confirmed. It is understood, however, that the celebrations will be from a Friday to a Sunday.

British withdrawal from Palestine: 1948

During 1988 two organisations are planning trips to Israel for ex-servicemen who served in Palestine to mark the 40th anniversary of the British withdrawal.

A 14 day trip, organised by Orientours in conjunction with the Palestine Police, will take place in May or June 1988 and will cost £520 per person.

A 10 day trip, arranged by Ogil Travel of Tel Aviv, will cost £475. The dates have yet to be confirmed. Anyone interested in joining one or the other of these trips should contact RHQ for further details. Families will be welcome on both trips.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Its task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

The services are free, and the Association take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job centres.

Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit Resettlement Officers; Corps, Regimental and Service Association, Post Offices; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1st April 1986 - 31st March 1987 the Association assisted 11,499 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,970 in employment. Of those placed 2,314 were men and women from the Army and 16 were from the Regiment.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Colonel Rodney Harms has been appointed resident manager for Land Rover in Saudia Arabia. His address is: P.O. Box 182, Riyadh 11411, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia.

Ex Corporal George Gill is now employed by Abbots Security, London. He is involved in recruitment and anyone interested in a position with the company which can include accommodation, should contact him at: Flat 17, Kew Bridge Court, Chiswick, London W43F or telephone (Home) 01 747 0124 or (Office) 01 609 4881.

Sergeant D. Tooley has written to say that his three year tour at the British Outward Bound Centre (Norway) comes to an end in September. During his tour he skied over 2,000km, walked over 2,000km and did over 700 climbs. When he leaves Norway he will join J. I. B. Ouston.

Among the guests entertained at RHQ on 11 April was Mr. Colin Sampson, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. It was his first visit to the Depot since he completed his training as a National Serviceman in 1948. He later joined the 1st Battalion at Strensall and was for a time Pay Clerk, Headquarters Company. Another guest was Sir Marcus Fox. Sir Marcus, who is MP for Shipley, served with the Regiment for a short period prior to being commissioned into the Green Howards in 1946.

Major C. C. Kenchington, MBE was recently visited by Major D. C. Roberts who writes: "I was pleased to find Cyril in such good form after his serious operation in April. Although he suffers much inconvenience he is amazingly cheerful and full of amusing stories. He started with incidents on the N.W. Frontier when Brigadier Ramsey Bunbury was his platoon commander and ended with some dubious "goings on" in Gibraltar in 1953-54.

Unfortunately I missed Eadie during my visit but I know she has been a tremendous help to Cyril since he came home after leaving hospital. If all goes well they hope to attend the Minster Service in Autumn.

By co-incidence I stayed with Brigadier Ramsey for Bob Moran's funeral. In spite of being lame he is in great form and looks years younger than his age."

Change of address

Captain and Mrs. S. C. Newton: 41 Mathews Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4LY.

Colonel and Mrs P. A. Mitchell: Fox Hill House, Green Lane, Ellisfield, Hants RG25 2QP.

Major and Mrs. W. Burke: 22 Merchant Way, Copmanthorpe, York YO2 3TU.

M. P. Bird, Esq.: Fairmount Branch Road, Hinton Charteris, Bath, Avon BA3 6AZ.
R. C. Stark, Esq.: Gable Cottage, Green Road, Woolpit, Nr. Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk IP30 9QZ.

Colonel and Mrs. C. R. Cumberlege: Sandyfield, 141 Main Street, Fulford, York YO1 4PP.
Major C. G. Fitzgerald, MTT, c/o BMATT Zimbabwe, BFPO 632.

Obituary

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

Lieutenant Colonel M. M. Davie

Maurice Davie died at Cape Town on 11th April 1987.

Maurice was commissioned into the Regiment in 1929 and joined 2 DWR in India in 1931. After a short period with 1 DWR in 1937 he was appointed Adjutant 6 DWR. He rejoined 1 DWR in June 1940 and served in North Africa and Italy, becoming second in command in June 1943. From 1944 to 1946 he held various staff appointments in the Middle East and UK before going to West Africa in 1948. He was 2i/c of the Gold Coast Regiment 1948-49, Commandant of the West African School of Infantry 1949-50 and, on promotion to Lieut Colonel, Commanding Officer of 2 Nigerian Regiment 1950-53. After a short spell in UK he went to Germany where he was Commandant All Arms Training Centre BAOR from 1954, until retiring in May 1957.

Briagier Ramsay Bunbury writes:-

"I first met Maurice in 1931 when he joined the 2nd Battalion in India. We soon became great friends and two years later he was best man at my wedding. He was a bright young subaltern, first in the machine gun company and then as signals officer.

He did not shine particularly at any game but he rather fancied himself as a horseman. Once, when acting as umpire in a Regimental polo match, in front of a large gallery, he attempted to start the game, bending low over the horses neck, to throw in the ball. The horse gave a small buck and Maurice was decanted on the ground amidst roars of laughter. But he really was quite a good horseman!

Towards the end of 1933 Maurice married Phyllis Liscombe, my wife's sister who had been chief bridesmaid at our wedding. They joined the Battalion in Kamptee where we shared a bungalow together.

I met him a couple of times in Italy during the war; once when, after Anzio, he visited my King's Own battalion; and later in Rome where we had arranged to have a few days' leave together. It was not to be however. I arrived at the officers' leave hotel to hear that Maurice was in Hospital. The previous night he had been in the street when he heard a cry 'stop thief'. on looking round he saw a rough looking individual running in his direction. In true Dukes' style Maurice tackled him. During the ensuing struggle he was shot in the groin. Unfortunately the man escaped and Maurice was taken to the BMH where I visited him the next day.

Maurice retired in 1957 and lived for some years in Jamaica. After his wife died there he returned home. After a time he married again and settled in Totnes.

Maurice, who was an excellent cook, took a job as a chef at the Dartington Hall School for a time.

His second marriage broke up. Sadly we drifted apart and we never met again as he went to live in South Africa."

Mrs. Lily Laverack

Mrs. Lily Laverack, wife of the late Major (QM) T. V. Laverack, MBE MM, died on 8 April 1987 age 92 after a long illness. She is survived by her daughter, Colonel (Ret'd) Barbara Laverack, MBE.

Mr. James Galloway, MM

Mr. James Galloway, who won the Military Medal whilst serving with the Regiment during the First World War, died in Halifax General Hospital on 8 March 1987 aged 90.

Mr. F. Noon

Frank Noon, who served with 7th DWR and was one of the five members of his family who have served in the Regiment, died in Huddersfield on 14 April 1987 aged 75.

The funeral at Almondbury on 23 April 1987 was attended by the Regimental Secretary, Bob Wilkinson and other members of the Huddersfield Branch of the Regimental Association.

Mr. J. E. Morgan

John Morgan died in Leeds on 3 May 1987 age 68. Called up with the Militia in 1939 he went to France with 2/7th DWR and after Dunkirk fell he was evacuated from St. Valery with the 51st Highland Division. He later served in Iceland with 1/7th DWR and was drafted to India in 1944 where he was posted to 1 Lincolns. After service in Burma and Sumatra he was released in 1946.

Mr. Ronald O'Shea

'Ginger' O'Shea died suddenly in the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 25 May 1987. Following two years in a DWR (TA) Battalion he enlisted into the

Regiment as a regular soldier in 1930. He served in India with the 2nd Battalion but was transferred to the 1st Battalion prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. He saw service in North Africa, Italy, including the Anzio campaign, and Palestine. For much of this period he was the Provost Sergeant. Following the end of the War he served with the East Yorkshire Regiment from 1948 to 1951 and the York and Lancaster Regiment from 1951 to 1952 before his release in 1954.

Ginger was a great personality, who was much respected by all who served with him and he had a wealth of stories to relate of his days in the Regiment.

The funeral service at the South London Crematorium on 5 June 1987 was attended by "In Pensioners" Bob Peel, Reg Alton, 'Pinky' Ellis and 'Sticky' Glew. Also present were Pat Connelly of the London Branch of the Regimental Association, Captain of Invalids, Tom Glendenning, representing the Royal Hospital and Lieutenant Colonel J. R. A. Ward representing the Regiment.

Mr. J. H. Gill

James Gill, who died at his home in Howarth age 92 on 25 April 1987, joined the 6th Battalion in May 1914 and went with them to France in April 1915. He was wounded during May the same year but returned to the Battalion in time for the first battle of Ypres. Transferred to the Transport Section he was again wounded during the battle of the Somme moving ammunition forward. Evacuated to England and downgraded due to a knee injury he was transferred to the South Staffordshire Regiment and drafted to India in 1917. Promoted Corporal and transferred to an Armoured Car Unit he was driver and body guard to General Dyer during the riots in Amritsar. Discharged from the army in 1918 he returned to Howarth where he became a well known member of the community. In later years the injuries to his leg limited his activities but in 1986, accompanied by his wife Pearl, he was among the group from the Regiment who returned to Theipval for the 70th Anniversary of the battle of the Somme. They are pictured in Iron Duke No. 202 meeting HRH The Duke of Kent.

The funeral service at Howarth Baptist Church on 30 April 1987 was attended by the Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) W. Robins.

Colonel R de la H Moran, OBE

Bob Moran died on 9 June 1987, age 75. He was educated at Stonyhurst School and commissioned into the Regiment from Sandhurst in 1932. After a short spell with the 1st Battalion he joined the 2nd Battalion in India in 1933 and served as a subaltern in 'A' Company with Ramsay Bunbury, who claims they were the two fittest men in the Battalion at that time. Bob was a good all round sportsman and represented the Battalion at rugby, cricket, tennis and polo. It was felt by many at the time that he could have been a

contender for an Irish rugby cap had it not been for his posting overseas. He was also a good athlete and for a time held the Battalion record for the Quarter Mile. He was Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion at the outbreak of the Second World War and took part in the disastrous retreat from Burma in 1942. He held a number of staff appointments in India before returning to UK after the end of the war, joining the 1st Battalion in Strensall as a Company Commander in 1948.

Of this post war period Major Dick Ince writes:- "I first got to know Bob Moran well when I found myself selected to attend the Staff Course at Quetta in November 1945. To my great delight I found Bob was one of the Directing Staff. He was kindness itself to me, and I am sure the fact that I passed the course can in no small way be attributed to him.

Our paths did not cross again until Korea in 1953 when Bob was Second-in-Command to Ramsey Bunbury. I will remember always Ramsey and Bob hatching up various plots to try and capture a North Korean prisoner, which was an almost impossible task. Their labours were eventually successful, but unfortunately the prisoner died before he reached our lines.

In the Autumn of 1953, the 1st Battalion moved to Gibraltar where during their tour Bob took over command from Ramsey. Under, first Ramsey's and then Bob's command the Battalion gained a reputation which has never been equalled by any other Regiment, except perhaps, when the 1st Battalion returned to Gibraltar 30 years later. In 1956, as a result of the Suez Crisis, the 1st Battalion found itself in Malta with Bob still in Command. After a few weeks of exercising and sunning ourselves on the Malta beaches we moved to Cyprus to reinforce the Garrison. The Battalion spent a year in Cyprus, most of which was taken up with operations in the Troodos Mountains trying to rout out EOKA terrorists, but more particularly General Grivas. During the whole of this period Bob Moran commanded the Battalion with conspicuous success. He worked us very hard, but in the short periods allowed for relaxation he allowed us to play hard as well. Cyprus was the last time I served with Bob, but I have always felt that he was very much my friend in addition to being my senior officer. I shall miss greatly his jolly presence on the rare occasions he was able to attend Regimental functions".

After handing over command of the 1st Battalion in July 1957 Bob moved to the Ministry of Defence where he was promoted to Colonel in 1958. He retired from the Army in 1960 but was active in business right up to the period immediately prior to his death. He was awarded the O.B.E. in June 1952, but had to wait until May 1954 to receive the award from The Queen during her visit to Gibraltar. He was mentioned in Despatches on three occasions, Burma 1943, Korea 1953 and Cyprus 1957.

The funeral service was held at Effingham on 19th June 1987 and was attended by his wife Daphne, sons Christopher and Malcolm, Brigadier and Mrs. PP de la H Moran and other members of the family. The following members of the Regiment were present. The Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Huxtable, Brigadier FR st P Bunbury, Brigadier J. B. K. Greenway, Brigadier A. D. Firth, Major R. H. Ince, Colonel P. A. Mitchell and Major D. C. Roberts.

