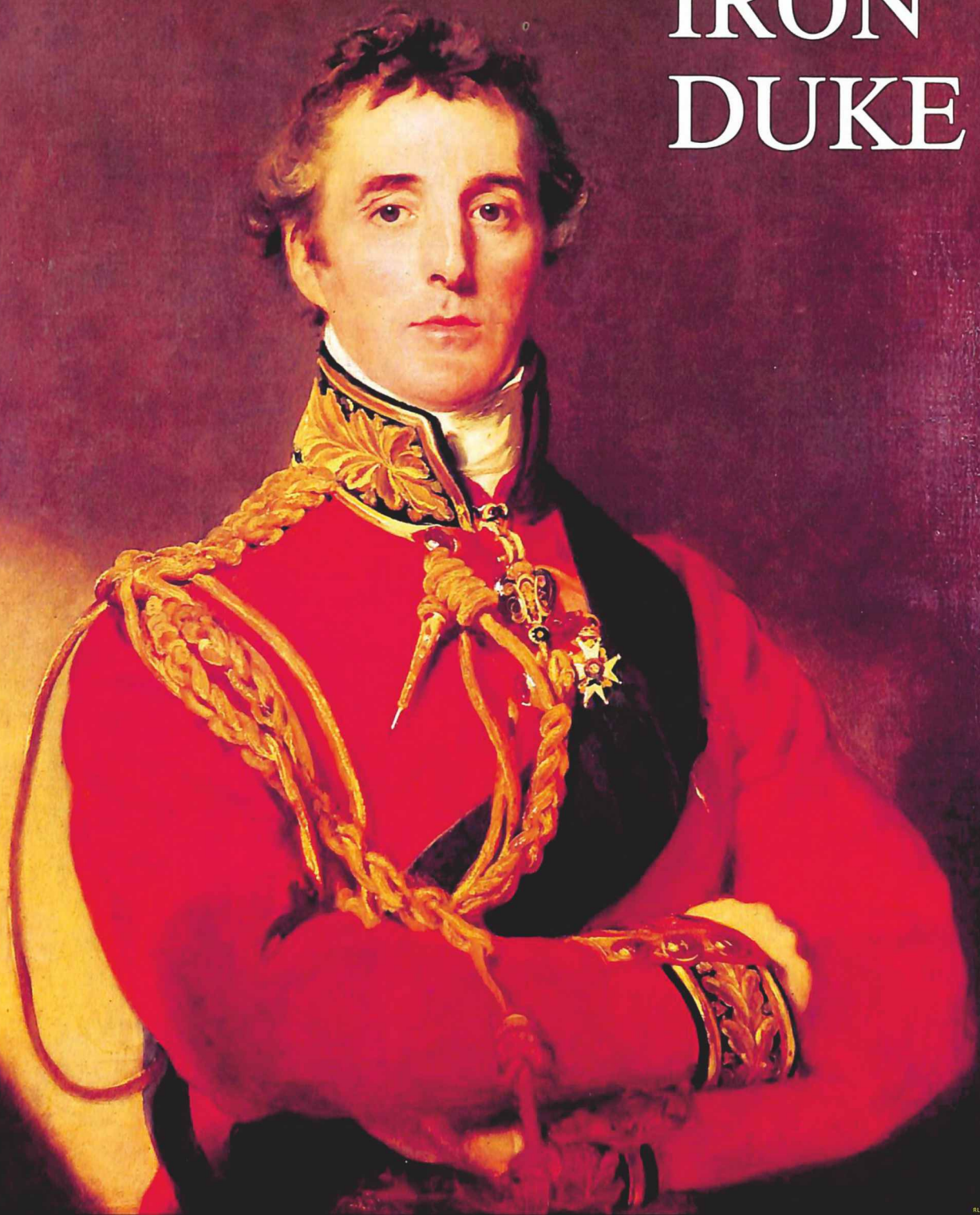


No.214 Winter 1990

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
Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53*

Vol. LIX

Winter 1990

No. 214

BUSINESS NOTES

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The opinions expressed in the articles of the journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and view, official or otherwise, of the Regiment or the MOD.

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Digitised by The Regimental Archives



THE REGIMENT

The Colonel-in-Chief

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

Colonel of the Regiment

Brigadier W. R. Mundell, OBE,
c/o Regimental Headquarters, Wellesley Park, Highroad Well, Halifax.

Regimental Headquarters
*Wellesley Park,
Highroad Well,
Halifax, HX2 0BA*

Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel W. Robins, OBE.
Assistant Regimental Secretary, Major C. D. d'E. Miller

1st Battalion
*Clive Barracks,
Tern Hill,
Shropshire, TF9 3QE*

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel A. D. Meek
Adjutant, Captain D. S. Bruce
Regimental Sergeant Major, P. Ennis

AFFILIATED COMPANIES OF 3rd BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

"C" (DWR) Company,
3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers,
*St. Paul's Street,
Huddersfield, HD1 3DR*

Officer Commanding, Major D. R. Dunston

"D" (DWR) Company,
3rd Bn. Yorkshire Volunteers,
*Wellington Hall, Prescott Street,
Halifax, HX1 2LG*

Officer Commanding, Major C. S. Garrad

ARMY CADET FORCE

Yorkshire ACF (DWR)
Wellesley Company
Affiliated Detachments

Halifax Heckmondwike **Mirfield** Thongsbridge
Huddersfield **Keighley** **Skipton**

DWR Liaison Officer and OC Huddersfield Area: Major D. L. Bennett ACF

COMBINED CADET FORCE

Giggleswick School CCF
Officer Commanding, Major N. J. Mussett

Leeds Grammar School CCF
Officer Commanding, Squadron Leader C. Templeman

ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

Les Voltigeurs de Quebec

Honorary Colonel: Colonel J. T. P. Audet
Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Y. Lachance

ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE PAKISTAN ARMY

10th Bn The Baluch Regiment

Colonel: Brigadier Syed Sarfraz Ali, SI(M)
Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jehanzeb Raja

AFFILIATED SHIP OF THE ROYAL NAVY

H.M.S. York

Captain A. G. McEwan RN

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron:
President:
Vice-President:
General Secretary:

Brigadier His Grace The Duke of Wellington, KG, LVO, OBE, MC, BA, DL
Brigadier W. R. Mundell, OBE
Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth, OBE
Major C. D. d'E Miller, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA.



Brigadier W. R. Mundell, OBE, Colonel of the Regiment.

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Brigadier W. R. Mundell OBE succeeded General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB CBE ADC Gen as Colonel of the Regiment on 22 October 1990.

Brigadier Dick Mundell was commissioned into the Regiment in December 1958 and joined the 1st Battalion in Palace Barracks, Northern Ireland in May 1959. During an initial tour of seven years with the Battalion, he held appointments as a platoon commander, intelligence officer and signals officer, serving in Brentwood, Colchester, Kenya (twice), British Honduras and Osnabrück.

After a tour as an instructor at the signals wing of the School of Infantry in 1966/67, he became GS03 HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong. Attendance at the Staff College, Camberley in 1970 was followed by a tour as Corunna Company Commander in Catterick, which included the first two operational tours in Ulster. Brigadier Mundell was next posted to the Junior Division of the Staff College as GS02 instructor, and in 1974 he returned to the Battalion as 2IC in Aldershot, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Minden. In 1977 he was appointed MA to C in C BAOR/Commander Northern Army Group, as a lieutenant colonel.

He commanded the 1st Battalion from July 1979 to May 1982, first as a mechanised battalion in Minden, and later in the normal infantry role in Catterick. During his tour in command, the Battalion deployed

to Belfast in 1979 and to South Armagh in 1981, and received its current stand of colours in Catterick in 1981. After a short tour at the School of Infantry, he was promoted brigadier and from 1983-84 commanded 6th Armoured Brigade in Soest, which later became 6th Airmobile Brigade. Since then he has served as Deputy Leader of the Review of Officer Training and Education, Commandant School of Infantry, Deputy Commander North East District, and Brigadier Infantry in BAOR. In April 1991 he is again to assume the appointment of Deputy Commander North East District in York.

Brigadier Mundell was mentioned in despatches in 1980 and awarded the OBE in 1982. In May 1990 he was appointed honorary colonel of 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers (West Yorkshire). As a Yorkshireman, his first contact with the Regiment was at the Depot in Halifax with the Leeds Grammar School CCF in 1952. As a Battalion rugby player, he received six army cup finalist medals (three as winners) and was the captain of the Battalion XV from 1964-1966. He was captain of the army side in BOAR 1965-1966.

In June 1967 he married Jill Kelly. They have three sons: Timothy (22) is serving in the Army Air Corps, James (20) is a subaltern in the 1st Battalion, and Barnaby (16) is at Uppingham School.

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

I started my career in the Dukes in 1959 with command of 3 Platoon, which consisted of four regulars and 37 national servicemen. My distant ambition then was to command the 1st Battalion. Having served in the Battalion for 14 years, achieving my ambition, I shall never forget the day in May 1982 when I was towed out of Somme Lines, Catterick. Now, eight years on, I am thrilled and very proud to be appointed Colonel in succession to General Sir Charles Huxtable. I am very aware of all that he has done to foster and promote the Regiment in all its aspects over the last eight years, in spite of his extremely busy life through the highest ranks in the army. The Regiment is intensely proud of him and thankful for his achievements. I am very conscious of the responsibility now placed upon me.

It is a time of great change in Europe and the world. It is also a time of change for the forces. In July the Secretary of State announced in his "Options for Change" that the army was to become "leaner but better". As I write this message in Germany in October, 7th Armoured Brigade with all its supporting elements has just set sail for the Gulf. It is a time of uncertainty and a time of challenge.

The reputation of the 1st Battalion, from all that I hear throughout the infantry and the army, is as high as ever: a view that is endorsed by their last commander in chief! It is important to us all that it should remain so. We have plenty of very sound and determined officers, and our soldiers are as professional and as good as they have ever been. I have great confidence in the Battalion, its officers,

non-commissioned officers and soldiers, and in their future in the army.

As a Yorkshireman I am especially aware of the ties to West and South Yorkshire, from where we recruit the vast majority of our soldiers. All the links to the old West Riding are important, and are currently being much improved by the presence and efforts of the 1st Battalion in Tern Hill. In May this year, I was delighted to be appointed Honorary Colonel of the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers (West Yorkshire). A firm association exists between this Battalion and our 1st Battalion. I shall do all I can to sustain and strengthen this, and the bonds to our 'home', the West Riding.

I am greatly honoured to be your Colonel, and I know that I can rely on the many friends in the Regiment and the West Riding for advice and support in the months and years ahead. I look forward confidently to the 1990's: our motto, "Fortune favours the brave", rings as true now as it always has done and as it always will do.

Dick Mundell

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

The Colonel of the Regiment has invited the following officers to serve on the Regimental Council under the chairmanship of the Colonel in Chief:- General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, ADC, Gen, Major General D. E. Isles CB, OBE, DL, Brigadier J. B. K. Greenway CBE, Brigadier E. J. W. Walker OBE, Colonel A. D. Roberts MBE, Major K. M. McDonald TD, JP, BA. Ex Officio Members:- Lieutenant Colonel A. D. Meek (CO 1 DWR), Lieutenant Colonel W. Robins OBE (Regimental Secretary). To be in attendance during the writing of the Regimental History and as the Editor of the Iron Duke:- Major A. C. S. Savory MBE.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Lieut. Colonel A. R. Redwood-Davies MBE has been awarded the OBE for service in Northern Ireland. Captain R. Heron has been awarded a GOC's commendation.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Lt. Col. A. R. Redwood-Davies CBE to be Deputy Commander 3 Infantry Brigade in the rank of colonel 3 December 1990.

Lieut. Colonel C. J. W. Gilbert to HQ RAO on 31 October 1990.

Lieut. Colonel R. A. Tighe MBE to HQ NEDIST 3 October 90 as principal Families Housing and Welfare Officer.

Lieut. Colonel T. J. Isles - To Higher Education Centre BAOR for language training 11 January 1991.

WO1 B. Hey - Commissioned SSC (LE) 8 October 1990 and posted to depot King's Division.

Major A. J. Pitchers retired 31 August 90.

Captain C. A. Harvey retired 1 September 90.



Major General D. E. Isles, who once served in 49 Infantry Division, with Brigadier E. J. W. Walker, the Commander 49 Infantry Brigade - the "Polar Bear Brigade".

HONORARY CITIZENSHIP OF SKIPTON

In recognition of the long and close association between the town of Skipton and the Regiment, the Town Council, during a meeting on 11 October 1990, agreed that the Honorary Citizenship of Skipton should be conferred on The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. It is planned that the ceremony should take place outside the Town Hall during the afternoon of Saturday 4 May 1990. Further details will be issued once the final programme has been agreed. The link between Town and Regiment dates from 1883 when the 9th Yorkshire, West Riding, Rifle Volunteer Corps based in Skipton became the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding). In 1908 this Battalion was redesignated the 6th Battalion of the Regiment as part of the Territorial Force and as such was to see action in both World Wars.

10th BATTALION - THE BALUCH REGIMENT

An interesting letter has been received from Lieut. Colonel Jehazeb Raja, commanding 10th Battalion the Baluch Regiment, the allied regiment of the Pakistan Army. It is intended to give a summary of the letter in the next issue of "The Iron Duke".



Lieutenant Colonel Jehazeb Raja, Commanding 10th Battalion the Baluch Regiment.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

MUSEUM

The Regimental collection in the Bankfield Museum Halifax is now cared for by John Spencer whose appointment as a part time assistant keeper has recently been made permanent. He is no stranger to the collection as he assisted in 1985/86 with the refurbishment of the display as a temporary employee.

The opening hours at Bankfield, which were adjusted earlier this year, are published below for the benefit of prospective visitors.

Mondays	- Closed for maintenance except on Bank Holidays.
Tuesday - Saturday	- Open 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Sundays	- Open 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Bank Holidays	- Open 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. except during Christmas and the New Year.

Action is in hand to register the Museum under the Museum and Galleries Commission Registration Scheme which requires certain criteria to be attained and without which it may be difficult to obtain grant aid in future.

ARCHIVES

Ex WO2 Bill Norman continues with his sterling work in the Regimental archives. His care, attention to detail and painstaking work in improving the index, cataloguing photographs and other new material, has provided a very worthwhile and lasting contribution.

ACQUISITIONS

Receipt acquisitions include:-

From MOD Services, a 9mm Browning pistol.

From Mr Bill Norman, a brass tunic button of the 33rd (or Duke of Wellington's) Regiment 1855 - 1881.

From Mr W. E. Roberts of Barnoldswick, the Champion Recruit Cup of A Company 3rd Volunteer Battalion The West Riding Regiment, won by his father, Private G. Roberts, in 1905.

From Mrs I. K. Gray of Winchester, a very interesting selection of letters written during the Abyssinian Campaign of 1867-68 by her grandfather, Colonel B. J. Barton, ADC, DL, while an ensign with the 33rd Regiment.

From Whiteside & Knowles, solicitors acting for the estate of Mr L. Hanson, the medals of his great grandfather Colour Sergeant William Mason DCM 33rd Regiment. This very interesting set consists of; Distinguished Conduct Medal, Crimea Medal 1854 - 1856 with Alma Clasp, Turkish Medal for the Crimea War (awarded to selected British soldiers), Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Colour Sergeant Mason was badly wounded at the Alma.

The World War II medals, silver cigarette box and a shooting trophy belonging to the late Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Johnson have with the agreement of his family been handed over to the Sergeants Mess of the

1st Battalion for display. The silver cigarette box is of particular interest having been presented in 1936 to the then Sergeant Johnson by 2nd Lieut. The Earl of Mornington (later the 6th Duke of Wellington) and 2Lt G. V. Cartwright. Both officers who had been "Bullet" Johnson's platoon commanders, died in World War II.

RETURNS RELATING TO OFFICERS OF THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA

The Crimean War ended in March 1856. Three months later the House of Commons ordered that returns were to be prepared of all officers who served in the campaign. These the War office duly published, in a small booklet, on 17 March 1857. A facsimile of the booklet has recently been brought out by Research Publications and Productions; a copy has been purchased and is now deposited in the Regimental archives.

The booklet contains five separate returns, each highly detailed and meticulously compiled. The five returns are:

1. "Return of the names, with their Rank and Regiment, of all Officers of the ARMY who remained in the Crimea from the first Landing there until the end of the War".

Under this heading five officers of the 33rd are listed:

Lieut. Colonel G. V. E. Mundy CB: Sick on board ship from 29 August to 25 September 1855. (He was appointed 2nd Lieut Colonel of the 33rd in 1855).

Brevet Major F. S. Vacher. To Constantinople in July 1855 with dispatch bag, on duty; returned next steamer

Surgeon W. M. Muir MD.

Asst. Surgeon J. Ogilvy MD.

Quartermaster E. Vyse, (he later died during the Abyssinia campaign in 1868).

The total of five officers was about the average for an infantry regiment. A high proportion of those who are listed under this heading was medical staff, quartermasters, paymasters or members of the commissary, presumably because they were not exposed to the front line conditions.

2. "Return the names etc. of OFFICERS who remained from the first Landing until they died or fell in Action".

Nine officers are shown under this heading of whom five were killed in action, two died of wounds and two died of disease. The most notable are:

Lieut. Colonel F. R. Blake. Died of disease on 23 August 1855. (He commanded the 33rd from 1848 and led it at the battle of Alma).

Lieut. Colonel T. Gough. Died of wounds 18 September 1855. (His wounds were incurred during an attack on Sevastopol on the 8th. He was a major in the 33rd and lieut. colonel in the army).

3. "Return of the names etc. of OFFICERS who remained from Landing to the End of the War, with the exception of an interval of Absence, stating such interval".

The names of five officers of the 33rd are listed the most notable being that of:

Major J. E. Collins. He is shown as absent from 2 December 1854 to March 1855, on sick leave. (He later commanded the Regiment from 1857 to 1868).

4. "Return of the names of OFFICERS etc, who arriving at any Period after the first Landing, remained till the End of the War, or who Died, or Fell in Action; with the date of their Arrival, and of their Death".

Twenty officers of the 33rd are listed under this heading. Two of them were killed in action.

5. "Return of the names etc of OFFICERS who Left the Crimea before the End of the War; with the date of their Arrival and Departure, and the cause of such Departure".

Another nineteen officers are shown under this heading. For most of them the cause of departure is shown either as "wounds" or "medical certificate". Two returned to England for "private affairs". The most notable are:

Lieut. Colonel J. Johnstone CB who arrived on 14 September 1854, left on 20 December 1854 "Medical

certificate", returned to the Crimea in March 1855 and again left in June "Wounds". (He succeeded Lieut Colonel Blake in command of the 33rd and remained in command until succeeded by Lieut Colonel Collins in 1857).

Captain G. Erskine who arrived on 14 September 1854, left in December 1854 "Medical certificate". (He became General George Erskine and was Colonel of the Regiment from 1895 to 1897).

Captain E. Donovan, arrived 14 September and left 10 April 1855 "wounds". (He became the 2nd Lieut. Colonel of the 33rd in 1860).

The booklet is an invaluable source of accurate information from which it is possible not only to answer queries about officers of the 33rd during this period, but also to compile some interesting statistics. For instance the names of 33 officers who embarked for the Crimea have long been known. It can now be shown that four were killed in action, seven were wounded and four died of disease during the Crimean War.

1st Battalion

Commanding Officer's Introduction

The other day someone, not a member of the Battalion, remarked that the role of the Home Defence Unit must be a fairly boring and tedious one, particularly now that peace had broken out over Europe. In fact nothing could be further from the truth as far as 1 DWR is concerned and I suspect that the same applies to any other U.K. infantry battalion with this particular role. We have now been in Tern Hill for over 18 months and during that time only a few working days have been spent on our primary subject and even then only a small percentage of the Battalion was involved. Instead we have been remarkably busy doing all sorts of other things. The past few months have been no exception: in fact the general tempo has been much increased due largely to the fact that we came back together as a Battalion in August and in September were on SPEARHEAD duty for six weeks. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait four weeks before the duty began added real meaning to our preparations: the Orbat was refined and within six days the battalion was back as one. Further more deficiencies in equipment were quickly identified and, more importantly speedily rectified, much to many peoples surprise. It is quite remarkable what can be achieved in a very short space of time when there is a will. Once our tour of duty started it was not a case of sitting in Tern Hill waiting to be called. Instead we spent a week at Lydd and Hythe refreshing our Northern Ireland skills, which, given the the news from the Middle East at that time, might appear to some to be a suprising way of training during such a duty; but we had to be prepared to deploy anywhere in the world and that included Northern Ireland. Following our time in Kent there began an intensive period of low level training which included support platoon cadres and company exercise plus the battalion skill at arms meeting. It was during this

period that the Recce Platoon participated in the Cambrian Patrol: this was the first time the Battalion had entered this physically demanding event and the team did extremely well to gain its Certificate of Merit at the end.

As time progressed the thoughts of any deployment to a hot country receded and eventually vanished when a pack of tropical clothing was removed from us at very short notice! Instead a small party was deployed to Bulford for a week to escort a team of Russian officers who were inspecting the British Army in the southern half of England as part and parcel of the CDE Treaty Agreement.

SPEARHEAD is now finished but there has not been any noticeable reduction in the workload. Shortly we go for a week to Senneybridge Training Area for the Brigade Commander's exercise and no sooner is that over than we step smartly into the winter training programme. Between now and next February we aim to get a large number of men trained in arctic warfare so that, come our move to Bulford and the assumption of the AMF(L) role, we can train ourselves in this demanding aspect of soldiering.

Lest all this gives the impression that all is work and no play in the Battalion, nothing could be further from the truth. Sport takes a good deal of time and effort and the season's campaign for the Army Cup begins in earnest very shortly with our first Cup match in York. The football team is training hard and hopes to emulate its success of last year, and there is even an enthusiastic band of hockey players who compete for space on the sports pitches. Both the Officers and Sergeants Messes have organised major social events over the past few months, but the highlight was without doubt the visit of the Colonel of The Regiment and Lady Mary Huxtable when they came to say farewell to us in September. It was a

wonderfully relaxed, albeit short visit; but not really a farewell because I am certain we will see them both again before too long.

The future looks as exciting and challenging as ever and the planning of the two overseas exercise next year

has already begun. By next Christmas a soldier with the Dukes should have visited five foreign countries within three years. You can still join the army and see the world.

U.K.L.F. MILAN CONCENTRATION 1990

The cost of Dukes manpower of the 1990 U.K.L.F. Milan Concentration came to 12,000 man days. As well as the planning team, this includes some 300 Dukes (i.e. virtually all those not in the Falklands) committed to administrative and training support throughout late June and the whole of July. It was Comd U.K. Field Army's top training priority for the year.

A total of 29 Milan Platoons, including regular, TA and Royal Marine platoons, participated in the Concentration, the aim of which was:

"To improve the operational effectiveness of Milan Platoons in a range of tactical scenarios."

Our remit was twofold: to write and provide the training structure and support, and to provide all the necessary administrative support, leaving the participants entirely free to concentrate on their

training. In the main we were able to keep everybody within a platoon structure and rotate them through the training and administrative duties, as well as include some adventure training in the local Northumbrian area. Each participating platoon attended the Concentration for 13 days. The first week was programmed for their own training using centrally coordinated facilities, which would not normally be available to Milan Platoons in camp. Given that most platoons had done little or no pre-training, this is an extremely valuable period. It also gave us the opportunity to assess each platoon's ability to train itself. The second week of the Concentration consisted of an extremely challenging tactical exercise, which was deliberately designed to pressure platoon routines.



UK Milan Concentration
A Milan missile leaving its launcher.



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LYDD AND HYTHE RANGES 9-14 SEPTEMBER 1990

The Battalion's Spearhead began just as the situation in the Gulf was hotting up. The mere fact that one or two newspapers had mentioned the possibility of a Spearhead Battalion being sent to the Gulf among hoardes of other suggestions, was quite enough to convince the more stalwart warmongers and storytellers of the Battalion that 1 DWR was destined for fame and glory in the sun-baked deserts of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. This being so, it took a bit of work convincing them that part of our job as Spearhead Battalion was to be prepared to go anywhere, including Northern Ireland. That meant that it was necessary to spend a week in substandard accommodation on the ranges at Lydd and Hythe.

At lunchtime on 9 September, the main body arrived at CPTA, Lydd range complex, looking particularly well fed on their "horror boxes", debussed and moved into the billet accommodation. First stop for everyone on the range week was an explosives and penetration demo illustrating the power of Semtex explosives and the many other weapons used by the PIRA.

From Monday onwards, training was split into companies, with four major day-long activities for each company to rotate through.

Firstly, the urban training package. This took place on the Rype village complex. It turned out to be extremely useful to those of us who had not been to the Province before. However it was hard work ploughing through the hours of lecture after lecture. The icing on the cake was a burst of broad Scottish from a Black Watch NCO, which we were told was a lecture on riot

drills, but which proved to be a trifle confusing. The saving grace, however, was four stands which took place in the village itself, where we attempted to put some of the things we had learnt into practice.

The rural training package took place on the Acrise training area and consisted of six well-run stands covering the Cougar net radio, the Winthrop method of rummaging, a RESA run route clearance stand, a rural patrol and contact stand and a VCP stand to round it off. Again to someone with no experience of the Province the day was invaluable, and for officer and soldier alike the learning curve must have risen steeply.

The two remaining training days were spent on Lydd and Hythe ranges shooting all manner of different ranges, with both small bore, full bore and pistol. Some of the more memorable ranges were the CQB ranges; involving fire discipline and team contact. Both were video-ed to enable an effective debrief of the team and the team commander. The former was a very incriminating shoot, with a worrying number of civilians falling prey to the lethal fire of teams being put through it. The CQB urban (team contact) range was also quite an experience, especially for team commanders. Having to p-check talking dummies in a pub can be quite unnerving at times.

There was a good mix of fire discipline, and team shoots, and all ranges were challenging and interesting. After a good week's training the Battalion returned to Tern Hill on 14 September.



Skill at arms meeting

Major A. H. S. Drake presents the trophy for the best senior NCO to Sergeant Whelan.



Skill at arms meeting

Somme Company prize winners. Left to right: Private Craven, Lance Corporal Booth, Major S. Newton, Sergeant Whelan and Private Jones.

“ROPES, RAPIDS AND REPTILES”

A Project Leader with Operation Raleigh . . .

“I expected to find something superb, grand, marvellous - I have never been so disappointed. It is hell itself, a corner of which seems to open at your feet. A dark and terrible hell from the middle of which you expect every moment to see a repulsive monster rising in anger.”

This was the description by the 19th Century explorer of a remote and uninhabited section of the Zambesi Valley now known as Batoka Gorge. On my arrival in Zimbabwe it meant only a string of contours on a map. Zimbabwe is the sort of place one cannot easily forget. Her jungle covered highlands, parched grasslands and Great Central Dyke sandwiched between the Zambesi and Limpopo rivers offer a wealth of challenges.

As the expedition leader explained, my particular challenge was ‘a physically arduous and adventurous project combined with detailed scientific work in Batoka Gorge’. We would work in conjunction with the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe to survey the fauna of the area. I had neither zoological nor climbing experience, which seemed to be essential, and I hated ‘creepy crawlies!’ My protest were to no avail. Apparently my infantry and archaeological background was enough to secure my position as the project leader.

Peering down I could see what was meant by ‘arduous’, the Gorge opened at my feet in a most spectacular way, sheer 700 foot cliffs dropping away to a mass of boulders and scree in places only wide enough to gain a foothold. There was little vegetation and what there was seemed to be hanging on precariously to life. I failed to see what could live there or what creature would want to. Flowing through was the mighty Zambesi. At first sight it was not the surging bubbling, spitting monster I had expected. On closer inspection, however, I became aware of how the gorge had been fashioned and of the power below the surface that was continually cleaving out the bassault rock.

At home I had imagined a land of ancient unspoilt and unsophisticated beauty, a part of the world not ravaged by time or tourism. Tourism was certainly very evident not far away a the Victoria Falls Hotel, still echoing its colonial past and struggling to maintain the old ways. The gorge was unspoilt but it seemed uninviting, almost ugly.

John Minshull, the acting director of the museum, told to me the reason for the joint project. No formal record of fauna had yet been made of that area of Zimbabwe due to the hostile terrain, and we were to provide the manpower and logistical support to

enable the scientist to make their collections. Extending 100 km eastwards from Victoria Falls to Gwerere the first 45km of the gorge are due to be dammed and flooded in the near future and so this became our primary area of concern. Arrangements were made for departments to visit the site and provide the expertise and equipment necessary during the 3 phases of the expedition. Considering the nature of the ground, the requirement for accurate scientific methods and temperatures reaching 40° it would be a physically hard and demanding project. A wonderful mixture of ropes, rapides and reptiles. My recce was complete, my first taste of Operation Raleigh.

Operation Raleigh is primarily aimed at giving young people between the ages of 17 and 26 from all over the world, a chance to develop their individual and leadership skills. The projects are used purely as a vehicle for this purpose and vary from community aid, such as building a school, to adventure and conservation. They rely heavily on the army for staff because within its ranks officers and soldiers with the

necessary expertise for such undertakings can easily be found.

The whole concept is a marvellous challenge for a young person who may never have been abroad, never slept under the stars, carried a rucksack, climbed a cliff face or led a group of individuals on an arduous trek. Neither was it a simple matter for me. There was no blind obedience, every decision is challenged and questioned. If a plan is not well thought through and explained it will fail. Communication is all. To bring together a group of venturers, as they are called, all intelligent and well motivated but each with a differing viewpoint was a demanding task.

In all we found and collected over 10,000 insects, reptiles, snakes, bats and mammals, enabling the museum to complete a most comprehensive study of the fauna of Batoka Gorge. The highlight was undoubtedly the find of a new species of spider no bigger than a pin head. The project had exceeded all expectations.

M. A. L.



Captain M. A. Lodge (right) with a group of venturers and museum staff. In the background is the Batoka gorge.

SPEARHEAD

Fresh-faced and full of enthusiasm, I arrived at the Battalion having spent 3 months at Warminster learning the ins and outs of being a platoon commander. I was told we were about to become the SPEARHEAD Battalion. I vaguely remember a ½ hr lecture on the subject at Warminster in-between digging trenches and how to stage a live firing exercise.

Packing lists emerged, hours were spent getting the right kit into the right part of the webbing. I was immediately grateful for my platoon sergeant's

presence. He made sure that the platoon had everything from a new bar of soap to 3 pairs of clean underwear, just two items on a list that seemed to run into 3 figures. Having packed everything up and (hopefully) got it right, we were then told that we were getting the new pattern of webbing. Unpacking started, a video was watched on how to assemble the new stuff.

Some of the company were not happy. Having spent years accumulating the 'right bits' of webbing,

to be told they could not wear it was almost heartbreaking. Kit checks occurred with regularity, but one fine evening the OC announced that he was happy with everything and that we were ready to go.

During our build up to SPEARHEAD, Saddam Hussein decided to invade Kuwait. 9 Platoon 'C' Company discussed what factor sun creams were needed for the Gulf.

At this time Corunna was leading element, in other words on 10 hours notice to move. We watched the news waiting for our call. As days turned into weeks it became clear that SPEARHEAD would not be deployed although other units and groupings were mentioned.

The most unfortunate thing about being on leading element was that we could not go anywhere outside a 5 mile radius of camp: girlfriends were not understanding.

Alma Company replaced us as Leading Element and life returned to normal. In fact, once we had finished on leading element, SPEARHEAD drifted very much into the background. We were not going to the Gulf, some were disappointed, most relieved. As a type B battalion we had neither the kit nor the specialised training to go. We had a very interesting week at Lydd and Hythe on the NI ranges and Ulster was probably always a more realistic proposition than Kuwait. Maybe we would step in on an ambulance strike as we had done before, or help in a natural disaster such as a flood, all vital roles, perhaps not as exciting as the name SPEARHEAD seems to suggest, but necessary ones all the same. Of course, as it turned out we ended up going nowhere!



1990 UK Land Forces Road Safety and Skilled Driving Competition
 Corporal Newhouse (team leader), Lance Corporal Simpson (HGV driver) and Lance Corporal Bates (Landrover driver) of the MT Platoon. The team was placed 2nd overall, won 1st place for the best presented vehicle and Lance Corporal Simpson won best HGV driver award.

EXERCISE "CAMBRIAN PATROL"

The Cambrian Patrol is recognised as the hardest military competition the British Army undertakes, combining patrol skills, endurance and luck in a most challenging and testing three days. The patrol plays the scenario of a long range eight man patrol behind enemy lines. In fact it is a three day march across 120 kms of rolling countryside centred on the Sennybridge Training Area. The patrol moves through a number of tactical stands testing the patrols abseiling, water crossing, minefield clearance, observation posts and close target recce.

The Recce Platoon provided the 1st Battalion team for the 1990 competition which proved to be very much of a learning process. The squad trained for three weeks prior to the competition integrating revision of patrol skills with bergan marching in the local area.

The competition begins with a complex set of orders tasking the patrol to a close recce of an enemy position some 90 km forward of the line of own troops, siting

RV's with "local partisans" through which the patrol must move.

At each of these RV's the patrol is tested on a particular skill. The establishing and occupation of an OP, observing vehicle movement, abseiling, leading the section into a position where it can assault an enemy stronghold, crossing a reservoir in assault boats, breaching a minefield, establishing a patrol harbour from which a close recce can be launched and using the new FIBUA village in both assault upon and defence of a building before marking a LZ for the heli pick up of the patrol.

The competition requires an extremely fit and well prepared squad capable of marching up to 120 kms carrying up to 90 lbs of equipment across the 'beloved beacons'.

The 1990 team performed admirably and will certainly form the core of the 1991 squad for the preparation and participation in the Cambrian March.

REGIMENTAL BAND

The Regimental band has remained busy throughout the summer months. In August we joined forces with over twenty bands when we took part in Colchester Searchlight Tattoo. This event is now the largest military Tattoo in the U.K., and this year included three visitors from overseas; two Dutch police bands and also the famous 'H. M. Kongens Garde Musikkorps' from Norway. The Tattoo programme consisted of four evening performances and one afternoon matinee which happened to fall on the hottest day of the year!

It was back to Yorkshire in September, for engagements at Keighley Show, Copley Cricket Club and The Norfolk Gardens Hotel Bradford, where we performed at a charity Gala in aid of the Yorkshire Association of Boys Clubs.

The remainder of September was taken up with service commitments, with no less than three engagements for the RAF, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of 'The Battle of Britain, at stations in Cosford, Shawbury and Hereford.

On 19 September we again found ourselves on RAF territory, but this time as part of Western District's contribution to a Joint Service's Open Day. This event attracted over 2,000 school children from the Midlands and beyond. Late in September we travelled to Wilton, Salisbury, where we 'played out' the C in C HQ U.K.L.F., General Huxtable, to the strains of 'The Wellesley'.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

We finally came together as a full mess for the first time in nearly five months on 2 August when WO2 J. J. Jackson and his mess committee put together an excellent package for the Summer Ball. The guests included Brigadier W. R. Mundell and Lieut. Colonel and Mrs A. D. Meek. The Brigadier renewed many old acquaintances. The highlight of the evening must have been the star performance of mess members with the 'hypnotist'.

The mess then went on three weeks leave. Almost immediately on return the Battalion took over SPEARHEAD duties. The mess was on the move yet again, this time to C.P.T.A. for 5 days N.I. training,

with the training package completed it's back to Tern Hill and SPEARHEAD, sorting out vehicles and other equipments.

20 September saw the mess holding a farewell lunch for our Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Charles Huxtable. General Sir Charles was accompanied by Lady Huxtable. Lt. Col. and Mrs A. D. Meek also accompanied the General. A number of wives also attended. The R.S.M. presented General Sir Charles with a 'Duke on horseback' and Lady Huxtable with a bouquet of flowers and wished them both a long and prosperous retirement.

RUGBY

Another season is upon us and after a rather late start, due to annual leave, the two Battalion sides are fully into the swing of a full and varied fixture list despite the perennial pressures of military work. We welcome Major Guy Shuttleworth to the job of rugby

officer, who with the help of Lieut. Mike Wolff as secretary and WOII Williams and SSgt Spowart as coaches will lead us through the oncoming season. The Captain of the 1st XV this year is Lieut. Gary Knight.

The encouraging arrival of new players has helped us to build a side of considerable potential. With moulding and practice we should form a formidable team unit. The fact that we have not yet "gelled" as a team is illustrated by our recent run of losses, but we are working hard to peak at the right time, our ultimate aim being to win that Army Cup which has eluded us for so long.

The 2nd XV, or 'Hindoostan XV' has been borne this season to encourage a depth of rugby talent and also to promote enjoyable rugby for the old and bold and especially for our young soldiers who are keen to play or make the transition from League to Union. Already the Hindoostan XV have had some good wins as well as identifying some promising young players and revitalised older men. Rugby in the Dukes is still in a healthy state.

FOOTBALL

Having just got the squad together and completed initial plans for the season's campaign we were surprised, happily, to be awarded our first trophy. The Wales/Western District 6 a side soccer competition is held at the beginning of the season. We had entered and won.

A quick reshuffle of diary dates was required and as District champions we set off for Aldershot to play against the army's top sides. We failed by one point to

reach the semi-finals. Perhaps more importantly we played against potential cup winners and the better known army teams.

We know now that 64 teams have entered for the army cup this year. We are better than most and are not particularly frightened of any side. With four players now representing the infantry team, and appearances in the final stages of cup competitions, 1 DWR is now recognised as a legitimate challenger.

CROSS COUNTRY



Lance Corporal Mower being presented with the prize for the individual winner of the inter-company cross country competition by the C.O.



Corunna Company Cross Country team, winners of the inter-company cross country competition.

3rd BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS (West Yorkshire)



NBC decontamination team prepare to receive contaminated vehicles during exercise "Wiltshire Rose".

The main training theme for 1990 has been on the development of sub unit skills and identity. This theme was continued at Annual Camp, which took place at West Down on Salisbury Plain. The period at Camp was split into two separate packages. During the first week company commanders were able to concentrate on training their companies in mastering the basic skills of map reading, patrolling and minor tactics. After one days R & R, taken on the middle Saturday, we launched straight into exercise 'Wiltshire Rose', a battalion run and co-ordinated Key Point defence and Mobile Reaction Force exercise. Unfortunately, experiencing some of the knock-on effects of operation 'Granby', we lost our support helicopters and the expertise from the NBC School at Winterbourne Gunner. Even so, we managed to scrounge some air support which added

to the overall effect of the exercise. For many of the commanders and soldiers alike this had been the first opportunity to put into practice many of the complex and unfamiliar skills of home defence.

Visitor to Camp included Brigadier Dick Mundell in his official capacity as our Honorary Colonel. We expect to see a good deal more of him over the next couple of years when he will also be our One Star commander at District Headquarters.

During 1989 we were able to send two of our NCOs to the United States as part of the National Exchange Programme with the U.S. National Guard. This year as well as two SNCOs, Major Derek Dunston was invited to take part in an officer exchange package. As part of the deal we took two U.S. SNCOs and an officer to Camp with the Battalion.

4th BATTALION YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS (South Yorkshire)

Annual Camp 1990 incorporated an exchange with the United States National Guard named exercise "Mulberry Tree/Prickly Pear". 4 Yorks sent 120 soldiers (Ypres Company) to train with the 2nd Battalion, 115th Infantry from Maryland on exercise

in Virginia. In return we were hosts to a company of National Guardsmen at Stanford.

In Virginia our soldiers trained alongside their American counterparts using their small arms, mortars and anti-tank missiles. Training included



A patrol on exercise in Virginia, USA.

team live firing and a two day exercise culminating in a testing FIBUA assault.

Virginia's training areas were a marked contrast to the familiar Yorkshire Dales. Very high temperatures, coupled with severe humidity, produced a hostile climate which demanded that all ranks drank about two pints of water an hour if they were to remain effective. A thorough pre-exercise briefing on the prevention of heat casualties and the various threats from Virginia's Wild life brought real dividends.

Major General James F. Fretterd, Adjutant General of Maryland, visited Ypres Company at Fort Pickett and was presented with a framed message from the Lord Mayor of Sheffield to the Governor of

the State of Maryland, Commander in Chief of the Maryland National Guard. Ypres Company was granted the award of a Governor's citation for its contribution to the exercise.

At Stanford the National Guardsmen adapted well to British weapons and equipment. Their training included a comprehensive range package and basic infantry skills. During R & R they made a tour of London and visited the Normandy beaches where their predecessors landed on D Day.

For the Duke who hails from South Yorkshire the 4th Battalion offers a second home to anyone leaving regular service. There are vacancies at all levels for those that want to keep in touch with army life.

'D' COY YORKSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE (WELLESLEY COMPANY)

Annual Camp was held at Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe from 21 July to 4 August. Camp was a resounding success for the Company when on the final day we carried off the Gordon Trophy having gained highest points in the military competitions and winning outright Field Craft Orienteering and the March and Shoot.

The 1st Battalion has been of tremendous help to us this year. All Detachments were visited by the KAPE Team in May and June. Sergeants James and Devaney organised and ran an exercise at Anzio Camp, Leek over the weekend 1-2 September. This was attended by the senior cadets of the company. The highlight was the visit of some 18 cadets to Tern Hill for a week "In the army".

Upon arrival on 21 October they were greeted by Lt. C. Buss and his staff from Corunna Company and shown to their accommodation. Next morning training started in earnest, ranging from basic camouflage and concealment, "basher" building and camp craft, through to training on the MILAN simulator and the new 94mm LAW simulator.

During Wednesday and Thursday the cadets were moved out to Swinnerton training area, where they were instructed on patrolling, section attacks and prisoner interrogation, which led into a platoon attack on a Command Post exercise which was in progress near by.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: General Sir Charles Huxtable.
To: The Editor of 'The Iron Duke'.

22 October 1990

Sir,

Today I have handed over the Colonelcy of the Regiment to Brigadier Dick Mundell. The day before yesterday I attended my last annual reunion of the Old Comrades Association as Colonel. After dinner, Brigadier Dick, on behalf of the Regiment, presented me with a wonderful tantalus and Mary with a beautiful silver dish. I am writing to express our most heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Regiment for these two beautiful presents. It is so kind and far too generous of everyone to give us presents for doing something which we have both so enjoyed doing. They will be very precious possessions and wonderful reminders of so many happy years with the Regiment. Thank you all very much indeed

Whilst I was preparing my notes for my speech to propose the toast to the Regiment last Saturday I was trying to analyse in mind what it is that makes the "Dukes" so special. It is of course, to all of us who have served in any battalion of the Regiment, either regular or territorial, and to our wives and families, a way of life but that is not sufficient explanation of why it is so special. We are not a smart, social Regiment.



The tantalus presented to General Sir Charles Huxtable on his relinquishment of the Colonelcy of the Regiment.

We do not seek to be forever in the headlines. We do not pretend to have some special expertise. Indeed, perhaps what makes us special is that we do not seek to be any of these things.

We are ordinary straight forward folk who stick together. We have in the Dukes some of the best soldiers in the world. I would back the Dukes soldier - the good, honest, straight-forward, hardworking, patient, cheerful Yorkshireman - against any soldiers in the world. From these first class soldiers we have consistently obtained outstanding senior NCOs and Warrant Officers and hence we have always had a very powerful Sergeants' Mess. Finally, we have officers who are not afraid to get their boots muddy and who understand the soldiers they lead.

If you put these assets together in an organisation which works hard and plays hard; which gets on with its job and if you ensure that there is proper understanding and communication between the various groups and add those very loyal and supportive families, you end up with a first class professional Regiment. A Regiment which will do any job it is given anywhere in the world and which will stick at it until it is successful. You get a feeling of mutual support and respect; you get a group of people with strong bands of friendship, of history, of enjoyment, of endeavour and achievement.

In short, you get the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Long may it be so.

Yours very sincerely,

Charles Huxtable

34 Melrose Road, Merton Park,
London SW19 3HG.

To: The Editor of 'The Iron Duke' 31.10.90

Dear Sir,

Do you and your readers share my indignation at the existence of the Café Bonaparte at Waterloo Station, London?

I have been in touch with the Southern Region of British Rail but they seem unrepentant. Their geographical sense seems to be about as poor as their historical so I am not that surprised. What is noe to make of a Network South East that includes such far-from-southeast places as Exeter, Kings Lynn and Bedford? And Anglia Region for a system that serves just East Anglia?

A friend and Peninsular War historian shares my anger. He even suspects, half seriously, that it is all part of a softening up to precede the arrival of the first Channel Tunnel train at Waterloo and would not be surprised to find the terminus renamed 'Belle Alliance' in due course!

We British seem all too ready these days to bend over backwards to please foreigners who are not in the least impressed by such antics. I cannot see the French Railways - for whose achievements I have great regard - renaming a café at the Gare d'Austerlitz after the Russian or Austrian commanders in that battle!

I am not in the least a Francophobe. Far from it as my writings and interests will show, but there is a limit, and at Waterloo (London) it has certainly been passed.

I hope I strike a responsive chord.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Wilson

author, lecturer and editorial consultant.

THE ABYSSINIA EXPEDITION: 1867 - 1868

Some extracts from the letters of Ensign B. J. Barton 33rd Regiment

The regiment has recently acquired the letters written by Ensign Barton to his mother and sister during the Abyssinia Expedition. The letters were kindly given to the Regiment by his grand daughter, Mrs Isabel Grey. Baptist Johnston Barton joined the 33rd Regiment at Karachi in May 1867. He retired in 1871. In 1875 he joined the Donegal Militia (later 5th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers) with whom he served 33 years, latterly as commanding officer.

Between 1864 and 1867 Theodore, the half-demented and tyrannical King of Abyssinia, imprisoned two British diplomatic representatives and 58 other Europeans of various nationalities. Endless negotiations having failed to free the hostages, it was decided to send an expedition from India to try and effect their release from his capital at Magdala, which was located 400 miles inland, in mountainous country.

Lieutenant General Sir Robert Napier, the C-in-C of the Bombay Army was appointed to command the field force of about 11,000 combat troops, which was supported by 16,500 mule drivers and other camp followers. Among the troops allocated to the force was

the 33rd Regiment. The Regiment set sail for Abyssinia in November 1867 and Barton's first letter gives an account of the first leg of the voyage, which was from Karachi to Aden.

Ship "Indian Chief"

Aden Harbour.

29th November 1867

"My dearest Mother,

We have at last, thank goodness left the shores of India far behind us, and have got so far in safety after an exceedingly pleasant voyage of nine days. I think we will stop here till about Monday or Tuesday next as we have to take Snider Rifles on board and we are also in want of water and provisions. We left Kurachu (Karachi) on Thursday 21st about 5 o'clock in the afternoon and arrived here this morning about 11 o'clock. All of us, both officers and men were delighted to get away from Kurachu as all of us disliked it awfully, and there was not any love lost between us and the Kurachu people. We are all of us, going up to have a "big night" with the 2nd Queens



progress was being made for the campaign to be fought during 1868 and anticipates he will be in Abyssinia for two years.

Camp Zooloo
Abyssinia
17th December, 67

"My dearest Mother,

I came ashore yesterday, and am now established in a tent. I don't know anything about when we are likely to go up country, nor I think does anyone else. In case you should be in ignorance of where I am at present as I suppose Zooloo is not a very well known place I may mention that is on the shore of Annesley Bay and that we have only got about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile on our way. I have been out all this morning since daylight catching mules, it is desperate hard work. I should think I ran about five miles today. They turn the wretched brutes loose as soon as they land them and as the mule drivers are all busy taking things up country they are left to die of hunger and thirst on the shore. However things are much better since our detachment landed. We have caught about 200 and feed and water them every day. It is the most wonderful sight to see the animals getting watered, there is a trough not more than 50 yards long, and at that twice every day, about 250 horses, 300 bullocks and 1000 mules have to (be) watered. We have to send an officer and 50 armed men with long whips to keep them from trampling one another to death. The mules are awfully vicious and kick like winking. We are very jolly on shore here except that I find the pound of meat, bone included very light diet and a "tot" of arrack not much to drink, when there is nothing else but distilled salt water. They are getting on very slowly with everything connected with this expedition, I'm afraid we won't be able to do anything before the rain sets in, so that will give us another year in the country."

In his next letter Barton reports that the 33rd's breech loading Snider-Enfield rifle, which was to be used for the first time during the Abyssinia campaign, had arrived. Meantime the watering of the thousands of mules remained a daily task which was not helped by the fact that all water had to be brought ashore from ships in Annesley Bay which were condensing the sea water.

Camp Zoola
24th December, 67

"My dearest Mother,

The 4th Regt. and the Sind Horse are expected here everyday, and our Snider Rifles have also arrived so I suppose we shall be pushed up to the front at once. I shall be very glad of it as we are not doing soldiers work here, nothing but driving mules day and night. There is a fearful mortality among the cattle up country; some mysterious disease has broken out which carries off horses and mules in two hours; no-one seems to know what it is. The 3rd Bombay L.C. have lost 150 horses since they have been in the country. It has not appeared much down here, but we lose nearly as many animals from want of water. The wretched brutes are kept in the scorching sun for three days sometimes without a drop of water, the consequence is that when they do get a drink they take so much that they burst themselves and drop dead. We

generally have to burn (bury?) about thirty in the morning. I believe the smell of carrion along the line of march is something frightful. They have taken to flogging the men like winking here; a man of ours got 50 lashes from the Provost Marshal yesterday for being drunk in the Bazar. People may talk as they like, but it is the only way of putting down things of the kind here; it is the only means of punishment we have. There is no prison and even if there was we can't afford to take a man from his duty to put him in it. This is an awfully nice country a little way from this; after riding eight or nine miles from camp the sand stops and it is just an English common, grass, a good deal burnt up of course and thorn bushes here and there over it. We expect Napier here soon and I believe everything will get on better after his arrival, there is no regular head here now and everyone says there is a great deal of mismanagement especially as regards the Land Transport Corps, who have to look after the cattle, or rather who ought to look after them and don't or can't. We are overrun with huge scorpions about here, who cock up their tails and go at you awfully fiercely. I have not seen any snakes yet, but of course there must be some."

The British regiments in General Napier's force were, the 3rd Dragoon Guards, 4th Foot (King's Own), 26th (Cameronians), 33rd and 45th (Sherwood Foresters). The 33rd was in the 1st Brigade and the 4th Foot in the 2nd Brigade. The other two infantry regiments seem to have been employed on base and L of C duties.

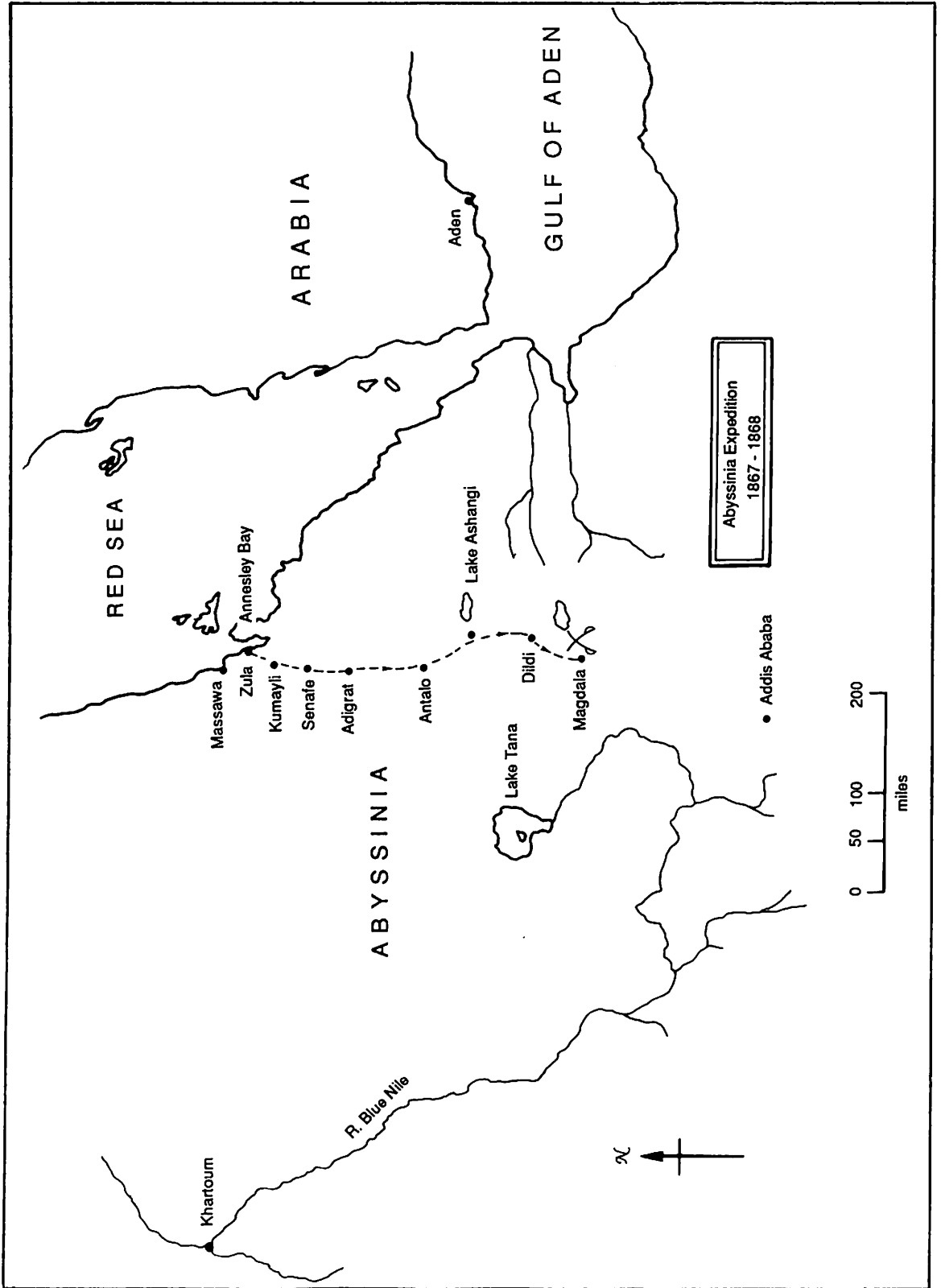
The Commanding Officer of the 33rd was Lieut Colonel J. E. Collins but as he had been appointed to command a brigade, command of the Regiment was assumed by the second lieut colonel, Brevet Colonel A. R. Dunn VC. He has won his VC with the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, but had then been obliged to leave his regiment (11th Hussars) after he had gone off with the wife of his commanding officer. According to Barton's fellow ensign. W. A. Wynter, Dunn "...was a handsome man, 6 feet 2 inches tall, a kind, good natured dandy, a bad commanding officer and not a good example to young officers... he was very popular but nearly destroyed the Regiment." (1)

Barton refers to the appointment of a number of Irish doctors. The Irish seem to have been well represented, as the 33rd at that time contained a large number of them. In fact H. M. Stanley, who represented the 'New York Herald' on the expedition and was later to achieve renown as the discoverer of Dr Livingstone, referred to the 33rd throughout his account of the campaign as "the Irish Regiment."

Camp Zoola
3rd January, 1868.

"My dearest Katie, (sister),

You may see I am still here just where I landed three weeks ago, everything is done awfully slowly here, it takes a month to get a Regiment off. We have only Headquarters and four companies here now, all the rest being on their way to Sinafu (Senafe). I expect to be off on Monday night, the 7th inst. The Head Quarters of the 4th King's Own, with two companies have just landed from 'England'. The 45th are expected every day, so I think we shall soon have all the force in the country. I have just been looking at the new steel guns being packed on mules, they are the



neatest and handiest things I have seen any place. They are still landing mules at the rate of 350 or 400 per day. They are not dying so fast now as the supply of water is better; they have rigged up two condensing machines on shore which produce I believe about 25,000 gallons of water daily, so that is a great help. Formerly all the water was condensed on board ship and then had to be landed which of course was very slow work. I have not heard of any water being found nearer than Koomalee, 14 miles from this, though the engineers have been hunting for it constantly.

The Octavia with the Commander in Chief on board is expected in every hour. I expect he will rouse us up a bit when he comes. We want someone to do so very badly at all events. All our time now is taken up teaching the men the Snider drill, and learning it ourselves. They have sent out a tremendous number of Irish Doctors here, we have got four attached to our Regiment alone, and you see them about all day in parties of six or eight all talking with the most tremendous Cork Brogue that you can imagine. They had given us a whole lot of boy Doctors who have never had a bit of practice before, which I should think was a great mistake; I'm afraid if we ever come to cutting off legs and arms some of us will have rough work among them.

I hear while I have been at breakfast that the Commander in Chief has just come in, but as I have not seen him I cannot say certainly whether he has or not: I make it a point never to believe anything I do not witness with my own eyes, as the people here are a wonderful lot for spreading unfounded reports about everything. We are to be under command of our old Colonel, now Brigadier General Collings, at Sinifi, he has gone up to take command of that station. I am very glad of it as he is a very good old fellow and always will stand by his own Regiment. Only for him they would have sent the 4th up before us although we were here three weeks or a month before them. They were provided with their new arms and warm clothing in Bombay, and we had to get ours here so of course they were ready before us."

By 12 January 1868 the 33rd was at Senafe, 7500 feet above sea level. This was the first time all the companies had been concentrated in one place since leaving Karachi. On 25 January, Colonel Dunn was killed while out shooting in somewhat mysterious circumstances. (?) Stangely Barton makes no mention of the loss of his commanding officer in his next letter, which was written from Antalo, about half way between Annesley Bay and Magdala. Dunn's successor was Major A. S. Cooper who had transferred from the 27th in 1861. Ensign Wynter remarked "He had always had staff appointments. He was quite unknown to the officers and men and seldom spoke to anyone." - hardly an inspiring leader. In a later letter Barton wrote that if Cooper continued in command he would leave the Regiment.

Camp Antalo
23rd February, 68

"My dearest Mother,"

We do nothing from week to week but march and make roads and stone ditches, diversified occasionally by a little grass and wood cutting. I don't suppose there is any chance of our seeing Magdala or Theodore for the next month at least as the next 150

miles will be full of difficulties, there is not even a sheep track from this on, and the natives are no longer friendly, so that we won't be able to depend on the county for anything in the way of supplies. The Commander-in-Chief comes in I believe tomorrow, and is bringing up more troops, among others a battery of Armstrong guns, which must have cost any amount of labour to get them so far. Many parts of the road even after the working parties have been at it are merely a three foot path cut along the side of a precipice and in some places frightfully steep; nothing in the way of a wheeled conveyance has got beyond Sinafe. The guns are dismounted and coming on Elephants.

We are awfully troubled with all kinds of wild beasts; my ration of meat along with several others was carried off last night by a hyena and the night before a donkey belonging to the adjutant was taken off by a lion; on the whole it is rather a dangerous undertaking to leave your tent after dark as besides these wild brutes there is a chance of being potted by one of the sentries who all mount with loaded arms.

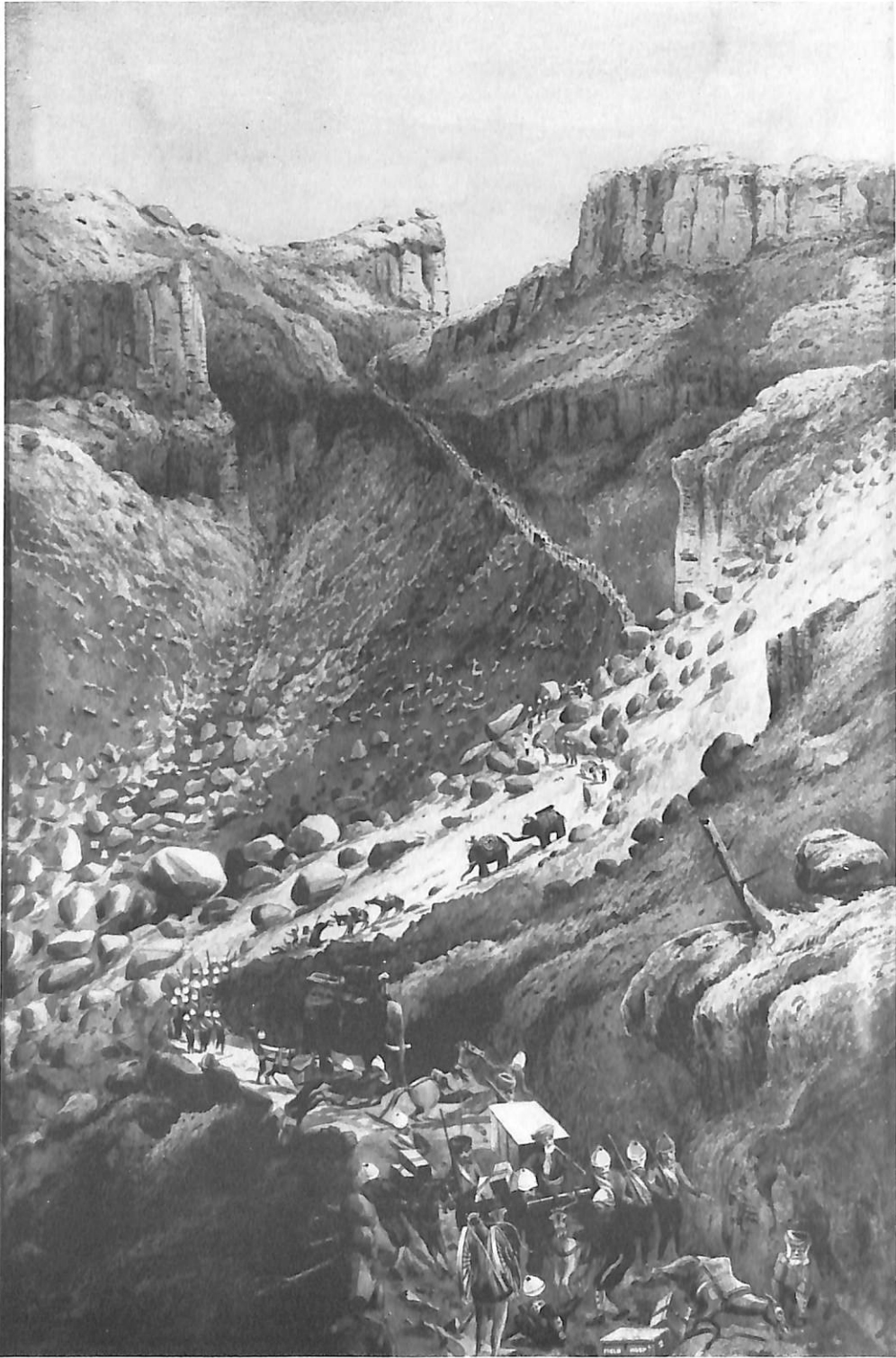
I suppose you want to hear all about this blessed country, but really I don't want to tell you; if you could imagine going 200 miles up Knockalla at the very worst part, and then imagine something ten times as bad as that, you might have some faint idea of the lightest part of our march through this country; everything that has been written, at all events about this part of Abyssinia is simply a parcel of unmitigated lies. We heard that the fault of the country was the climate, on the contrary it is the only single redeeming feature in the whole thing; the country is desolate and for the most part barren except small valleys here and there where a little barley is grown. The people are the most abject barbarians little better than the monkeys in their hills, and instead of the race improving as you go inland it is rather the reverse. I hope up at Magdala they will be a different race or we will have but small chance of distinguishing ourselves."

The march southward became progressively more rugged. There was much work to be done widening the tracks, the rations were reduced and all private baggage, such as tents for individual officers, was dispensed with as Napier pushed forward to Magdala.

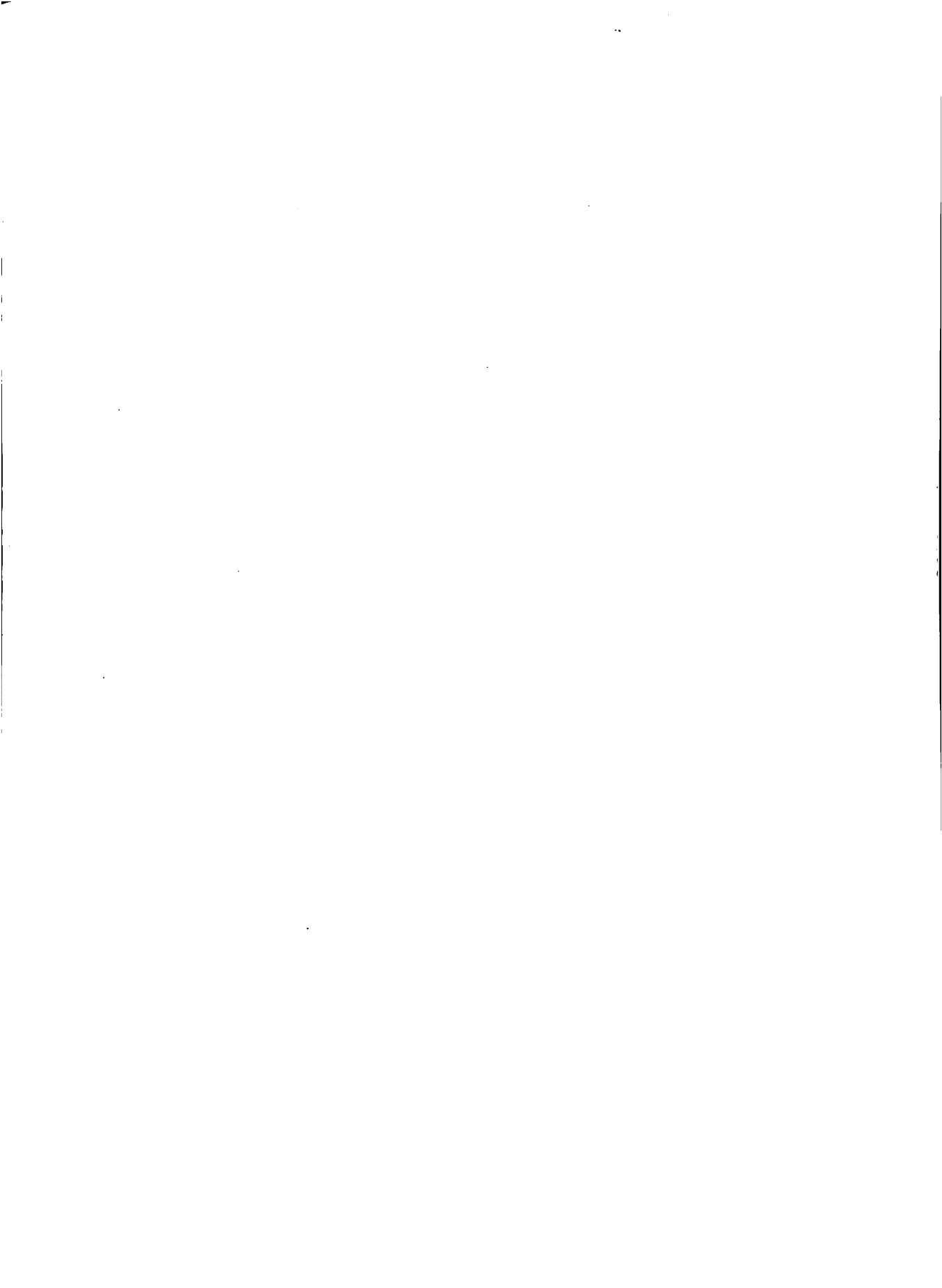
Camp somewhere in Abyssinia
9th March 1868.

"My dearest Katie,

We left Antalo the day before yesterday and arrived at this blessed place last night; I have not been able to give you the name of the camp for the best of reasons that I have not an idea what it is. There has been an awful muck (?) made about our route here; last night we got an order to go to a place seven miles on this morning we struck our camp and marched away about two miles when an orderly came galloping up and told us to turn back immediately as orders had come from the Chief that we were not to go any further. When we got back to camp we got an order to return to our last camp 17 miles off, accordingly we set out on our way back but had not gone far when we got another order to come back to camp, so after marching five or six miles about the place we pitched our tents again and here we are still. The reason for all



The Chetta Ravine
The expeditionary force on the 'road' near Magdala.
Courtesy of the Director, National Army Museum, London.



side of the ravine, the guns and rockets were then brought up again, the 4th got round the ravine to the other side, the Punjaubees got at one end of it and the Baloochees at the other and had about quarter of an hour at them, three or four hundred got clear by some miracle or other and scattered all over the country, only 30 men going back to Theodore to tell the tale. I went out with a fatigue party next day to bury the dead; it was a horrible and also a wonderful sight. I counted in places as many as 28 lying in a heap, regularly piled upon one another, when a shell had burst among them. The whole ravine was strewn with stray arms and legs, but the nastiest wounds of any were those given by the rockets, some of the men struck by them were nothing but a mass of charred flesh. We heard the firing down at the River and of course were in a great state of excitement.

Theodore's big guns made an awful row but very poor shooting as he fired for two hours without doing anyone any harm. We had our dinners down at the river and at 9 o'clock marched to join the Chief. We remained under arms the whole night as another attack was expected. The next morning Prideaux and Flad two of the captives came into camp. Prideaux making us poor ragged devils ashamed of ourselves as he was dressed in a brand new tunic and looked as smart as if he had just turned out of Bond Street. Theodore sent them down to try to make terms offering to give up the prisoners if we would go away quietly and leave him in possession of Magdala; however the Chief very wisely stuck to his first offer, promising to spare his life if he surrendered unconditionally. Theodore replied that he would only surrender Magdala with his life. On Sunday morning he sent down 1000 head of cattle and 500 sheep as a present to the Chief and when they were refused the whole of the prisoners came in. The next morning (Easter Monday), we marched up the hill over Magdala (I don't know its name) and rather to our astonishment met with no resistance. We found a good number of men and crowds of women and children. My company was first up and we were sent off to the extreme left of the hill to prevent anyone from escaping. We found the people very civil they brought us some muddy water and bread with a kind of chutnee spread on it; it was very acceptable as I had had no food for two days with the exception of a few mouthfuls of damp clammy biscuits which had been carried most of the time in my trousers pockets. When we had been there about an hour we heard firing on our right in the direction of Magdala, we thought at first that it was the sepoy's discharging their fire-arms, but presently one of our officers came riding over to tell us that Theodore had retreated to Magdala, that the artillery were then bombarding the place and that we were to join the Regt. at once as the 33rd were to storm it in about half an hour.

If we had been a day later we would have had our work cut out for us to get into the fort as Theodore would have had the guns up the hill and could have cut us to pieces as we went up. They fired on a company of ours who were an advanced guard. Our fellows gave them a dozen rounds from the Snider when they all bolted up the hill leaving the guns in our hands. The Regiment then advanced on Magdala, four companies skirmishing in front of the stockade and keeping up a tremendous fire while the other six went up the pathway to the gate. The Abyssinians are I should

think the worst shots to be found anywhere, the bullets were whistling over our heads and close by us for quarter of an hour and then were only seven or eight men of ours wounded; their loss is said to be about four hundred killed during the action, a very large number were driven over the cliffs at the point of the bayonet.

We bivouacked in Magdala that night, and I am sorry to say were all a good deal the worse for Theodore's favorite liquor. There was no water to be found in the place and as I was awfully thirsty, happening to come across the Kings brewery I had a regular good fill of it. The stuff tastes like table beer, rather sour, but makes one horrid drunk in a short time. I got a few small things in the way of gold and silver crosses and ornaments which I looted out of a church to bring home as curiosities but they were all taken from us, a guard being at the gate to search everything going out. I believe all the spoil has been sold by auction but I have got none of it. The only thing I have got to keep me in mind of the blessed country is a French pistol which I took off a dead man, and which for all anyone could tell I might just as well have got in Paris. Indeed there were no manufacturers in the country everything we have seen being of European workmanship, principally French and Turkish.

Perhaps you would like to hear what sort of a place Magdala is or rather was. It is one of three large hills lying amidst an ocean of other hills which surround it as far as the eye can reach. The largest of these hills, which we went up first is very steep, in fact it is literally climbing to get up it, although there is a made road the whole way up yet there are places so steep that no one but an Abyssinian could keep his feet on it; I had to make my descent after the fashion of the angel Gabriel. There is a smaller hill on the right of this on which Theodore had his guns, heaven knows how he got them there as there was no visible road leading to it. Magdala is in rear of these two and connected with them by a narrow neck of land with precipitous cliffs on either side. Magdala simply consists of a flat topped hill with a perpendicular cliff which you could drop a pebble clean down without touching the side, and varying in height from 150 to 500 feet or perhaps more all the way round with the exception of a break of about twenty yards which is scarped artificially to the height of about 12 or 14 feet and surmounted by something between an abattis, a cheveau-de-frise and a stockade made of prickly bushes which tear one to bits getting through. We expected to have found some sort of a city but the place was very little superior to the villages of the better sort about the country. All the houses, even the church and the palace are simple huts of wicker work plastered with mud and thatched with straw. We burnt and destroyed everything before we left. I never saw Theodore alive as he shot himself as the first soldier got into Magdala, but I had a good look at him afterwards. He was a good looking man with much more of the European than the African in his features, very dark and when I saw with a terrible expression on his face but whether his natural expression or occasioned by the manner of his death I cannot say. He was in an awful state of mind when he first heard of the approach of our army, one of the captives told me that he had tasted no food for eight days before his death, and the morning of his attack on us he had said; Perhaps these people may beat me,

if so they will release my prisoners; he evidently did not approve of his prisoners being released and certainly took the most effectual means of preventing it. He brought 308 of the Galla captives to the edge of a precipice just on this side of Magdala, not a very high place, about 40 feet I should think, and having struck off their hands and feet he shied them over, any of them who showed signs of life were fired upon by men stationed at the top of the rock for that purpose. When I saw them there was nothing but a mass of corroded flesh about six feet deep to be seen, but you could smell it at least a mile off and a very unpleasant smell it was, quite as bad as the dead mules in Zoola.

We had an awfully hard week about Magdala, it has knocked a good many of us up we had only our greatcoats for four days and for four more not even them; we were over 12,000 feet above the sea and heavy rain every night; nothing but our thin Indian serge clothing only one day's rations in eight days, water so putrid that one only drank it in desperation and seldom getting more than one drink in the 24 hours, no wood to make a fire no matter how cold the night, a wind blowing enough to cut one in two and not a bush or even a big stone to shelter behind. I did not take off my coat or boots or wash my hands or face for a whole week. Yesterday was the thirty second day that I had worn my shirt and stockings night and day, and I had not even a clean handkerchief for that time.

We are hurrying back now as fast as we can; we have left Magadala a hundred miles behind us, and I hope by this day month to be on board ship. We have all had quite enough of this country, sickness for the first time is now beginning to show itself among the troops. We lost two officers up here this week of Dysentery, Dubil a surgeon of the 56th who is on the Chief's staff and Morgan of the Engineers, besides a good many men. Our commissariat has failed awfully lately, for a month we have been without salt or grog the two most necessary things, not to speak of sugar and such like luxuries besides being on half rations for goodness knows how long. I'll give you a better account of all this when I see you!!"

The assault of Magdala took place on 13 April. On 19 April Napier commenced the return march, having first blown up the fortress at Magdala. The Regiment embarked for England on 30 and 31 May and reached Portsmouth on 21 June. There it received a rapturous welcome for the part it had played in a most efficiently conducted and highly successful campaign.

NOTES

1. "A subaltern in Abyssinia". Iron Duke No. 120 April 1961.
2. "The mysterious death of Colonel Dunn". Iron Duke No. 122 October 1961.
3. "History of the British Army". Hon J. W. Fortescue.

BOOK REVIEWS

"CHINK" - A BIOGRAPHY by Lavinia Green with a foreword by Corelli Barnett (Macmillan) 392 pp. £18.95.

Eric "Chink" Dorman-Smith, probably one of the most controversial senior officers of World War II, was well known to all who served in the 1st Battalion. For a short time he commanded 3 Infantry Brigade at Anzio, before being demoted to colonel and, in November 1944, removed from the active list. He then retired to his stately home in Ireland, changed his name to Dorman O'Gowan and became involved with the IRA, which was then planning its activities against the British Army in Northern Ireland.

So who was Dorman-Smith? This admirable book from Lavinia Green sets out his whole life, based mainly on the copious letters and diaries written by him and well supplemented by contributions from many of his superior officers, his contemporaries and, strangest quirk of all, from Ernest Hemingway who, the book relates, was a great friend and admirer. They first met in 1918 after the conclusion of World War I, in which Dorman-Smith had won a MC and had been wounded several times. Hemingway even went so far as to model one of his characters on Dorman-Smith. But, this aspect aside, it is the career of the man which is of the greatest interest. At Camberley "Boney" Fuller awarded the extraordinary mark of 1000 out of 1000 in a staff College examination. This, plus his innate feeling of superiority, seems to have given Dorman-Smith the personal licence to criticise everyone and everything about the army of the inter-war years. It was at this

time that he crossed, among others, Alan Brooke and Bernard Montgomery; and for good measure Ronald Penney, his future divisional commander at Anzio.

Thus by the time he was a major general and Chief of Staff to Auchinleck, over whom he had great influence, he had many enemies. When Churchill wanted plans for the total defeat of Rommel and Auchinleck could only produce plans for halting him, he had to go and Dorman-Smith went with him. After two years in England he returned to command 3 Infantry Brigade in General Penney's 1st Division. The three battalions in 3 Infantry Brigade were 1 KSLI, 2 Foresters and 1 DWR, the commanding officers of which could neither understand, nor sympathise with, the methods of their new brigade commander. The book makes clear General Penney's determination to remove Dorman-Smith from his command, an aim he pursued even he had handed over 1st Division to General Charles Loewen. How he succeeded in this aim is well documented and much fresh evidence is produced which was unknown to us who were there at the time.

It is a splendid book, of the highest interest.

D. E. I.

INSIDE THE BRITISH ARMY by Antony Beevor (Chatto and Windus). £17.99. *The following review has been received from someone who has no close association with the army.*

"This unusually candid book will fascinate the civilian while holding up a mirror to the professional

soldier", asserts the blurb on the dust jacket. That is asking quite a lot.

Beevor, at one time in the 11th Hussars, "an unusual regiment with a relaxed and undogmatic approach", decided that "although it would be an anatomy, the book should not just be a mechanistic study of the British Army - to be of interest it had to go behind the disciplined exterior and convey the hopes and fears and beliefs of its members. To this civilian the outcome of this mixture is perhaps not entirely happy: the very thorough factual survey of every aspect of army structure and custom makes for tedious reading, overshadowing, it seems, a gallant attempt at explaining the difficulties modern men and women, officers and soldiers, experience in coming to terms with an organisation in which reluctance to make changes in good time appears to be even more prevalent than in other British employers. For employment it is these days - an individual career to be mapped out from the start instead of unquestioning acceptance of traditional hierarchical procedures.

While the army survived the revolutionary, anti-militarist Sixties utterly untouched, the Eighties brought about the most dramatic and devastating social changes within a single generation. The army (Beevor quotes sergeant majors and sergeants as saying) has become thoroughly contaminated by careerism.

Beevor also records the view of those who believe that a regiment's "tribal system" nowadays clashes with the aspirations and attitudes not only of the soldiers, but also of army wives and families which

have over the years become closer to those of civilian society at large. "The Army underestimated the long term implications of these developments." Beevor analyses these and other problems in a convincing way. He concludes that "The Army has not been lucky. In the course of only a few years changes, in society, attitudes, population and, above all, international politics have come together with devastating effect...the British Army's social conservatism has rendered it more vulnerable than other European armies.... As recently as 1988 some senior officers were still asserting with pride that the Army should always remain half a generation behind society as a whole..."

Beevor concludes that the restlessness and lack of respect of a very different generation has flummoxed many senior officers, "while a long standing reluctance to treat seriously the complaints of wives has proved to be one of the Army's greatest mistake of the last twenty years". Finally "... the Army cannot continue to treat soldiers like children".

It is not all survey and analysis - there are some good stories in the book as well. Whether it concerns Germany, Belize, Northern Ireland or wherever, the soldier who has been there will feel himself addressed. Perhaps what comes through strongest in this book is that the army is made up of people, warts and all, and one is left with the hope that all may yet be well for it. This is probably a book some in the army will not find comfortable to read. However that should not put them off from doing so.

GENERAL SIR PHILIP CHRISTISON AND GENERAL YAMAMOTO'S SWORD

(This news item is reprinted from the Daily Telegraph of 22 October 1990.)

General Sir Philip Christison Bart GBE, CB, DSO, MC, commanded the 2nd Battalion in India from 1937-38 and was Colonel of the Regiment from 1947-57. His son, Captain John Christison, was killed in Burma in 1942 while serving with the 2nd Battalion.

* * * * *

In a remarkable gesture of reconciliation, the British general who took the Japanese surrender in Indonesia 45 years ago has returned a 16th century samurai sword to the defeated commander's widow.

The story of the gift started with an extraordinary incident after the surrender, when Japanese troops were re-armed by the British to help them to liberate the Java internment camps.

In 1945 General Sir Philip Christison was Commander-in-Chief Allied Land Forces, South East Asia, and he accepted the surrender of the Japanese general, Moichiro Yamamoto.

The ceremony took place in the Dutch KPM hall at Jakarta. However, it was not the first time the two men had met, as Gen. Christison recalled at his home in the Scottish Border town of Melrose this weekend.

Gen. Christison, 96, said: "In 1929 a Japanese captain called Yamamoto spent a year attached to the British Army and for part of that time he worked as a staff officer in my office at Borden in Hampshire

where I was stationed with the Third Infantry Brigade.

"He was a nice little man and spoke very good English; and so, of course, I recognised him when he came into the hall in Jakarta to surrender.

I said: 'You can send your interpreter away. I know you, you know me, we're going to talk English'. He said: 'General, my shame is very great. I did so hope you would not recognise me'."

At that point the sword was handed over. "Yamamoto said: 'I would like you to have my family sword which was made in Bizen in the 16th century'."

The samurai sword stood in the corner of the general's living room in Melrose until a few weeks ago when he received a telephone call from a Japanese war veteran's association.

"He said the 16th Japanese Army association wished to mark the occasion when their troops were under British command."

Gen. Christison recalled that the defeated Japanese were re-armed to help the British to defend their base at Samarang.

"From Samarang our lorry columns went out into the mountains to collect the Dutch women and children from the camps. But I didn't have enough troops to hold my base and protect the convoys as they went up and down.

As soon as the lorries moved out the first time, the Indonesians attacked Samarang. It was an impossible situation, hence the re-arming of the Japanese."

To mark the quirk of fate that led to the Japanese

being under British command, the veterans' association presented Gen. Christison with a carriage clock at an informal ceremony at his home.

It was that gesture which led to the general making a generous offer of his own.

"I felt that with this renewal of contract with the Japanese, we were now all friends together and I wondered what I could do to cement that. I felt I had to forgive and forget. It's very difficult to forget, but

not so difficult to forgive."

He said that in the "last year or so" he had begun to feel forgiveness towards his old enemy. "It gradually dawned on me that things had changed for the better, but I had a lot to forgive them for: my only son was killed in Burma".

The return of the ancient sword was a spontaneous gesture. "I just felt during their visit, that the time had come to forgive the enemy", he said.

SOLDIERING ON...WITH THE 2nd BATTALION ...ON THE N.W. FRONTIER

The task of our little force was threefold: first, to establish a levy post near a little village called Loe Agra, at which a small company of locally recruited militia would be stationed to keep the peace. Secondly, to move a column of troops through the area and restore peace, supporting the Political Officer in his task of establishing normal relations. Our third role was to assist in constructing a road to enable support and supplies to reach the levy post quickly. Not that any of these aims and objectives were known to us at the time: as far as we knew we were on an exercise to adapt to the local conditions and learn the tactics of fighting in mountains.

As we had climbed from the foot-hills the country had changed dramatically. We were among a mass of rugged mountains, steep and precipitous, interspersed by deep valleys and ravines covered by indigineous scrub oak. Where the swiftly flowing Swat river cut its way through rocks, it became a raging torrent, bound by deep ravines that rose stark and straight to well over a thousand feet in places. The turbulent river could only be crossed by rope cradle bridges which hung precariously above the seething water. The melt water was ice cold from the snow covered mountains higher up the range.

Loe Agra, consisting of tribal huts with flat mud roofs, was fortified by square towers with loopholes. It lay in a terraced and cultivated valley. Further protected by a strong stone wall: it was a difficult place to approach. Two well worn tracks, (one from the north, one from the south,) stopped about twelve miles short of the village. The approach from then on was along difficult goat tracks, a real challenge for the mule train. The Battalion set out on 19 February 1935 to re-absorb this troubled territory into the protection of the British. Progress was slow as either side of the route had to be safeguarded before the main body could advance. It was all very much as we had practised on brigade training, with the usual hours spent waiting about and when we did move it was, by nature of the terrain, in single file. Climbing along the steep mountain side caused the column to spread out and grow longer as the day wore on. It was getting late, I remember we were rather bored, waiting for the next order. Suddenly the sharp crack of a rifle shot rang out, destroying in the instant any lingering feelings of brigade training, followed almost at once by a steady volley, coming, it seemed, from one of the high ridges ahead.

"Get down", someone shouted. Most had instinctively anticipated the order. The firing soon ceased and one by one we began poking our heads up

to see what was happening. Almost at once a call was passed back for "officers up front" This was it, I thought, now at last something was about to happen. Soon our bright faced platoon officer appeared looking suitably serious. The ridge ahead, it appeared, was occupied by hostile tribesmen. The Queen's Own Guides, a native regiment, was pinned down, our job he explained, was to give them covering fire as they advanced.

Here then, at last, after all our years of training, was the real thing. Already the Indian soldiers were half way up the ridge as we took up positions, and they continued to advance while we fired "rapid fire" until this endangered the leading troops. "Cease fire" was ordered. The ridge was empty, the tribesmen, having achieved their objective in slowing down the column, had withdrawn. Resuming our place in the column we continued the advance. By now it was almost dark.

As a defence against surprise attack picquets were set up on all the strategic points round the camp. In the short spell of twilight our little section piled up boulders to form a "sanger", a small stronghold in case we were attacked. From then onwards these sangers became a way of life. It was dark when we settled down to a makeshift meal of bully and biscuits. As I stood my watch I reviewed the day: I had felt the salty taste of fear in my mouth as I came under fire for the first time. I had also fired my fire in action for the first time. What next? I wondered, somewhat apprehensively, as I peered into the darkness. Our section, with a lance corporal in charge, was on its own, well away from any other platoon in the company. We had no communications with anyone. If we were to be attacked it would be a fight to the death, I thought. Below, in the valley, pinpoints of light went out one by one, we were surrounded by blackness. There was not much sleep for us that night. We shivered in the bitter cold as the rocks cooled quickly. Eventually weariness overcame vigilance and fear. Then suddenly, a sentry hissed a warning. "Listen," he whispered. Fearfully we waited. Sure enough, the sound of a stone being dislodged broke the intense silence; it sounded ominously near. Fully alert now we crouched behind our little wall, peering into the darkness. Now I was really scared. Again and again came the rattle of dislodged stones, seemingly from all sides.

"They're all round us," the corporal whispered, and that was how it seemed to me. I could see nothing, but heard the loud thumping of my heart as my fear mounted. My mind was now filled with the stories I had heard of what the cruel Pathan did to the luckless

soldier who fell into his hands. It was some comfort when the moon rose, at least we could see the enemy when he made his attack. Soon I could make out the shape of the rocks, but no menacing figures moved in the shadows. Straining ears and eyes, we waited. The night seemed endless. Disturbing noises continued to keep us on the alert all night but the attack never came. Sunrise was never more gratefully welcomed by anyone than on that splendid, God given, morning. It was not until sunlight flooded the valleys that we were able to make out the disturbers of the night. These proved to be nothing more fearsome than a pack of pye-dogs. It was the smell of the bully tins that had attracted them to our sanger. The laugh was on us, but it was a rueful laugh and we made sure we never threw empty tins over the wall again.

S. F. Swift.

Also present during the Loe Agra Campaign was 2nd Lieut K. Gregory, who recorded his impressions in verse.

Our Little War

I have heard of the great grey Limpopo,
And the Amazon's far away strand,
I have travelled the Rhine and the Danube
And the rivers of many a land.
I have lain in a punt on the Humber,
In the Thames I have fished quite a lot,
But these rivers I mention are trifles
Compared to the river called Swat.

Up north-west of this very odd river
Lives the Fakir of Old Alingar,
He's as fierce as the fiercest of tigers,
But he's also a great-grandpapa.

He has a peculiar hobby,
It's rifles and bullets he likes,
And the hills of Kalangai and Agra
Are the scenes of his manifold hikes.

The Sirkar has told this old fakir
That his boundary's really the Swat,
But his friends Badshar Gul and Faghfar
Have told him it's all tommy rot.
Bargholai he has sniped and invaded,
Loe Agra he's lived in a while,
He has wandered all over our country
And I've chased him for many a mile.

Naranji has heard my poor footsteps,
Waruki has seen me in pain,
I have burned in the tropical sunlight
And have sneezed in the Arctic-cold rain.
I have picqueted Kelo and Banda,
I've lived in tinned bully for weeks,
A bath I've not had for a two-month
And I've got some large holes in my breeks.

Oh, I long for the sight of my bed cot
And I pine for the old barracks's square,
And to go for a ride in a tonga
I would willingly pay double fare.
But I know that I'll never see barracks,
We're here till the end of this war,
And until I've completed my seven
I'll remain by the Swat river's shore.

Kenneth Gregory was badly wounded in 1940 whilst in Norway with the York and Lancaster Regiment, but continued to serve in various staff appointments until discharged as unfit in 1946. He joined the church and later moved to New Zealand where he now lives.

UNVEILING OF THE CHINDIT MEMORIAL

"Gather unto the fortress, ye citizens of hope"

On a warm sunlit autumn afternoon I attended the unveiling by H.R.H. Prince Philip of The Chindit Memorial. I was accompanied by Bernard Harrington a member of Scarfe's Recce Platoon in 33 Column. We were representing the Regiment.

The memorial is sited at the extreme west end of that long expanse of lawn and fine trees which runs between Whitehall and the River Thames, just round the corner from the Cenotaph. Here, in Victoria Gardens, the new memorial joins the magnificent bronze statues of Lord Trenchard and General Gordon. Apart from many VIPs and guests there must have been some four hundred Chindits of all ranks, and their wives, present. They included representatives of the twenty British infantry regiments involved, the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 9th Gurkha Rifles, the Royal Air Force, 1st Air Commando Group, U.S.A.A.F., and other units and corps of Special Force.

Introducing General Wingate's son, Lieut. Colonel O. J. Wingate, H.R.H. Prince Philip recalled Chindit history and the background of the memorial project. H.R.H. unveiled the Memorial, which the Chindit Chaplain, Lieut. Colonel Noble, then dedicated. Brigadier Mike Calvert delivered the exhortation. A Gurkha piper played a lament - "The flowers of the forest".

The memorial is a plain thirty foot portland stone obelisk, on a granite plinth. It is surmounted by a considerable bronze chintse, the mythical beast, symbolic guardian of Burmese temples. There are two engraved roundels. One incorporating a bust of General Ord Wingate the creator and leader of the Chindits; the other the divisional sign of the 3rd Indian Division (Special Force) - "the Chindits". Engraved on the four elevations are the names of the V.C.'s, a resume' of the Chindit saga (a tribute, indeed a memorial, to General Wingate), and lists of Regiments and Corps that took part in the Chindits operation in 1943 and 1944.

Among those I encountered were General Bala Bredin, who in the late thirties, served in Wingate's Special Night Squads, in Palestine, Colonel George Bromhead, Wingate's first brigade major, and, later a column commander, Fred Freeman, Kings, who is in touch with Stuart Binney, 33 Column, still doctoring in Liverpool and Colonel Donald McCutchen, who did this U.L.I.A. attachment with 2 DWR in Multan in 1938 and who won an MC with 4th Gurkhas in the Second Chindit operation.

The proceeding ended with all the Chindits marching past H.R.H., in single file in the same manner as they went to war.

A. D. F.

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TRUSTEES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS

A meeting of the Trustees took place at Halifax on Thursday 4 October 1990.

Present were: General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, ADC, Gen, Major General D. E. Isles CB, OBE, DL, Brigadier W. R. Mundell OBE, Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth OBE, Lieut. Colonel W. Robins OBE, Lieut. Colonel A. D. Meek, Major K. M. McDonald TD, JP, BA, Major A. C. S. Savory MBE, and Major C. D. Miller. Mrs J. Browes was in attendance.

Colonel R. R. St. J. Barkshire CBE, TD, JP, DL, after having been elected a Trustee, joined the meeting.

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1990

The audited accounts were examined and approved. It was noted that a sum of £62,455 was held in the Charities Deposit Fund, which paid interest at 14.85% and on which no tax was payable.

Investments

The Trustees considered a paper submitted by Colonel Barkshire setting out his proposals for future investment policy. He recommended that the Trustees should only invest for income in order to ensure that they are able to meet their commitments. All funds in excess of that requirement should be invested for capital growth in charitable equity unit trusts. After a full discussion the Trustees agreed with Colonel Barkshire's recommendations and decided to forthwith realise most of the income producing assets, mainly in gilts, and reinvest in charity unit trusts.

Appeals

The following donations were made in response to appeals,

Douglas Haig Memorial Homes	£100
John McCrae Memorial Appeal.....	£50

Grants

Grants as under were approved:

Army Benevolent Fund	£2250
Royal British Legion	£200
British Limbless Ex-servicemen's Assn	£100
Huddersfield Veterans Assn.....	£100
Ex-servicemen's Fellowship	up to £100
Ex-servicemen's Mental Welfare Trust.....	£100
Assisted holidays	up to £500
Salvation Army, Halifax	£50
Salvation Army, Huddersfield	£50
York Minster	£50
Halifax Parish Church	£50
RMA Sandhurst Memorial Chapel	£10

Annual Reunion Dinner

The nett cost of the subsidy for the 1990 dinner, estimated at £1,250, was approved.

It was also agreed that in the future a subsidy equal to half the cost of a coach to take Yorkshire members of the Association to the London Branch dinner would be paid from Association funds. This will amount to £300 in 1991.

Branch banner

The cost of purchase of a banner for the Sheffield branch was approved.

General Sir Charles Huxtable

Brigadier Mundell, on behalf of the Trustees, thanked General Huxtable for his guidance and stewardship during his eight years as their Chairman, which they had much appreciated.

General Huxtable, having expressed his willingness to continue to serve as a Trustee, was duly appointed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Regimental Association was held at the Pennine Hilton Hotel, Ainley Top, Huddersfield on 20 October 1990. The Colonel of the Regiment presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies for their absence were received from: Major J. H. Davis, Lieutenant Colonel H. S. Le Messurier, Captain R. J. M. Pugh, Mr D. Harpin, Colonel E. M. P. Hardy, Major J. D. P. Cowell, Mr B. Hargreaves, Mr F. Kendrew, Mr G. C. W. Allen, Major D. M. Pugh, Mr H. Foxley, Mr J. Faithfull, Major G. C. Kenchington, Major A. C. S. Savory, Mr H. Randall and Lieut. Colonel D. R. D. Newell.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 21 October 1989, were accepted a true record and signed by the Colonel.

3. General Secretary's report

The General Secretary reported that during the year ended 31 March 1990 a total of 96 cases had been assisted (74 in 1989). The total amount paid from Associations funds was £10,010 (£7426 in 1989). In addition £3440 was received from the Army Benevolent Fund. The following are examples of the type of case assisted:

1. Mrs "A". Widow, aged 81, grant of £100 towards cost of new cooker. Husband, who served from 1927-44, died from war wounds.
2. Mr "B" Served in DWR from 1968-73. 15 year old son killed in car accident. £150 towards holiday recommended by doctor.
3. Mr "C". Served from 1931-46. 100% disability pension (leg amputation). Grant of £200 towards cost of electric car. ABF granted £500.

4. Accounts

Copies of the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 1990, duly approved by the Finance committee and the Trustees, were available for inspection prior to the meeting.

5. Visit to Tern Hill in 1991

The officer commanding the 1st Battalion, Lieut Colonel A. D. Meek, has agreed to host a one day Regimental Association visit on Saturday 15 June 1991.

6. Venue of the reunion dinner

It was unanimously agreed to continue to hold the dinner at the Pennine Hilton. Next year's dinner will take place on 12 October 1991.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The dinner and dance, which followed the Annual General Meeting, was once again very well attended with over 360 sitting down to dinner. The Regimental band provided music during the dinner.

After the dinner, General Sir Charles Huxtable addressed the gathering for the last time as Colonel of the Regiment. After referring to the activities of the 1st Battalion during the last year and of its role from November next year as the AMF (L) Battalion, he spoke of his time as Colonel and of how greatly he appreciated all the help and support he had been given by all members of the Regiment. He also spoke of the Regiment itself and of how much it had meant to him during the forty years he had been with it. Finally he asked the Regiment to give his successor as Colonel,

Brigadier Dick Mundell, the same support as had been given to him.

Brigadier Mundell then spoke briefly about General Huxtable's outstanding military career and the guidance he had given the Regiment during his time as Colonel before asking the General to accept a farewell gift of a three decanter tantalus, the cost of which had been subscribed to by all members of the Regiment. The Brigadier next spoke of the support Lady Huxtable had given the General and of her contribution to the Regiment during the thirty years she had been associated with it. He then asked her to accept a silver dish and bouquet of flowers from the Regiment.

After the dinner there was dancing to the music of the Regimental dance band and nearly five hundred persons had a convivial evening. A raffle was held and raised well over two hundred pounds.

Next year, the AGM, dinner and dance will again be held at the Pennine Hilton Hotel. The date is Saturday 12 October 1991.

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL SERVICE - YORK MINSTER

The annual Regimental service was held in York Minster on Saturday 3 November 1990. The service was taken by the Dean of York. The Very Reverend John Southgate, who was assisted by Canon Roy Matthews. The address was made by the Reverend David Pearson-Miles CF, a son of the late Brigadier H. G. P. (Bonzo) Miles, who served as a National Service subaltern in the Regiment 1955-57.

Following the service, lunch was provided in the Officers and Sergeants Messes of the Depot, The King's Division at Strensall. The following guests attended lunch in the Officers Mess:- The Very Reverend John Southgate, Dean of York and Mrs Patricia Southgate; Major General K. Burch CB CBE, Chapter Clerk and Mrs Sara Burch; Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Sheldon QLR, Commanding Officer Depot The King's Division; Mrs Ann Robinson who for some years has arranged the flowers for the service in the Minster.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER: 1991

The London Branch dinner will be held at the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate on Saturday 27 April 1991. A coach will leave the West Riding on Friday 26th April and return in the afternoon of Sunday 28th April. The pick up points will be at Mossley, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford and Sheffield.

The cost of the trip will be £67 per person, which includes the coach journey, two nights at the Victory Services Club, renewal of membership of the Club and the ticket for the dinner.

Those wishing to go on the trip should contact RHQ or their local OCA branch for an application form. Complete application forms must reach RHQ by 31st January 1991 with a £10 non-returnable deposit. The balance must be paid no later than 28th February 1991.

The Final of the Silk Cut Rugby League Challenge Cup is being played at the Wembley Stadium on the Saturday afternoon, 27 April 1991.

8th Battalion DWR/145 Regiment RAC

The 46th Annual officers dinner was held at the St. Ermins Hotel, London, on 13 October. Lieut. Colonel Lyall Lusted DSO presided. MMM Standage proposed the toast of the Regiment and revived memories of incidents in North Africa and Italy. Colonel G. F. Webb R.A.M.C. (ret'd) responded.

The chief guest was Sergeant John Brocklehurst MM. He was outstanding during the African and Italian campaigns. As most members had not seen him for forty years his presence was warmly appreciated. Dr V. R. Bruce and Messrs J. Brown and H. H. Ventman from the old 21st Tank Brigade were the other guests.

* * * * *

During the night 21/22 October 1944 the Seaforths of Canada were attempting to build a bridge across River Savio for the passage of A Squadron 8

DWR/145 Regiment RAC, who were in support. Having established a precarious hold on the enemy's side they were attacked by enemy armour. A troop of Panthers, which penetrated well into the bridgehead, was accounted for, two being set on fire and the other scared into a ditch. The crew of this last Panther baled out and were either shot or captured.

The following morning the Seaforths offered the Panther to Lieut. A. Duncan A Squadron's liaison officer. The offer was accepted. After the tank had been unditched it was found to be in perfect working condition. The tank was then manned by a reserve crew of A Squadron under command of Sergeant J. H. "Rommel" Brocklehurst MM. There was some dissension as to its naming, but it was eventually christened "Deserter". A Squadron continued the advance and the Panther was used in several successful shoots of 3000 yards range upwards against enemy occupied houses, cross roads etc.



"Deserter"

A German Panther tank captured by 8 DWR/145 Regiment RAC in Italy in October 1944. Sergeant Brocklehurst is standing in the centre.

KEEPING IN TOUCH....

In September, Walter Downs from Huddersfield travelled to the Seychelles to enjoy a holiday. By pre-arrangement he was met at the airport by former

member of the 7th Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Captain R. A. (Bob) Duncan. Bob Duncan is the chief dental officer on the island. A number of years ago, Bob was a dentist in the Falkland Islands

and South Georgia. On 18 June 1944, he commanded 12 Platoon 1/7 DWR in the successful attack on Point 102 in Normandy. To mark the anniversary in 1990, he sent Waterloo Company 1 DWR (then in the Falklands) £30 worth of beer.



Mr. Bob Duncan (left) and Mr. Walter Downs in the Seychelles, September 1990.

On 20 and 21 October 1990, Messrs George Marsden and Tom Simpson, both ex 1/7th Battalion, represented the Regiment at the unveiling of a new memorial to the 49th (West Riding) Division at Wuustwezel, Belgium. Mr Simpson placed a Regimental Poppy Wreath on the new memorial after the unveiling ceremony.

Mr Alexander Leggett, an ex Duke who lives at the Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent sent RHQ a photograph of the War Memorial at Ditton, Kent upon which is inscribed:

"Lieutenant Bernard Tolhurst, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, attached to the Royal Air Force. Killed in Action c. 1916-1917.

Mr Ken Keld, who served with 1 DWR in Korea, was recently presented with the Ambassadors Peace Medal for his work with the Korea Veteran Association in the North East. He helped to found it ten years ago.

Mr Arnold C. Dupy of 1324 Kurt Road, McLean, Virginia 22101, U.S.A. is researching the Battle of Anzio. He writes "I am particularly interested in any account of the 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the defence of the Campoleone Salient and subsequent operations near the factory in early February 1944. If veterans would be willing to share their diaries, journals, photographs, etc. I would be most grateful".

Anyone wishing to help Mr Dupy should contact him direct.

IRON DUKE: NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Major J. Rivett-Carnac: Old Peoples House, 112 Woburn Avenue, Bernoni, Republic of South Africa.
Reverend K. Gregory: 323a Hill Street, Richmond, Nelson, New Zealand.

Mr A. Hatton: 4 Storey House, Cottage Street, London E14.

Mr A. Vaughan: 220 Westwood Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2HW.

Mr E. D. Atkinson: 8 Acomb Crescent, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 2AY.

Mr K. Gale: 1 Mafeking Mount, Leeds, LS11 9DW.

Mr D. J. Normanshire: 16 Calhall Road, Barnoldswick, Lancs, BB8 5PY.

Mr A. Peach MM: 8 Church Street, Halifax, West Yorks, HX1 2JH.

Mrs Y. M. Bailey: 19 Rucrofts Close, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 3SD.

Mr I. G. Kelly: The Manse, King Street, Hoyland Nether, Barnsley S74 9LL.

Mr R. E. Goodyear: 52 Richmond Avenue, Sheffield, S13 8TJ.

Mr N. Wright: 12 Earlsborough Terrace, Marygate, York, YO3 7BQ.

Mr K. Summersgill: 4 Broughton Avenue, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1TH.

Mr J. Walker: 50 Manor Road, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 9HS.

Mr F. C. Owen: 33 Ford Street Basford, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST4 6JB.

Mr J. W. Raynor: 25 Orlando Drive, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 3FH.

Mr D. W. Hill: 63 Lockerbie Avenue, Rushey Mead Estate, Leicester, LE4 7NL.

Mr A. Ideson: 9 Russell Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 2DX.

Mr P. R. Tattersall, 177 Dalton Green Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 9TS.

Mr D. Cresswell: 3 Nile Street, Broomhill, Sheffield, S10 2PN.

Mr M. Gilbert: 8 Hopehill View, Cottingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1RJ.

Mr T. Bailey: 175 Buttershaw Drive, Bradford, BD6 3SA.

Mr F. Whitehead TD: 3 Granby Park, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Mrs V. Casey: 8 Whitley Terrace, Holywell Village, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, NE25 0LZ.

Mr T. W. J. Billam: Merhba Bik, 6 Church Lane, Wibsey, Bradford, BD6 1SX.

Mr J. A. Feather: 327 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 9AJ.

Mr J. Walker: 4 Oldfield Road, Honley, Huddersfield, HD7 2NN.

Mr G. Tully: 208 Blackhill Avenue, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 9XR.

Mr W. E. Schofield: 17 Lytham Gardens, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2TR.

Mr K. C. Hackney: 20 Middleton Crescent, Dewsbury Road, Leeds, LS11 6JU.

Mr P. Naylor: 17 Chapel Street, Bildeston, Suffolk, IP7 7EP.

Mr G. Greenwood: 6 Walnut Street, Bacup, Lancs, OL13 9DD.

Mr G. H. Harvey: 17 Sandhurst Avenue, St. Annes, Lancs, FY8 2DB.

Mr F. Burton: 40 Jennygill Crescent, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 2RR.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1990

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
£	£	£	£
7,427	Personal Grants	14,793	Interest on Investments (Gross)
1,181	-do- Army Benevolent Fund	380	Bank/CDF Interest
	Grants		(Includes £213.28 re: 1988/89)
	- Grant towards O.C.A. Le Havre Trip ..		Covenanted Subscriptions
	- Grant towards O.C.A. Rugby Trip ...	322	Officers (Net)
	(Includes 1989 £260)	12,838	Day Pay Schemes: Soldiers (Net)
	- Royal Star and Garter		Income Tax Received
	- I DWR Charity Fund	101	Officers Subscriptions
	- Douglas Haigh Memorial Home	4,094	Days Pay Scheme Soldiers
500	Management Fund		Grants and Donations
783	-do- Dinner Subsidy	1,154.73	Army Benevolent Fund
96	London Dinner		G. Turner Trust
224	Wreaths and Poppies	387.40	Donations in Memory of
100	Forces Held		Major J. S. Milligan
140	Lord Kitcheners Holiday	231.00	Sundry Donations
186	CO.and RSM Airfair		80 Subscriptions - Life Membership
100	CO Fund I DWR Refund of Grant		33 Subscriptions - General
139	Ireland Visit Subsidy		375 Profit on Sale of Stock
2,000	I DWR - Dingies		450 Personal Grants Returned
	- Sheffield Branch	228.50	104 Reunion Dinner Subsidy Returned ..
	- opening expences and Grant		- Donations in Lieu of Flowers -
	- Tern Hill Expences	326.58	Lt. Col. J. H. Dalrymple
	Donations		- Church Collection - Tern Hill weekend
2,000	Army Benevolent Fund	2,000.00	
11	-do- Raffle and Prizes	12.20	
200	Royal British Legion	200.00	
50	Salvation Army	100.00	
75	Blesma	100.00	
29	Ex Servicemens Fellowship	50.00	
100	Huddersfield Veterans	100.00	
63	Sundry Donations	36.00	
50	General Slim Memorial		
100	Chindit Memorial		
	Sundries		
	- Loss on Sale of Investments	2,114.89	
400	General Secretarys' Honarium	400.00	
1,027	-do- Expenses	1,121.82	
319	Printing, Postage and Stationery	332.56	
	- Bank Charges	3.21	
212	Trustee Expenses	200.00	
139	Audit and Accountancy	225.40	
18	Refreshments - Finance Committee	12.23	
34	UST Charges	13.87	
44	Insurance	48.97	
115	Iron Duke Free List	115.50	
149	Repairs to Duplicator		
16,928	Excess of Income over Expenditure	17,724.96	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
34,939		34,939	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
	42,600.25		42,600.25
<hr/>		<hr/>	

MITCHELL TRUST FUND

£	£	£	£
8	Trustees Expenses	-	545 Interest on Investments (Gross)
30	Audit and Accountancy	16.10	41 Bank/CDF Interest
	- UST Charges	0.07	
	- Loss on Sale of Investments	22.97	
548	Excess of Income over Expenditure	743.47	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
586		586	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
	782.61		782.61
<hr/>		<hr/>	

McGUIRE BATE TRUST FUND

£	£	£	£
650	Grants	467.14	2,160 Interest on Investments (Gross)
10	Trustees Expenses	-	62 Bank/CDF Interest
18	Iron Duke Free List	21.00	42 Donatons
44	Wreaths	69.60	
50	Audit and Accountancy	28.98	
3	UST Charges	0.46	
	- Loss on Sale of Investment	64.92	
1,489	Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,985.54	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
2,264		2,264	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
	2,637.64		2,637.64
<hr/>		<hr/>	

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (1st and 2nd BATTALION DWR) FUND

EXPENDITURE		INCOME		
£	£	£	£	
-	Loss on Sale of Investment	178.60	Interest on Investments (Gross)	2,070.04
388	Pensions and Special Allowances	390.00	Bank/CDF Interest	344.82
50	Audit and Accountancy	35.42	Subscriptions	46.67
45	Grant - Ex Service Mental Patients	-	Army Benevolent Fund	1,674.00
-	Grant - Chelsea Pensioners Travel	35.00	Profit on Sale of Investments	-
40	Christmas Grant	50.00		
5	UST Charges	1.16		
-	Regimental Dinner Travel and	137.50		
-	Accommodation - Burton	-		
13	Trustees Expenses	-		
467	Grants (Incl. A.B.F. Pensions)	2,019.00		
-	Dinner - Guest Tickets	80.00		
1,921	Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,208.85		
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
2,929		4,135.53	2,929	4,135.53
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

EXPENDITURE		INCOME		
£	£	£	£	
30	Audit and Accountancy	16.10	452 Interest on Investments (Gross)	466.58
-	Loss on Sale of Investment	51.52	24 Bank/CDF Interest	146.14
	Donations			
30	York Minster	50.00		
598	Halifax Parish Church - Alter Rails ..	-		
50	Halifax Parish Church	50.00		
10	RMA Sandhurst Memorial Chapel ..	10.00		
-	Ragoon Chapel Appeal	50.00		
1	UST Charges	1.41		
5	Trustees Expenses	-		
100	St. Georges Church YPRES	-		
-	Excess of Income over Expenditure	383.69	348 Excess of Expenditure over Income	-
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
824		612.72	824	612.72
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 1990

LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS			INVESTMENTS (at cost)		
£	£	£	£	£	£
168,945	Regimental Association Fund	168,945.31	145,073	Regimental Association Funds	116,412.84
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	17,724.96	5,597	Mitchell Trust Fund	5,507.12
		186,670.27	21,136	McGuire Bate Trust Fund	19,139.00
6,746	Mitchell Trust Fund	6,746.27	24,426	Old Comrades Association	23,376.76
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	743.47	3,730	(1st and 2nd Battalion DWR)	
		7,489.74	199,962	War Memorial Fund	3,230.35
23,094	McGuire Bate Trust Fund	23,093.75	4,311	Stock - Regimental Items	3,777.24
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,985.54	5,366	Debtors Rewrite of Regimental Histories	11,365.45
		25,079.29		Cash at Bank	
27,098	Old Comrades Association	27,098.14	14,197	Regimental Association Funds	55,365.65
	(1st and 2nd Battalion DWR)	1,208.85	1,149	Mitchell Trust Fund	1,982.62
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,208.85	1,958	McGuire Bate Trust Fund	5,940.29
		28,306.99	2,673	Old Comrades Association	4,930.23
4,364	War Memorial Fund	4,364.18	643	(1st and 2nd Battalion)	
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	383.69		War Memorial Fund	1,517.52
		4,747.87		Summary of Bank Account	
3	Creditor - Postage	50.91		Current Account	7,280.74
-	Creditor - A.B.F. Grant	200.00		Charities Deposit Fund	62,455.57
					<hr/>
					69,736.31
					<hr/>
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
230,250		252,545.07	230,250		252,545.07
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the Balance Sheet and Accounts of the Associations' Funds as set forth and have obtained all the information and explanations we have received.

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

This...5th Day of July 1990.

K. W. HOWARTH & CO. Chartered Accountants, 36 Clare Road, Halifax, HX1 2HX.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (AT COST)

1. Regimental Association Fund		
£4,616.80	Greater London 6 3/4% 1990/92.....	4,497.39
£5,410.70	Treasury 9% 1994.....	5,475.56
£4,500	Treasury 15 1/2% 1998.....	4,320.00
£8,415.23	Exchequer 12 1/4% 1992.....	8,475.15
£1,000	Exchequer 10 1/2% 1997.....	962.40
£2,323.70	Treasury 12 3/4% 1992.....	2,500.00
£2,050	Exchequer 12% 1999/2002.....	1,995.37
£9,116.77	Treasury 14 1/2% 1994.....	8,469.65
£9,054.32	Exchequer 11% 1991.....	9,000.00
5,135 Units	M & G. Charifund Income Units.....	18,031.03
£26,800.86	Exchequer 10 1/4% 1995.....	27,661.80
£3,710.93	Treasury 10% 1994.....	4,000.00
£3,790	Britannia Arrow 9%.....	7,012.55
2,390 Sh	Tarmac Ordinary Shares.....	7,011.94
£6,998.33	Conversion 9% 2000.....	7,000.00
		<hr/>
		£116,412.84

(Market Value: £118,067)

2. Mitchell Trust Fund		
81 Units	Globe Investment Trust Ltd 25p Ord.	32.00
£2,451.82	Consols 2 1/2%.....	997.50
£361.50	War Stock 3 1/2%.....	205.25
£355.41	Exchequer 12 1/4% 1992.....	462.97
£971.86	Treasury 14 1/2% 1994.....	921.70
288 Units	Charifund Income Units.....	1,001.50
£1,838.82	Exchequer 10 1/4% 1995.....	1,886.20
		<hr/>
		£ 5,507.12

(Market Value: £5,542)

3. McGuire Bate Trust Fund		
£1,582.80	Greater London 6 3/4% 1990/92.....	1,543.65
£437	Barclays Bank 8 1/4% 1986/93.....	437.00
£500	Treasury 15 1/2% 1998.....	480.00
£3,719.68	Treasury 9% 1994.....	3,746.75
£1,182.12	Exchequer 12 1/4% 1992.....	1,198.33
	Treasury 14 1/2% 1994.....	1,492.30
£1,997.34	Exchequer 11% 1991.....	2,000.00
747 Units	Charifund Income Units.....	2,505.97
£3,631.81	Exchequer 10 1/4% 1995.....	3,735.00
£927.73	Treasury 10% 1994.....	1,000.00
£999.76	Conversion 9% 2000.....	1,000.00
		<hr/>
		£ 19,139.00

(Market Value: £19,457)

4. Old Comrades Association (1st and 2nd Battalion DWR)		
£4,225.99	Treasury 9% 1994.....	4,263.23
250 Sh	Thomas Tilling Ltd 5 1/4 Cum Pref..	250.00
£9,075.30	Consols 2 1/2%.....	4,018.79
£3,613.53	War Loan 3 1/2%.....	3,581.08
£1,000	Birmid Qualcast 7 1/2% Unsec. 1987/92	1,023.34
£998.58	Exchequer 12 1/4% 1992.....	1,012.32
£369.56	Treasury 12 3/4% 1992.....	400.00
£494.95	Treasury 14 1/2% 1994.....	475.00
614 Units	Charifund Income Units.....	2,500.00
£3,705.21	Treasury 10 1/4% 1995.....	3,853.00
£927.73	Treasury 10% 1994.....	1,000.00
£999.76	Conversion 9% 2000.....	1,000.00
		<hr/>
		£23,376.76

(Market Value: £18,222)

5. War Memorial Fund		
£2,300	Consols 2 1/2%.....	954.70
£20.83	War Loan 3 1/2%.....	10.42
480 Sh	Shell Transport and Trading Co. Ltd .	165.23
	25p Ord.	
£556.53	Treasury 12 3/4% 1992.....	600.00
£519.52	Treasury 14 1/2% 1994.....	500.00
245 Units	Charifund Income Units.....	1,000.00
		<hr/>
		£ 3,230.35

(Market Value: £5,176)

BRANCH MANAGEMENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1990

EXPENDITURE		
-	Raffle Tickets.....	23.00
61	Entertaining.....	95.19
	Re-Union Dinner	
2,192	Cost of food.....	3,848.00
210	Dance Band.....	390.00
195	Extra Duty Pay.....	10.00
176	Newspaper Adverts.....	63.83
28	Other Expenses.....	28.00
23	Printing.....	24.15
88	Chelsea Pensioners Expenses.....	-
100	Burton V.C. Expenses.....	-
-	Profit on Dinner.....	6.00
3,012		<hr/>
		4,369.98
	Regimental Service	
196	York Minster Service (Flowers).....	15.00
268	Sergants Mess Lunch, Sirensall.....	350.00
-	Morning Coffee and Biscuits.....	160.25
-	Pianist.....	10.00
464		<hr/>
		535.25
	London Dinner	
100	Subsidy (Bus).....	-
-	Travel Expenses (Coach Hire).....	125.00
-	Tickets.....	663.50
1,460	Accommodation.....	1047.14
1,560		<hr/>
		1,835.64
-	Re-Union Dinner Profit.....	6.00
-	Regimental Service Loss.....	(325.25)
(100)	London Dinner Loss.....	(53.16)
440	Excess of Income over Expenditure.....	384.81
340		<hr/>
		12.40
5,537		<hr/>
		7,243.87

INCOME		
500	Regimental Association Fund.....	500.00
	Re-Union Dinner	
2,072	Tickets (Less Refunds).....	2,966.00
58	Donations.....	120.00
203	Proceeds to Raffle.....	129.25
679	Subsidy Regimental Association.....	1,154.73
3,012		<hr/>
		4,369.98
	Regimental Service	
184	Tickets Sold for Sgt's Mess Lunch.....	210.00
280	Subsidy.....	-
-	Loss on Service.....	325.25
465		<hr/>
		535.25
	London Dinner	
1,460	Tickets sold.....	1,782.48
100	Loss on Dinner.....	53.16
1,560		<hr/>
		1,835.64
1	Covenants.....	3.00
5,537		<hr/>
		7,243.87

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 1990

374	General Fund	434.36	1,034	Cash at Bank	1,016.24
340	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	12.40			
(280)	Less: Subsidy to Minster Service	-	446.76		
600	London Dinner Creditor	569.48			
1,034		1,016.24	1,034		1,016.24

Obituaries

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

Mr J. E. Horne MBE

Jackie Horne died at Huddersfield on 24 June 1990 after a brief illness. Born into the Regiment in 1903, Jackie enlisted as a boy soldier with the 1st Battalion in India in 1917 and saw active service in Afghanistan in 1919. Between 1919 and 1929 he continued to serve with the 1st Battalion, seeing service in Palestine, Egypt, Tidworth, Ireland, Gibraltar, Turkey, Gosport, Scotland and Devonport. While at Gosport he met and married Rose in November 1925. Also in 1925, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion then in India and remained there until 1935 when he was posted to the Depot at Halifax. In 1936, he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Malta before being posted to the 7th Battalion TA as a PSI in 1938. In 1940 he went with the 1/7th to Iceland and remained with that Battalion until moving to the 1/6th Battalion in early 1944. It was with the 1/6th that he was severely wounded in Normandy in June 1944 losing an eye and an arm. He was discharged from the army in 1945 but remained in close contact with the Regiment as he was the caretaker of the TA Drill Hall at Slaithwaite.

After his military service, Jackie became closely involved in a number of civilian and ex servicemens organisations including BLESMA, Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association, the Fellowship of the Services, and the Royal British Legion. He was a founder member of the Huddersfield Branch of the Regimental Association. But it will be for his outstanding work for BLESMA that he will be best remembered. In 1951, he joined the Huddersfield Branch, being elected to its management committee in 1960. From 1964 to 1967, he was the Branch Welfare Officer and during that period became a Branch Vice President. In 1967 he was elected President of the Branch, a post he held until his death. In 1976, he was made an MBE in recognition of his outstanding service to others over many years.

Jackie was a great character with an innate old-world politeness which endeared him to all. He will be long remembered.

The funeral took place at St James' Church, Slaithwaite followed by interment at Slaithwaite Cemetery. A large gathering attended the funeral with representatives from the associations with which

Jackie had been associated. A bugler from the 1st Battalion played the Last Post and Reveille at the grave as he was finally laid to rest.

Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Frankis

John Frankis died on 11 August 1990 aged 88. He was commissioned into the Regiment from Sandhurst in 1923 and joined the 2nd Battalion in India later the same year. He moved with the Battalion to Singapore in 1926 but returned to England in 1927 for duty at the Depot. In 1929 he returned to the 2nd Battalion in India but exchanged into the 1st Battalion in 1931 and went to Malta with that Battalion in 1935. By 1938 he was back with the 2nd Battalion in India. After a period of staff training he returned to Halifax in 1940 on promotion to major. During World War II he held a number of Staff appointments in U.K. and also served for a time with 2/7 DWR and 1/7 DWR before returning to India in 1944. In 1945 he went from India to West Africa where he served with the Sierra Leone Regiment and on the staff, with only one short period in the U.K., until 1950. After a spell in BOAR and various staff appointments in the U.K. he retired from the army in June 1952 with the honorary rank of lieutenant colonel.

A funeral service was held at Grayshott, Hampshire on 20 August 1990. Major General G. F. Upjohn represented the Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Johnson

As briefly reported in the Autumn issue, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson died at Bedford on 2 July 1990 at the age of 86.

Johnnie Johnson, or Bullet as he was better known in the Regiment, enlisted in the Dukes in London in 1921 where he was born. After his recruit training at the Depot, Halifax, he was posted to the 1st Battalion with whom he saw service in Tidworth, Gibraltar and Gosport between 1922 and 1926, when he was posted to the Depot at Halifax for four years as an instructor. During this time he was promoted to Sergeant and in 1930 went to the 2nd Battalion for four years as Provost Sergeant.

In 1934 he was back at the Depot as a weapon training instructor for two years before rejoining the 1st Battalion in Malta, with whom he returned to England and Bordon in 1938.

At the outbreak of World War II, he was a platoon sergeant major and went to France in September 1939 with the 1st Battalion. He was commissioned in the field in early 1940 and immediately posted to the 1/6th Battalion. He remained with this battalion during its service in U.K., Iceland and later Normandy in 1944 when he was a company commander. During this time he was wounded and after his convalescence he was appointed as commandant of a POW Camp in Worsop for three years. He retired from the Regular Army in 1948 and worked as a book-keeper until his final retirement in 1979.

During his time in civilian life, he maintained his links with the military by joining the Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force as an officer. In 1968 he was appointed commandant of the Bedfordshire ACF, an appointment held for two years before resigning in the Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was awarded the Cadet Forces Medal in 1964.

The funeral was held at Bedford Crematorium and attended by many relatives and friends. The Assistant Regimental Secretary represented the Regiment. Major P. F. Connolly and Mrs Christine Rimmer also attended.

Mr S. Adams

Sam Adams died at his home in Halifax on 17 July 1990 having suffered with a heart condition for some years. He joined the Army in 1940 as a gunner but transferred to the infantry during the War serving with a number of Regiments. He landed in Normandy with a Battalion of the KOSB but transferred to 7 DWR in early 1946. Later in the same year he was posted to the Depot from where in 1949 he went to Hong Kong. He was in Korea 1951 - 52 with HQ 28 Brigade returning to the Depot from where he was released as a Sergeant in 1958. He was a staunch

supporter of the Halifax Branch of the Regimental Association until he became ill some years ago and had a heart bypass operation.

The funeral service was held on 25 July 1990. The Regiment was represented by CSgt Barraclough and Mr Gaukroger.

Colonel J. F. Crossley, MBE, TD, JP, DL.

Freddie Crossley died on 5 November 1990 aged 78. In 1939 he was commissioned into 68 ATk Regt RA (2/4th Bn DWR) and by 1942 was a battery commander with the rank of Major. After being transferred to 80 ATk Regt he was taken prisoner by the Japanese on the fall of Singapore in 1942. He spent some time in the notorious Changi Prison in Singapore before being transferred to a mining camp on Formosa (now Taiwan). As the senior officer in the camp he was responsible for the welfare of over 500 British prisoners of war who were put to work in deplorable conditions in nearby copper mines. His stand against the Japanese authorities in an attempt to improve conditions for the prisoners of war, earned him great respect and admiration. Following his release he returned to Japan in 1946 to give evidence at Japanese war crimes trials and he commanded a war crimes investigation team which went back to Taiwan. During that period he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, awarded the MBE and mentioned in despatches for his wartime service.


After the war he returned to the family business in Halifax. In 1951 he assumed Command of 382 Field Regiment RA, with a headquarters in Prescott Street Halifax. He commanded the Regiment for five years until his retirement in 1955 with the honorary rank of colonel.

Colonel Freddie has for some years until his death been the President of the Halifax and District Far East Prisoners of War Association.

The Regimental Secretary represented the Regiment at the funeral service held in Halifax Parish Church on Friday 9 November 1990.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is essential that subscribers, including serving members of the Regiment moving on individual postings, advise the Business Manager of their change of address without delay. Use the tear off slip printed below.

To:- The Business Manager, 'Iron Duke' Magazine, RHQ DWR, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA. 

From:

Please note that from my new address will be

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