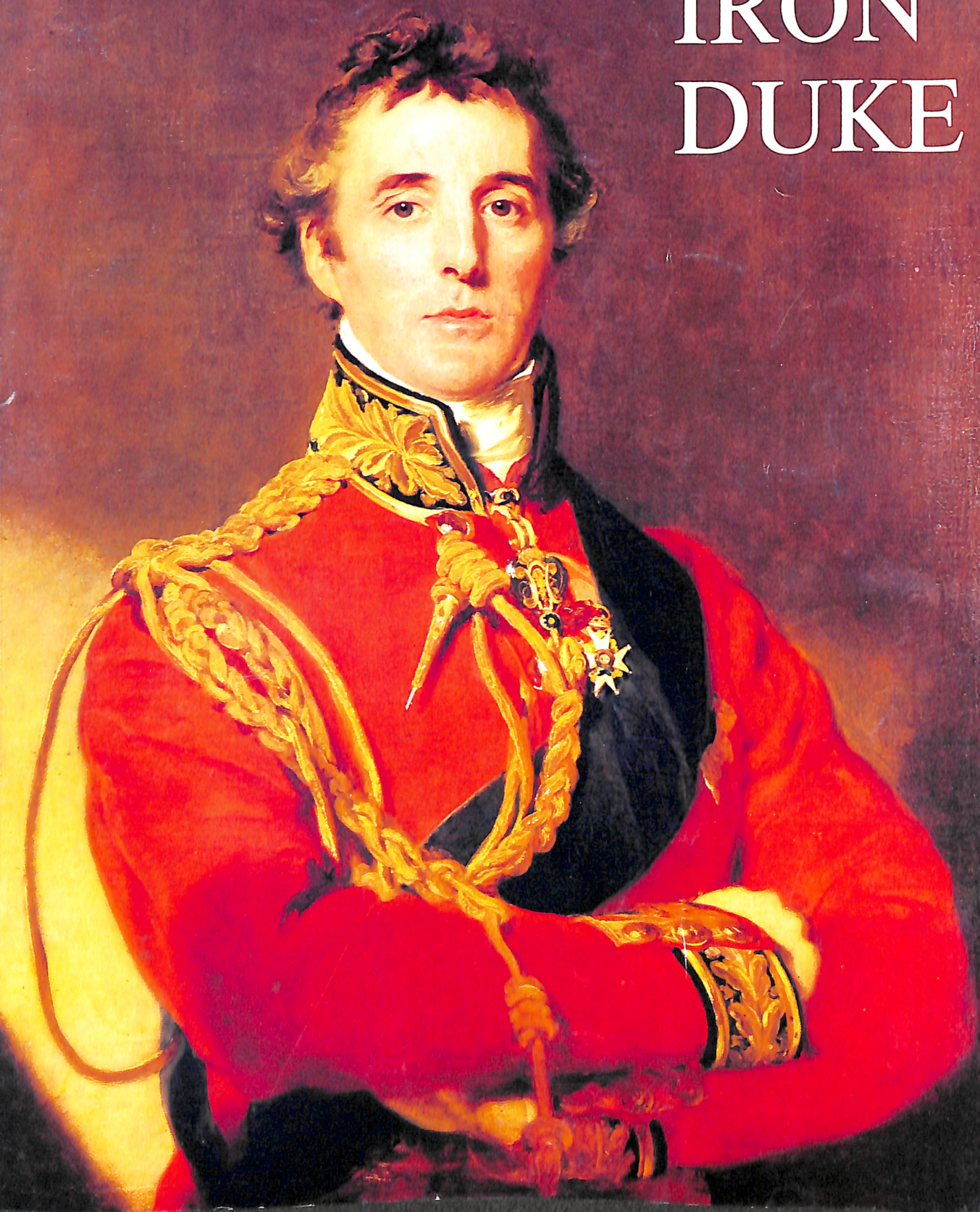


SPRING 1995  
No. 227

# 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*

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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#### *Editor:*

Major A. C. S. Savory MBE, 11 Fairfield Close, Lymington,  
Hants., SO41 9NP. Telephone: (01590) 676610

#### *Business Manager:*

Major R. Heron, Wellesley Park, Halifax,  
West Yorkshire, HX2 0BA. Telephone: (01422) 361671

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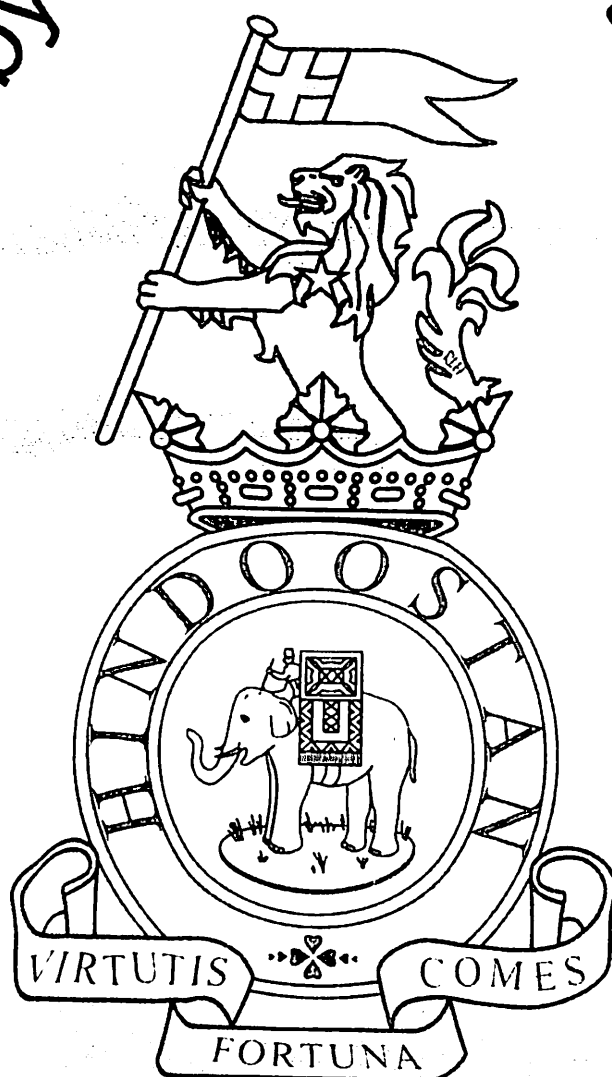
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# THE REGIMENT

## *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 The Royal Armouries, H.M. Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB*

### **Regimental Headquarters**

*Wellesley Park,  
Highroad Well,  
Halifax, HX2 0BA.*

Regimental Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel T. J. Isles

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major R. Heron

### **1st Battalion**

*Weeton Camp,  
Preston,  
Lancashire, PR4 3JQ.*

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel N. St. J. Hall, BA

Adjutant: Captain D. P. Monteith

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 M. Smith

### **3rd Battalion**

*Endcliffe Hall,  
Endcliffe Vale Road,  
Sheffield, S10 3EU.*

Honorary Colonel: Lieutenant General M. J. D. Walker, CBE

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel T. C. S. Bonas, BA

Adjutant: Captain A. J. Adams

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 B. J. Thomas, BEM

## **ARMY CADET FORCE - DWR**

### **Yorkshire (North & West)**

D Company Detachments

OC: Major P. Cole

Halifax

Huddersfield

Heckmondwike

Keighley

Mirfield

Skipton

Thongsbridge

### **Humberside and South Yorkshire**

C Company Detachments

OC: Major T. Scrivens

Barnsley

Darfield

Thurcroft

Wath on Dearne

Wombwell

D Company Detachments

OC: Major D. Galloway

Birdwell

Endcliffe

## **COMBINED CADET FORCE - DWR**

### **Giggleswick School CCF**

CO: Lieutenant Colonel N. J. Mussett

### **Leeds Grammar School CCF**

OC: Squadron Leader R. Hill

## **ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE CANADIAN ARMY**

### **Les Voltigeurs de Quebec**

*Manège Militaire,  
Grande-Allee,  
Quebec, Canada.*

Honorary Colonels: Colonel Marcel Jobin CM, CQ

Lieutenant Colonel André Desmarais

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel L. L. Dionne CD

## **ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE PAKISTAN ARMY**

### **10th Bn The Baloch Regiment**

*Malakand Fort,  
Malakand, NWFP,  
Pakistan.*

Colonel: Brigadier Syed Sarfraz Ali, SI(M)

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel Majid Azim

## **AFFILIATED SHIPS OF THE ROYAL NAVY**

### **H.M.S. Iron Duke**

*BFPO 309*

Commander C. A. Snow RN

### **H.M.S. Sheffield**

*BFPO 383*

Commander S. M. Gillespie RN





*The last parade of the Regimental Band and the presentation of UN medals to members of the 1st Battalion for service in Bosnia.*

The Colonel of the Regiment talks to Corporal Davies (above), and presents a medal to Sergeant McConnel (below).



## THE REGIMENTAL BAND - THE FINAL WEEKS

After six months of music being out of our minds, the return to Bulford meant many long hours of practice to come before the Band would be up to scratch again and able to perform.

The first weeks after our return were taken up by all the administration details of closing down the Band. All the equipment had to be got rid of! The Battalion kept the Regimental items, including uniforms, while most of the remaining Band equipment went to the new Divisional Bands.

Finally, once all the loose ends had been tied up we could get down to the main job of rehearsing for several forthcoming engagements - such as an Officers' Mess Regimental dinner night, and the final parade. Unfortunately the Band had already lost three of its members to redundancy, so to bring it back up to strength we had to 'borrow' several players from The King's Division Waterloo Band in Catterick.

On the final parade, on 28 September 1994, the Band played whilst the Companies received their medals from the Colonel of the Regiment. It was then the Band's turn to receive its medals. At the invitation of Brigadier Mundell, the Band trooped through the ranks of the Battalion and then marched off the square to the Regimental march, with the Colonel of the Regiment taking the salute from the last Regimental line Band in the army.

After marching the CO out of camp the Band went on leave, then moved to the Divisional Bands, eight members going to the Normandy Band in Weeton and two going to the Waterloo Band in Catterick.

The ex-members of the Dukes Band have now settled down in the Divisional Bands and the eight in the Normandy Band were particularly pleased when the familiar faces of the Dukes joined them in Weeton early in 1995.

# 1st Battalion

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

It may be a different army today compared to that of even only a generation ago, but there can be no argument that the pace of activity and variety now is at least as high as ever. And surely that is what still makes the British Army special and motivates the young men from West and South Yorkshire to join us. To have served in Norway, Denmark, Kenya and Bosnia in the past two years, and now with a challenging new rôle, and recent news of forthcoming overseas training exercises in 1996 in Cyprus and Belize, makes for a very contented Dukes soldier. The First Battalion is in good heart.

We are settling well into red rose country in Weeton, which is close to Blackpool. The barracks are relatively new and just what is needed after Kiwi Barracks. The married soldiers are pleased with their quarters, the single soldiers with the delights of Blackpool, and everyone with the short distance from home across the Pennines. After a frenetic six months re-training, re-equipping and moving, we can look

forward to spending more time with our families, on the sports field and up in the Lake District, experiencing a wide range of adventure training activities. In summary, it is good to be up north again and to know that we are to be based here for the next four years.

Sadly, I have to report that we have lost Lance Corporal Steven Canham who died following a motorcycle accident in December. His funeral in Monk Bretton Church, Barnsley, was very well attended as was a memorial service in Bulford, both of which were conducted by the Battalion Padre. But the two casualties from Bosnia, Corporal Stott and Lance Corporal Stroyan, are making very good progress. Corporal Stott is recuperating well at home and is expected to return to full fitness, and Lance Corporal Stroyan having mastered his new leg, is now a regimental policeman and expects to pass his BFT with flying colours at the first attempt!

## NORTHERN IRELAND TRAINING

*Due to the nature of the training undertaken by the Battalion it has not been possible to illustrate these notes.*

### THE COMMANDERS' CADRE

All officers and NCOs from the Battalion attended a Commanders Cadre in November in preparation for the Northern Ireland training package in January. It was based at St. Martin's Plain Camp in Folkestone and was run by the Northern Ireland Training and Advisory Team (NITAT).

The two elements of the Cadre were presentations and specialist weapons training. The presentations covered the background to the troubles and up-to-date teaching on such things as rural and urban

contact drills, cordon operations and the Emergency Powers Act. Meanwhile, all corporals attended a Specialist Weapons Cadre at Lydd Camp under the guidance of the Small Arms School Corps. Training was provided on all weapons we may have to use in the Province, such as the Baton Gun and Rifle Launched Grenade, and various foreign weapons favoured by terrorist organisations, such as the AK47, the grenade, the Barratt Sniper Rifle, the G3 and the Armalite. It was here that our experience in Bosnia was most useful.

### LYDD AND HYTHE RANGES (Burma Company)

Part of the NITAT package at Lydd and Hythe involved six days' advanced shooting practices for each company on specialist ranges, designed to improve the overall standard of shooting in the Battalion and to simulate the various scenarios when soldiers may be called upon to open fire on operations in Northern Ireland.

For many soldiers it was the first opportunity to fire weapons peculiar to the Province, both terrorist and military. Most got to fire the Baton Gun and the Rocket Launched Grenade and some got to grips with the more favoured terrorist weaponry. Of the numerous ranges available, the most popular were the Airborne Reaction Force (ARF) Range, the Urban Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Range, the 'Coat Hanger' Range and the Marksmanship Under Fire (MUF) Range.

The ARF Range was all action. A multiple was flown into the range by helicopter to engage terrorist targets supported by overhead fire from the door gunner on the helicopter. The teams on the ground could then close with the enemy and win the fire fight. As a finale, a car appeared to simulate the terrorists attempting to escape - the car was of course riddled with rounds as soon as it came into view. The use of a helicopter as a method of insertion on to the range and to provide overhead fire added an extra air of reality to the proceedings.

The Urban CQB Range allowed teams to practise patrolling and contact drills with live rounds in a realistic town setting. Each team was given a task to do, such as a chat-up at the post office, and set off from a patrol base. Realism was added by such things as talking dummies and blaring car horns. Shots would be fired at the team which would prompt speedy reactions aimed at killing or capturing the terrorist.

The MUF Range gave soldiers in sangars the experience of shots being fired in their direction and fire control orders, and the 'Coat Hanger' Range practised fire discipline with a range of innocent and terrorist targets presented simultaneously.

### RURAL TRAINING (Corunna Company)

The Lydd and Hythe rural package at Risborough Barracks, with a view to South Armagh in March, was probably the most relevant learning phase of NITAT for Corunna Company. The package itself was split into three sections, one day of stands, a day of practicing the skills learnt on a rural patrol and finally a cordon and search operation.

Day one consisted of six different skills to take on board. The first of these included our first real look at the kit. There was a lot of information to absorb in the day and it was vital it was digested before the following day's patrol.

The second day was "Test" day and 7 Platoon had the dubious pleasure of going first. One of the tasks was a vehicle checkpoint. On paper the drills for this are very simple. Yet the exercise showed that the actual "chatting" to the public was something that needed working on, each soldier needing to be competent enough to walk up to the public and be able to talk to them, knowing exactly their powers of search and questioning. The CMV drills were a good chance to switch to automatic and dirty our weapons. However the drills are now becoming increasingly important in South Armagh as movement by CMV is re-introduced. Finally the Company Sergeant Major ran us through a route check and then it was onto the four tonners and back to camp.

Next came the cordon and search exercise. While the lads sharpened their digging tools all multiples commanders congregated for Major Bruce's orders. He'd reced the ground earlier and was anxious every commander knew where exactly to put each trench, a concern which paid dividends. Orders over the commanders briefed their respective multiples and with radios, rations, spades, picks, monkeys and parrots, all set it was heads down for a "sparrows" start. Care and attention was taken with the trenches making sure they were correctly sited and there were good fields of fire. With this in mind Corporal Bosworth had to move position two or three times until he was completely happy. With each position sited the digging began in earnest, 2Lt Charlesworth showing what a workhorse he could be with a spade and Private Lovell in particular geeing everyone on with his string of enthusiastic comments. Come first light the NITAT staff moved round to critique the positions which showed the importance of every man knowing his arcs, the location of the neighbouring trenches and relevant features on the ground.

Throughout the day the position was hit with various incidents, all of which went well, the DS finding it very difficult to penetrate a very tight cordon. Endex was called at midday and eight hours work was filled in about two minutes. The package as a whole was extremely useful. Corunna Company, as far as NITAT was concerned, was almost ready for South Armagh.

Rural II was the final part of the Lydd and Hythe package. On the first day as the troops went off live firing, the command element under the OC went off for a reactive TEWT under Captain Rupert Shaw of NITAT. The actual reaction operation tasks were handed out for the following night. These covered everything from border watching to soft target protection. After a recce of the areas involved the commanders returned to camp to plan and write the orders for the following night's activities.

The remainder, who were on the coastal ranges tackling the urban CQB and the 'coat hanger' ranges, returned to a various assortment of warning orders. The first half of the following day was spent on the ranges doing the rural advance to contact, involving a situation with the terrorists retreating in a car towards the border, a useful live firing contact practice. Then torrential rain and high winds closed down some of the ranges before lunch.

A few hours later the groups began to depart by helicopter and CMV. By one thirty in the morning the first multiple had moved into position and began observation. The weather went through various stages of freezing winds and pouring rain throughout the night as the multiples watched for signs of activity, with the OC and 2IC listening in the OP's room. At around 0600hrs the reactive ops began to be triggered. At some of the trigger points a terrorist, clad in a dirty mac, with a close resemblance to the OC, was spotted or captured. As various multiples sprang into action the results proved the planning to have been thorough, as the terrorists were captured and aims achieved.

After returning to camp the troops received a hot breakfast, washed and shaved and packed up for Stanta.

### URBAN TRAINING (Alma Company)

By the beginning of November the Company was starting its Northern Ireland training whilst nearly half of its number were busy on individual courses in preparation for NITAT training in January. As far as



we know, we are the first battalion to have turned round from one operational rôle, straight into another for a long time. It was a rush, but on January we were ready for three weeks of centralised training in Kent and Norfolk.

Urban training was a realistic three day period in Rype Village with a civpop (simulated Irish people) drawn from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In many ways the urban package is the most exciting, fast moving and challenging part of Northern Ireland training. The training area is a realistic mock town in which every move of every patrol is monitored on video. The good and not so good points of reaction to incidents and even basic patrol skills are all brought out in thorough and generally constructive debriefings conducted by NITAT staff. These fell into two categories: the hot debrief, when patrols were hauled in immediately after an incident, and the central debrief. The central debrief could be somewhat uncomfortable for those (rare) people who had not covered themselves in much glory over the preceding twelve hours or so. Cameras recorded every bad fire position, every less-than-hard-target and every time a soldier got in line-of-sight of a "bomb". At the end of our first day we were rusty, but we knew exactly what was needed to lift our standards. By the end of our three day package we were both confident with, and proud of, the standard we had achieved. The base received a proxy bomb attack in which the hapless driver - a NITAT instructor - was robustly and enthusiastically "collared" by the gate sentry and then closely questioned about the device. Captain Walsgrove spent much of his time under the ops room table as a result of two mortar attacks, both of which were well handled. The extraction of a patrol in the face of some serious "aggro" went well with a controlled withdrawal to the base conducted coolly. The video camera caught the last three men into camp - all baton gunners - loose off a final volley before retiring in the best traditions of Michael Caine and Stanley Baker (Zulu!). Overall, it was a tiring but thoroughly enjoyable few days in which the Company was introduced to the complexities of urban operations. In spite of the rather jaded condition of the Company as we packed up to move on to the next phase of NITAT training, we still had enough energy to pass an hour in the company of a visiting MP. Mr. Frank Cook was visiting the range complex as part of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee and took the opportunity to talk to the Company. He was particularly interested in the experiences of those who had been to Bosnia and his concern was most welcome.

The company completed NITAT training with its reputation for robust professionalism enhanced. About twenty per cent of the company had changed round since Bosnia, and yet the high standards achieved in that unforgiving environment were being mirrored on Northern Ireland training. As one NITAT instructor observed "your reaction to contact is particularly good" - and so it should be after

Gorazde! Nevertheless, the techniques, tactics and legal requirements of service in Northern Ireland require a great deal of application.

#### **STAMFORD TRAINING AREA (STANTA) (Somme Company)**

The Battalion main body arrived at Stanta on 20 January '95 and deployed to company group locations. Somme Company were co-located with Battalion Headquarters at Wreatham Camp. The Stanta package concentrated on rural training and consisted of 3 phases:- phase 1, Battalion demonstrations and rural contact ranges; phase 2, company exercise; phase 3, a Battalion rural exercise.

The first two days enabled the companies to shake out after the intensive Lydd and Hythe package. The Battalion demonstrations included locating the enemy by fire and Covert Military Vehicles (CMV) drills. At 0600hrs on 25 January '95, phase 2 commenced and for this phase multiples rotated through QRF/ARF, patrolling and rest on a twelve hour change over basis. The majority of training experience was gained during the patrols and this enabled teams to not only confirm the importance of the drills they had learnt, but also put them into practice under very realistic circumstances. Nearly every patrol had some sort of incident; some were short play and were stopped by the NITAT staff once the relevant agencies had been tasked; others were long play and continued into full company operations.

The incidents were initially aimed at testing the team and multiple drills and involved both post and pre ceasefire scenarios. These were gradually built up to double multiple and company operations, culminating in a company reactive operation watching four border crossing points. This operation was particularly useful as it gave the companies the opportunity to practise command and control at this level. It was also followed up by a full twelve hour company cordon with all the necessary agencies; ATO, QRF and Top Cover.

It drummed home the importance of command and control, passage of information, individual skills, and in particular the need for every soldier to fully understand the rules of engagement, the Emergency Powers Act and the importance of forensic presentation.

The final phase was a twenty-four hour Battalion operation involving the clearance and route security for an RUC station rebuild. It practised cordon integrity, reaction to IEDs and route clearance. The exercise went well despite the cold.

The Battalion left Stanta confident in its ability and aware of the areas of training that still need rehearsing. Helicopters were used throughout the exercises and provided everyone with hands on experience. The Battalion had worked hard and the team spirit created in Bosnia proved a great asset.

#### **POTENTIAL NCO'S CADRE**

On the morning of 6 November 1994 the NCO cadre formed up with a total of 49 students. The first few days comprised assessments, testing both mental and physical abilities of each student, with some of the physical aspects proving more difficult than some students had anticipated.

Phase 1 was made up of instructional techniques and ability, camp routine and responsibilities of a junior NCO. The students gave lectures on various subjects, e.g. troops in NI and the life and times of the RSM. They also took a skill at arms lesson, where some students showed good instructional ability. The



The Potential NCO's cadre.

physical aspects of the cadre were maintained with a little help from Sergeants Caine and Ness and by this stage some students found it too difficult and left; either on their own accord, or through injuries.

Phase 2 was the tactics phase to be held in Costa-Del-Sennybridge, with bad weather greeting us on crossing the cattle grid. The cadre was loaded onto 4 tonners and moved up to Brecon.

The next few days were taken up by battle lessons (BLs). Each morning we would have a mystery fitness tour, with the students whistling "Always look on the bright side of life". It was now time to move into the exercise.

The batting order for the top three students we had decided on at Bulford was changing dramatically. The students now carried out harbour drills and sent out day and night recce patrols. It was on one such patrol that it became apparent that some students are better suited to issuing compasses than using them. Once the recce patrols were finished and patrol reports written,

we moved onto a succession of attacks at section and then platoon level. Throughout this phase the cadre was hampered by foul weather. All students had the opportunity of issuing and receiving orders at section commander and platoon commander levels.

One of the criterion of the NCO's cadre is to complete an ICFT and as we had one hour forty-five minutes to spare and a flat area we decided to take advantage of both. We set off up hill and kept going for the next eight miles with the majority of the students completing it quite easily . . . on the back of a Bedford. The cadre then came to a close with the students still whistling "Always look on the bright side of life". It now became clear that the tune had been a skit towards the instructors.

Decisions now had to be made to select the best of the cadre, this proved to be rather difficult but after a lengthy debate a fair number of the students were promoted. Lance Corporal Woodcock was first on the cadre.

### A SUMMER SEASON IN FERMANAGH

It was early in May 1994 when I left Army Training Regiment Glencorse bound for Northern Ireland. Memories of the Battalion's recent deployment to Bosnia were still with me as I had tried (unsuccessfully) to return to the Dukes for that tour. As I sat on the plane bound for Belfast International Airport I consoled myself with the thought:- at least I had escaped from the sausage machine at Glencorse.

As the plane circled low over Aldergrove the early summer sun reflected in the water covering the fields. I had been warned that Fermanagh was very wet, but this was the other side of the Province - surely it couldn't be *that* wet? After all it was summer. The soldier who collected me from the airport was my first contact with the Royal Irish Regiment. He spent the entire journey telling me that although I wasn't going to be his own platoon commander I could put in a word for him as he needed at least three very important courses (all on the mainland, oddly enough).

The first three weeks in Fermanagh are quite difficult to remember - it was a haze of new faces, names, places and a determined attempt to come to terms with the local accent. I began to realise that the full time Royal Irish soldier is a very different creature to the standard 'Duke'. Most of the platoon had done at least six years' service and, surprisingly, the platoon was thirty-two men strong. All but two of the platoon owned or worked on a farm when they weren't out on patrol and on more than one occasion men would finish a four day operation only to go home and spend all the hours of daylight harvesting or slurry spreading. These men were robust, country men who never seemed to be in a hurry to do anything or get anywhere.

The gentle breaking in of the new "blow-in", as I was to be known, was over - my first operational duty was now approaching. It was to be a four day border closure operation involving the securing of an area beside the border with the Free State so that the

sappers could do their best to render this particular crossing point un-crossable. I packed carefully - sleeping bag was high on the list as were a few comforts such as curry powder and some fresh milk. (This will impress the lads I thought.) We were dropped by helicopter in a very wet field and tramped through several more, intersected by thick hedges and deep, smelly ditches to arrive at our positions. The lads had immense Bergans and were obviously carrying far more weight than I was - had I forgotten some essential piece of kit? The answer came once we had dug our positions and settled in for the duration. As I went round the positions the lads were unpacking their Bergans - I was amazed. Each man's kit contained four days worth of fresh bread, milk, sausages, bacon, butter, burgers, tomato sauce - some of the older and bolder ex UNIZ men even had fresh eggs to help wash down their daily Ulster fry! Fortunately the Fermanagh people are very generous so I only had to struggle through one Compo meal with the smell of bacon filling my nostrils!

The summer passed very quickly and by and large the weather was extremely kind to me even though I almost did have webbed feet after six months. Probably the highlight of the tour was a long foot patrol through a hilly area near a village called Beleek. It was a glorious, sunny August day with spectacular views across Fermanagh and also over into the Republic. As we sat watching the sunset during our last brew stop of the day we had a discussion about why the Troubles had lasted so long. The conversation was just starting to hot up when we were interrupted by the OC on the radio. He told us that as of midnight the Provisional IRA would announce a ceasefire. In true Fermanagh style one of the lads said "That's fierce wild! It means I'll be able to do my combining during the day and go to the pub at night!"

Captain Paul Fox



# 3rd Battalion

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

We have now had confirmation that 3 DWR is not being affected by the TA review. Indeed, as a result of this review the Battalion's TA establishment ceiling is to be increased by a further 22 posts from 482 to 504.

Training has been the cornerstone of our time. We turned our attention to FIBUA skills at Whinney Hill in Catterick in November and the weekend's training concluded with a much enjoyed Battalion coordinated attack on the village. At the Christmas weekend an inter-company sports competition was held. Apart from the main sporting events such as football and hockey there was a host of other minor activities including welly throwing, rugby conversion kicking, archery and golf, all designed to raise a few laughs which it certainly did. 'A' Company was the overall winner. Training in the early months of this year is focusing on bounty training and more especially in preparing for the Brigade Competition, 'Martial Merlin', to be held at the end of March. We are entering a team from each company.

Towards the latter part of last year the Recce Platoon, under Captain Paul Davies, took part in the Cambrian Patrol Competition and despite appalling

weather conditions emerged with a bronze award. The Machine Gun Platoon, under Lieutenant Richard Wytke, also did well in the Eastern District Competition, coming 3rd against some stiff competition. We have entered again for these competitions this year.

Our links to the 1st Battalion are growing by the day and there will be many different opportunities throughout the year for these to be forged. One such occasion will be the Freedom parades in Skipton and Halifax on 6 May and the Freedom of Barnsley on 8 May. Camp follows soon after in June in the Folkestone area on the south coast. In common with the 1st Battalion, we are also having a major recruiting and publicity drive aimed at strengthening our manning base and giving the Dukes an even higher profile in the West Riding and South Yorkshire.

Congratulations go to four members of the Battalion who have been awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for services both to the TA and the community. These are WO2 Braisby, WO2 Machin and Corporal Hattersley from 'A' Company and Lance Corporal Taylor from 'C' Company.

*Courtesy of the Halifax Courier*



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel T. C. S. Bonas, briefing members of 'B' Company on the arrangements for annual camp.

**'A' COMPANY**

- OC - Major I. Marshall
- 2 IC - Captain S. M. Garnham
- CSM - WO2 D. Braisby
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant A. J. Smith

**FIBUA Weekend**

Exercise 'Street Fighter', a Battalion sponsored weekend, was held at Whinney Hill FIBUA Complex at Catterick on the weekend of 18-20 November '94. This was to teach and revise the Battalion in all aspects of offensive operations in a built up area.

Phase 1 started on Saturday morning with the troops on a round robin of stands which included:

- Adseiling through windows
- Moving through tunnels and sewers
- Breaking into buildings
- Watching up-to-date videos on FIBUA
- Room and house clearing
- Pairs fire and manoeuvre

Each company had been asked to bring along cadets with their adult instructors for the duration of the weekend and they also took part in all activities.

The second phase was set up to test a platoon from each rifle company on what they had learnt during the day's activities. Cadets were used to act as enemy in three different buildings. Their task was to defend the three buildings for as long as possible. The exercise

started with tyres and oil burning. The three buildings were attacked simultaneously, each cadet unit doing their utmost to defend their buildings, which they did with plenty of enthusiasm and zest.

One cadet feared he might be captured by the invading troops and locked himself in a broom cupboard only to find some time later, a platoon commander shouting 'Re-org' just outside the cupboard in the main room. The cadet's story is that after listening to the re-org he plucked up enough courage to burst out of his hiding place into the room, firing his rifle on automatic. He then ran out of the house feeling really chuffed with himself.

It was very difficult to pick a winner in this competition, but a prize of a crate of beer went to 'B' Company.

During phase 3 companies attacked the FIBUA complex. All points from the attack were brought out on the CO's debrief and the following PXR.

**Visit of the Mayor of Barnsley to 'A' Company 3 DWR, 31 January '95**

The Mayor, Councillor Judith Watts, and the Mayor's Consort, Mr. Allen Foster, arrived at our main Barnsley TA Centre at 2000hrs. They were first taken for a starter cup of hot tea and biscuits in the drill hall and then to see a first aid demonstration of a patrol suffering a sniper casualty, followed by extraction and treatment. It was then back to the drill hall to visit a target indication lesson around a countryside model, and our recruits doing rifle weapon handling.

The Mayor, invited to take part, turned out to be a good shot, bettering the OC's group size on our 25m indoor small bore range. She enjoyed it so much that she readily accepted the offer of another shoot, where she maintained her standard of shooting.

Later a buffet supper was laid on for all ranks in The Mallet Club. The Mayor presented a Barnsley Council plaque to the company before saying goodbye at 2200hrs.



*The FIBUA weekend, Catterick.*  
Captain Peter Clarke, operations officer.



The Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor Judith Watts, meets Colour Sergeant Martin Smith of 'A' Company during her visit to the Barnsley TA Centre.

**'B' COMPANY**

- OC - Major P. D. Buczko
- 2 IC - Captain D. Bentley
- CSM - WO2 J. M. Diamond
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant G. R. Moore

The Christmas weekend took place at Wathgill between 9 and 11 December. An inter-company competition, involving hockey, football, basket ball and volley ball, was the main activity. In addition there were individual events all of which contributed to the final result. These were archery, target golf, rugby ball kicking and Wellington boot throwing.

Of the major events hockey was the first to be decided when 'B' Company, greatly assisted by Private Tordoff, beat 'A' Company in the final. In the

football 'A' Company got their revenge when it won the event. 'C' Company won the volley ball. The overall winner of the competition was 'A' Company.

Following the sports a carol service was held before everyone sat down to a meal served by officers and senior ranks. The latter then adjourned to their messes for an evening of games which were won by the senior ranks. Meanwhile everyone else had gone to the NAAFI where the end of the Battalion's year was suitably celebrated.

**'C' COMPANY**

- OC - Major R. D. Bramham
- 2 IC - Captain A. J. Greenside
- CSM - WO2 S. A. Dwyer
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant L. L. F. Robinson

Life in the TA leads soldiers to be resourceful, humorous and enduring characters who can overcome many obstacles placed before them. Here are a few extracts from life in 'C' Company 3 DWR.

**Exercise "Long Tab" - February '94**

Small patrols infiltrated behind enemy lines to assist friendly partisans collate and disseminate information about enemy troop and vehicle movements. A live firing ambush was cleverly written into the sequence of events on the Saturday night. After clearing their way through an anti-personnel minefield the patrols called in a Lynx helicopter to extract them to safety.

**Exercise "Tora! Tora!", Platoon Attacks - May '94**

"Dry training" on Saturday was followed by the Platoon Commander's orders. A dawn attack with

Machine Gun Platoon and mortars in support resulted in 'C' Company dislodging the enemy from a prominent hillside in the Leek training area.

**Annual Camp 1994 - Belgium**

We spent the first week practising patrolling skills from a harbour base in the Belgian countryside. After performing well in the Inter Platoon Competition, we then went into the Battalion exercise which involved pursuit and destroy operations.

**New Year's Eve - Huddersfield 1994**

TA life is not all work. We closed the year with a fancy dress party. There was plenty of entertainment, a disco and live group, a delicious buffet, and a bouncy castle! Over one hundred people had the time of their lives.

**CAMBRIAN PATROL 1994**

The Close Reconnaissance Platoon of 3 DWR entered phase 7 of the Cambrian Patrol Competition which took place on the weekend of 28-30 October '94. The eight man team completed the event and gained sufficient points overall to be awarded a bronze medal.

On arrival the team was directed to a large barn for kit checks and to give a brief interview for the press. The team then went into the orders sequence and this year (as every year) was tasked to carry out a close target recce and mount an observation post on two locations.

After orders had been given to the team we were thrown a "fastball" when we were given orders to act as a QRF and defend a HQ position some 6km away. We were driven at speed to a section in defence range to carry out a live firing exercise.

The team was then taken to the notional "FLOT" (forward line of own troops) and we then moved on foot to its patrol harbour 25km away. Brecon's

arduous terrain was not, in any sense, improved by utterly atrocious weather. The only dry parts of us were the top of our heads protected by our helmets.

Nevertheless, the team maintained a reasonable rate of progress, thus enabling it to reach the hide in good time and lie-up for a couple of hours. The patrol then split up to conduct the two allotted tasks. Each team member had been given a "call sign" card on arrival at Brecon. These were to be handed over to the "enemy" should one be captured to enable exercise control to record the event. The enemy was provided by 3 Para, but fortunately no-one from the patrol was captured.

After completing the two tasks, the two four-man bricks met up at an RV and the team made its way to a helicopter landing site (HLS). The weather, which, incredibly, seemed to have deteriorated, led to the cancellation of the helicopters. The team then moved on foot to a previously designated emergency RV, a further 5km away, to be picked up by vehicle.



According to our original orders, the HLS represented the end of our patrol. However, once at the ERV, the patrol was re-tasked. The task was to rescue a friendly "agent", who had been injured by a mine and was currently lying in the middle of the minefield. The approach to the minefield was only

possible via a steep re-entrant with a large volume of water pouring through it. Upon reaching the top, the agent was found, a lane cleared through the minefield, and a casevac effected. The team then moved to a barn 500 metres away which represented the end point.



**Pheasant 93 FC play in the Sheffield League and are sponsored by ACIO Sheffield and 3 DWR. Lieutenant Colonel T. C. S. Bonas, accompanied by WO1 Thomas, RSM 3 DWR, presents a cheque for £150, donated by 3 DWR and ACIO, to Sergeant Birkett of Pheasant 93.**

### BOUNTY TESTING

Bounty is a tax free lump sum of money paid to volunteers after 1 April each year if certain standards have been achieved, and a minimum number of training days have been attended.

During the year 1994/95 the military skills that had to be taken and passed were:

- Basic fitness test

- First aid

- Annual personal weapon test

Military skills tests that had to be attempted were:

- Map reading

- Signals

- Nuclear, biological and chemical warfare skills

Attendances needed to qualify are:- annual camp or an authorised career course in lieu - 15 days; weekends for a trained soldier - 12 days, for a recruit in his first year - 16 days.

When the above mentioned tests have been taken/passed and the training required carried out, the Commanding Officer signs the Certificate of Efficiency authorising the pay office to pay bounty, the current rates of which are:

- A soldier in his first year - £275

- A soldier in his second year - £575

- A soldier in his third and fourth year - £850

- A soldier in his fifth year - £900

### EXERCISE "IRON DUKE"

Late on 28 October '94, 130 cadets from Yorkshire and Humberside, together with their adult instructors, arrived at Beccingham Training Camp. For the first time, the 3rd Battalion was going to run Exercise "Iron Duke" for the cadets (for the past five years the exercise had been run by the 1st Battalion).

The exercise, which was instituted by the Colonel of the Regiment, was organised similarly to previous years. Saturday was spent on a round robin of stands which included zeroing the cadets' rifles, an observation stand, going over the assault course, an orienteering competition, a command task and a

section attack. In the evening there was a quiz and a film show. Sunday saw a march and shoot and a series of interest stands before the prize giving.

We were all very impressed by the cadets. Their expertise, determination, enthusiasm, competitiveness and willingness to have a go were quite amazing.

The weekend was a great success and the cadets showed the 3rd Battalion that they were excellent ambassadors for their parent units. One of the spin

offs from the weekend was a closer link with the cadets which has seen us take some of them to a FIBUA weekend at Catterick. They are also joining us in some of our training this year.

The winning detachment was Barnsley's 'A' Team, followed closely by Leeds Grammar School and Keighley's 'A' Team. The prizes were presented by Brigadier E. J. W. Walker, OBE, on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment, who was unable to attend.



*Six Army Cadets from Darfield on exercise "Iron Duke".*

Left to right, back row: Mark Jones, Christopher Ward and Lee Hanlon. Front row: Derek Dymond, Graham Porter and Michael Jones.

## **'D' (WELLESLEY) COMPANY DWR YORKSHIRE ACF**

Thongsbridge Detachment took part in the Yorkshire Army Careers Information Office Laser Range Competition on 22 October '94, the only DWR cadet detachment to be represented. The competition was held at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall. The cadets were briefed on the format of the event, before a short patrolling exercise during which they came upon a casualty simulation. They had to administer first aid and evacuate the casualties a distance of some 200 yards. After the casualties had been delivered to the first aid post they had to complete the ITB assault course and immediately afterwards compete on the laser range. At the end of the competition we were

drawn first equally with Carlton Detachment RA. The tie breaker was a re-run of the assault course during which the Thongsbridge team managed to shave ninety seconds off the original time, however, we were unable to beat a very fast performance from the Carlton team. The Detachment was awarded a runners-up shield and each cadet was presented with a runners-up medal.

Keighley Detachment continues to do well in all the shooting competitions. Its teams were second and third in the county's winter Junior Cadet Competition, and it has just qualified with both a junior and a senior team for the County .22



*Army Training Regiment, Glencorse.*

Five members of the Dukes permanent staff. Left to right: Corporal O'Neill, Sergeant Innes, Captain Douthwaite, Corporal Hind and Corporal Peters. Also serving at Glencorse are Corporal Stones and Corporal Watts.

Championships and is the first winner of a trophy donated by RHQ for the highest scoring DWR team in the National Cadet 100 Competition.

Exercise "Iron Duke" last October was hosted by 3 DWR at Beckingham Camp. The competition has become more intense since the South Yorkshire DWR

Detachments entered. Barnsley 'A' Team won with Leeds Grammar School second and our Keighley Detachment coming third.

Our Annual Inspections took place between October and December. We gained seven above standard and three up to standard reports.

## H.M.S. IRON DUKE

As our first deployment draws to a close, Iron Duke bids a fond farewell to the South Atlantic and steers a course home. Her Majesty's Naval Base Devonport once again beckons after eight months' service in the Falklands theatre.

On 9 August 1994 HMS Iron Duke sounded three short blasts and made sternboard away from number seven wharf. Thus began the long, eventful passage to relieve HMS Brazen of her duty as Falkland Islands guardship. Although protracted, this journey was not fruitless: ports such as Gibraltar, Abidjan, Dakar, Ascension Island and, of course, Rio de Janeiro formed waypoints on the first ocean passage charts of the latest vessel to bear the Duke of Wellington's *nomme de guerre*. She also paid homage to the most southerly city in the world, Punta Arenas. Many a cabin and mess is now adorned with models of monkeys, tribal masks, Brazilian soccer shirts and photographs of scantily clad maidens on sun drenched beaches.

Suddenly, out of the blue, came a call for assistance with an unexpected twist. Meetings were hastily convened and plans hurriedly recalculated. Iron Duke was required elsewhere with all due despatch. The ship was relieving in the Falklands had gone aground in the Patagonia Canals of Chile and Iron Duke was the nearest British warship available to offer aid. After embarking extra stores and staff and spending several long days closed up at a higher state of readiness the objective was reached. The story had a happy ending when Brazen was successfully salvaged by the Chileans, and so - after a 24 hour stop in Punta Arenas, Chile, Iron Duke returned to her proper station.

Next stop Mount Pleasant Airfield in the Falkland Islands, the recently erected and constantly expanding military base which would be home for the next five months. Operational exercises, settlement visits, out of area visits, sport, rest and relaxation and liaisons aplenty. Despite the Islands' bleak landscape and



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reputation there was a lot on offer and in truly inimitable 'matelot' fashion every new opportunity was taken advantage of. Iron Duke was now fully settled in theatre.

The roulement infantry regiment was inserted in places it would never have dreamed of working without seaborne transport and was then provided with an awesome display of naval gunfire support which, once again, proved the reliability of the 4.5 inch gun. The RAF learnt what a formidable target a modern frigate is when joining the ship in air defence exercises, with the ship's surface to air missile systems performing admirably throughout. Much was also done to maintain relationships with the locals of Port Stanley and other settlements.

When out of area the Duke was fortunate to visit South Georgia, Montevideo and Rio Grande. The flag

was flown and friendships made but most importantly fun was had in these far flung lands. Operational training was incorporated wherever possible to ensure that standards never dropped.

In February 1995 Iron Duke handed over responsibilities for the Falklands theatre to HMS Marlborough before heading east. She had a date to meet in Cape Town, and was on a promise of a 'run ashore to end all runs ashore'. The South African visit started with three days of intense work as Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, Vice Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, flew his flag in the Duke and hosted a defence industry sales day on board. The ship was alongside a prime berth and the weather was perfect. This was the last stop before home, barring two overnight breaks in St. Helena and Ascension Island.

## REGIMENTAL GRAVES AND MEMORIALS

### PART IV: NORTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES

#### NORTH AMERICA

Both the 33rd and 76th Regiments served very many years in North America and suffered numerous deaths there both in war and peace, but there are very few records of graves and memorials. The 33rd fought in several major battles during the American War of Independence, and it was twice stationed in Canada. The 76th served in the USA during the second American war and a total of thirty-one years in Canada.

##### 1. Kingston, Canada, 1818-1822

In the days when the USA and Canada were often at loggerheads, one of the most important strongholds was Fort Henry, which protected Kingston at the eastern end of the Great Lakes and was the key to the defence of upper Canada. During the war of 1812 a fort was hastily built there. However it was considered inadequate to protect a base of such importance. In 1836, therefore, a new Fort Henry was built. In 1953 a plaque was erected to commemorate all those British regiments that had served there. Among these was the 76th which was stationed at Fort Henry from 1818-1819 and again from 1821-1822.

##### 2. Nova Scotia, Canada, 1888-1891

The 2nd Battalion arrived in Nova Scotia, from Bermuda in September 1888 and remained there until March 1891 when it embarked for Barbados. The graves of two officers and six soldiers are in the cemetery at Fort Massey, Halifax. One of the graves is that of Colonel T. Tydd. He died in 1877 and it would appear that he went to live in Nova Scotia after he had left the 76th in 1866. One of the soldiers buried in the cemetery is Private E. Hutley who, it is recorded, "collapsed after eating lobster, preserved as fresh". According to a member of the Regiment, who visited the cemetery in 1955, three of the graves had no headstones. However the local authority had allocated money for the erection of headstones, but there is no record as to whether this was done.

The grave of Sergeant Roberts is in the St. John's Cemetery, Nova Scotia. It is not stated when he died. It is possible it was after the departure of the 2nd Battalion, as quite a few members of the Battalion settled in Nova Scotia, following their discharge.



The graves of Private Hutley and Private Hill, Nova Scotia.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WEST INDIES

The losses of the 33rd in the West Indies were probably even greater than in America. In 1793 the grenadier and light companies were on active service in the West Indies and were decimated, mostly from disease. From 1822 to 1832 the Regiment was stationed in Jamaica during which it lost eleven officers and 560 NCOs and men from the effects of cholera and malaria. From 1841 to 1843 it was in Barbados and St. Vincent where it lost a further six officers and 156 NCOs and men. The 76th, like the 33rd, suffered severely while stationed in the West Indies. Between 1834 and 1840 it had 120 deaths from cholera, including that of the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel G. H. Dansey. In 1886 the 2nd Battalion, while in Bermuda, had thirteen deaths from enteric fever. But, the existence of only a handful of graves is recorded.

##### 1. Barbados

In 1835 one half of the 76th was stationed in Barbados. In 1840 the whole Regiment spent a year there. In 1841 it was followed by the 33rd. One of the first to die was the commanding officer, Lieutenant



The yellow fever memorial in the military cemetery, Barbados.

Colonel C. Knight. It remained until 1845, but for most of the time the companies were deployed elsewhere in the West Indies. From 1891 to 1893 the 2nd Battalion was stationed in Barbados, with detachments in Jamaica and St. Lucia. According to an article published in the Iron Duke in October 1935 the military cemetery contained "several old yellow fever graves and memorials to officers and other ranks of the Regiment". No details were given. Recently the Regiment made a donation for the upkeep of the military cemetery where it is now known two members of the Regiment are buried. One of the graves is that of Lieutenant Colonel John Clarke who, it is recorded, died on 17 July 1834 on board the "Sir Edward Barnes" at sea, off Barbados. The other grave is that of a soldier who died when the 2nd Battalion was stationed there in 1891.

## 2. Jamaica

Three members of the 2nd Battalion are known to have died while part of the Battalion was stationed in Jamaica in 1891 and 1892. They were buried in the cemetery at the hill station of Newcastle, about ten miles north east of Kingston. Others may well be buried there, but few of the individual graves are marked.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ADDENDA

Subsequent to the publication of this series of articles the following additional information has been received.

### 1. INDIA AND THE FAR EAST

#### Jalabad, Afghanistan, 1842

In 1841 Major General W. G. K. Elphinstone, who had commanded the 33rd at the battle of Waterloo, was selected to command the British Army of Occupation in Kabul. After the murder of the British Resident, Elphinstone commenced the evacuation of Kabul. He had delivered himself as a hostage prior to the retreat and died in Afghan hands on 23 April 1842. He is buried in an unmarked grave at Jalabad.

#### Hong Kong

The name of Captain E. H. Casey, who died some time prior to the second world war, is inscribed on the memorial in the Sai Wan Military Cemetery to those with no known grave. The unit with which he was serving, at the time of his death, is not known.

#### Delhi, India, 1942-1944

There are five graves of members of the 2nd Battalion in the British Military Cemetery, Delhi. All died during the period May 1942 and September 1944.

## 2. MIDDLE EAST

### Cyprus, 1915

In the Polemidhia Cemetery is the grave of a Private T. Nicholson who died on 19 November 1915. It is possible that he was a member of the 8th Battalion, which was engaged in the Gallipoli campaign during 1915.

### Khartoum

Private Blaney, who died on 15 January 1947 when the 1st Battalion was stationed in Khartoum, is buried in the Khartoum War Cemetery.

## 3. EUROPE. WORLD WAR I

### Latvia, 1917

In the Nikolai Cemetery at Jelgava are the graves of two soldiers of the Regiment who died in 1917, while prisoners of war.

## 4. EUROPE. WORLD WAR II

### France, 1940

In addition to the graves of two officers and six soldiers of the 2/7th Battalion at Veules Les Roses (Iron Duke, winter 1994) there are graves of members of the Battalion located as follows: Twenty soldiers at Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre; five soldiers at Ste Sever Cemetery, Rouen; two sergeants, one soldier and four unidentified graves at Blosseville-sur-mer Churchyard, near Veules Les Roses; one soldier and two unidentified graves at Forges-les-Baux Communal Cemetery; one soldier and 58 unidentified British graves at St Valery-en-Caux Franco-British Cemetery; one NCO's grave at Auppargard Churchyard and one officer's grave at Eu Communal Cemetery. (Information provided by Mr. P. Walker ex 2/7th Battalion.)

## 1/6th BATTALION IN ICELAND: MAY 1940 - APRIL 1942

*At the outbreak of war in 1939 the 1/6th Battalion was part of 147 Infantry Brigade of 49 (West Riding) Division. In April 1940 147 Brigade was sent from Malton to Gourock, there to embark on HMT "Sobieski" in order to sail to Norway, where the two other brigades in the Division had already landed. However, they did not remain there for long as the rapid advance of the German army led to their early withdrawal. After ten days in crowded transports the 1/6th Battalion and the other units of 147 Brigade were accordingly disembarked and moved to a camp near Glasgow.*

*With the Norwegian ports in German hands Iceland became of great strategical importance, as a link on the sea routes between Britain and North America. It was, therefore, decided to send an expedition to occupy and fortify it without delay. 147 Brigade was selected for this task and embarked at Glasgow on 13 May 1940. Among the officers serving with the 1/6th was 2nd Lieutenant (later Captain) J. R. Allan whose account of the 1/6th Battalion's stay in Iceland follows.*

\* \* \* \* \*

On 14 May we left the Clyde on the Cunard ship "Lancastria". Once on our way we were told our destination was Iceland which, since the fall of Norway to the Germans, was vital to the protection of our shipping in the North Atlantic. Fortunately we got there before the Germans, and landed at Reykjavik, with no opposition. Our arrival was not very popular with the Icelanders and their government since they had only a few weeks before gaining their independence from Denmark. But they accepted the inevitable and a reasonable attitude by the local people continued until we handed over to the Americans two years later.

The country itself is an inhospitable place. Largely of volcanic rock, the interior is bare and bleak, and life is only supportable around the coast where in places there is some productive land. Fish and sheep are the main sources of food, or were in 1940. There are no trees on the island. There are geysers and hot springs and at that time the buildings in Reykjavik were heated by the hot water piped into them from its

natural source. The weather is wet and windy. In summer, for a few weeks, there is 24 hours of daylight and in winter for a similar period the sun does not rise above the horizon. As I said before an inhospitable place, aptly described by Colin Hill as "Nobbut a bloody great clinker".

Before leaving the UK for Iceland we had an input of regular Dukes officers to replace the ageing and, let us admit, inefficient senior territorial officers who had commanded us up to that time. John Lawlor and Brian Webb Carter joined us as CO and second in command, both very professional regular soldiers. We had a new medical officer and adjutant, Jack Johnson a platoon sergeant major recently commissioned from the 1st Battalion in France, and four newly commissioned officers from the Artists Rifles, John Gilbey, Harry Beazley, Ian Macintosh and John Beckwith. What these newcomers must have thought of us rough, unmilitary Yorkshire band of brothers, and their fate of being marooned with us for two years in Iceland, one dare not think. However, the army is a great institution for creating a whole out of many different parts, and so it did in this case.

At first, there were only the three Battalions of 147 Brigade, one battery of the 49th Division Field Artillery (25 pounders) and a shore battery of heavy naval guns to secure the island from invasion. A Walrus aircraft, a seaplane whose top speed was 90mph, was our only air cover. We stayed in the Reykjavik area, with the other two battalions at Akeureri in the north, and spread along the east coast. We lived in hope, rather than confidence, that we could repel any effort by the Germans to take the island, but none came, and in the succeeding months the rest of the division arrived. With the building of the airfield at Reykjavik and the naval base at Hvalforer on the west coast, Iceland was securely in our hands and played an important part in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Our two years there could be divided into three phases. First the digging of defences against attack from the sea, second the construction of the airfield, and third making use of the conditions there to train in the special art of mountain and winter warfare. The first phase was hard and uncomfortable. We lived in a



tented camp just outside the town, our food was adequate but boring, and there was no shipping space available to bring drink or other creature comforts to the island. The digging of defences was very difficult, picks and shovels made little impact on solid rock and in many cases we had to build up cover with sandbags, making very obvious targets for any attacker. Another hazard was the rows of fish that the Icelanders hung up to dry in lines stretched between poles, under which our defences and their unfortunate occupants were sited. The smell was awful. It was then that the generic name for Icelanders became FEBs - fish eating bastards.

An amusing incident occurred at this time. Ronnie Helm was supervising the running of a telephone line from one of his OPs to the signals centre at Battalion HQ, manned at the time by the signals sergeant, Sergeant Ingleson. When complete, he sent a test message through "Christ, Inky, there's a bloody great battleship sailing straight into the harbour". Inky took it for real, passed the message on to Force HQ and the alarm maroons were fired! The whole force was called to "Stand to", the Walrus took to the air, the one mine sweeper put to sea, and all was ready to repel invaders. Major R. Helm's interview with the Force Commander two days later was somewhat strained.

It was at this time that news started to come of the fall of France, Dunkirk, and then later the Battle of Britain. I am surprised, now, at how little concern this caused us at the time. It was only when we were told that in the case of Britain falling to the Germans we would be shipped to Canada to carry on the war from there, that we regarded the situation seriously. Then, having regarded it suitably seriously, we agreed that such a thing could not possibly happen, and dismissed it from our minds.

Now came the second phase, the construction of the airfield. This was done on some level, marshy ground close to Reykjavik, supervised by Royal Engineers' construction units and with labour provided by the infantry battalions. The principle was that of a floating raft. Forty gallon oil drums, cut in half vertically, were laid hollow side down on the marshy land, side by side, and end to end, to form the base onto which was tipped volcanic ash, then concrete was poured on top of that. We worked twelve hour shifts, six till six day and night! When completed the landing strip was virtually a concrete raft floating on a bog. While we were doing this, Colin Hill, HQ Company Commander, and his men were constructing a Nissen hutted camp into which we moved before the worst of the winter, and he also masterminded the building of another for Brigade Headquarters.

The next thing to change our situation was the arrival of a battalion of US Marines. Although America was not yet in the war, they were offering help - lease, lend etc. to take some of the strain off the beleaguered British, and their presence was a further discouragement to the Germans against an attempt to occupy Iceland. With them came 24 Tomahawk fighters who flew into our newly built airfield from a US carrier. We were amused to see six of them suffer minor mishaps on landing running off the end etc. and debated whether our inexperience as airfield constructors, or their inexperience as pilots was to blame.

We had to hand over our camp to our American friends, and with a certain feeling of *deja vue*, we were back in tents while again building ourselves another

Nissen hut camp at Baldurshagi. There were, however, compensations for this, the main one being a standing invitation to visit the US Marine officers' "wardroom" every Saturday night, where ample supplies of Bourbon whisky and good American food were a welcome relief from our own limited rations of food and drink.

However, self help is a great thing. One of our number was John Gilbey of the wine and spirit firm, W. A. Gilbey & Sons. Soon we had an Icelandic trawler skipper landing his catch of cod in Fleetwood, then loading Gilbeys gin, whisky and even champagne, and bringing it up to us in the frozen north.

With the US Marines taking over our defence duties, the Battalion was able to return to serious training. Apart from the normal infantry role, we were trained as mountain troops, using the glaciers and winter weather to learn to ski, build igloos and snow holes, and generally survive and fight in arctic conditions. A winter warfare school was set up on a glacier near Akureyri in the north, then a Battalion school on a glacier nearer home where Jack Clough and his ski platoon took one infantry platoon at a time for a two week course in skiing and survival. We all, including the Colonel, were impressed when Jack established his Icelandic girlfriend (Svena) as chalet girl at his camp - another instance of enterprise and self help to make life bearable in Iceland.

The boredom was interspersed with many amusing and interesting interludes. One was the exciting hunt for the German battleship Bismark, tracked by the cruisers Norfolk and Suffolk as she sailed round the north, then west of Iceland to reach the convoys crossing the Atlantic. This lasted for six days until she was caught and sunk on 27 May 1941. The arrival of a ship from the US or the UK was greeted with great enthusiasm, we often went aboard for a party and to buy whatever extra they had to offer in the food or drink line. On one memorable occasion a ship from Canada had supplies of beer, which we had not seen since leaving England a year ago. It was labelled "Black Horse - with a kick like a horse". We set about it with enthusiasm, but after two or three pints we were falling about. The next day we read the labels more closely - it was 17% alcohol!

Another welcome visitor was a destroyer commanded by Alfred Harper, a local lad from Skipton. We had a party on board where the innocent soldiers were made to play a game called Torpedoes. One by one we were led, blindfold, into the wardroom, laid face downwards on a blanket on a table, with two sailors on each side. "We are firing a torpedo, fire." At this the blanket and the victim were lifted up and hurled forward until stopped by hitting his head on the steel bulk-head. A second reason for a very sore head the morning after.

So life went on. After twelve months, leave to the UK was started, two officers at a time for fourteen days. I, being young and unmarried, was one of the last to go but in January 1942 I finally saw England and my family again. We travelled on a Polish ship, the "Batory". The crossing was unescorted and took three days, sailing a zig zag course as a token protection against submarines.

At last, after two years, with America now in the war, Iceland "C" Force handed over to the US Army and in May 1942 we returned to the UK. In one way we had been lucky to be there. The Battalion had stayed intact, while those at home or overseas in the Middle



East or Singapore, had suffered constant change with casualties and transfers as the army increased in numbers. It had been more interesting, in military

terms, than the same old training routines at home, and less dangerous than the see-saw battles that had been going on in North Africa.

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE HISTORY OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT (WEST RIDING) 1702-1992.** By J. M. Brereton and A. C. S. Savory. (£23 plus £4 p&p)

*In recent months there have been a number of very complimentary reviews of the history. All of them include a summary of the contents of the history and are therefore to some extent repetitive. For that reason the extracts given below only record the reviewer's opinion of the history.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Soldiers of the Queen** (the journal of the Victorian Military Society.) Reviewed by Major M. J. Barthorp, September 1994.

"All readers will know how the merest glimpse of some books can dampen the enthusiasm for persevering with them. This is far from the case here. It is most handsomely produced, enticing the reader to delve further. If the text was not enough, there are twenty three illustrations in colour, another hundred in black and white, thirty nine maps and ten appendices, including valuable ones on the colours and the ten VC winners. This reviewer has no connection with the Regiment or its county, but it is a volume he is delighted to add to his library."

**Arms and Armour Society.** Reviewed by Edmund Greenwood, October 1994.

".... it is no exaggeration to call it a monumental work, which reflects much credit on the committee which oversaw its production and its authors, Major J. M. Brereton and Major A. C. S. Savory MBE, who respectively brought together a high degree of journalistic expertise and the intimate knowledge of the Regiment born of twenty years service ..... it is a book to read, being a microcosm of the British Army and its history from the raising of the 33rd Regiment of Foot on 14 March 1702. ....the quality of the illustrations and the production generally is excellent."

**Military Modelling.** Reviewed by R. J. M. November 1994.

"This beautifully produced history is the first comprehensive account of a regiment which has been in existence for nearly 300 years.... The very readable, but still detailed, account runs to 464 pages.... A comprehensive index, bibliography and a number of interesting appendices round off this first class and highly recommended work."

**Picton Publishing.** Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel J. P. Riley, MA. November 1994. Picton Publishing circulated the review to a number of journals, including the British Army Review.

"Reading this history, it is very easy to see why, quite justifiably, the Dukes have a high opinion of themselves.... Brereton and Savory had a difficult task

in writing a book like this, for it is always a compromise between producing something which is comprehensive and yet readable and of a reasonable length. They have succeeded remarkably well. ....this is a fine book of which the Regiment can be proud. ....this book, available from the Dukes RHQ in Halifax, is an absolute must."

**The War Correspondent** (Journal of the Crimea War Research Society). Reviewed by Major Colin Robins OBE. January 1995.

"The history of the Dukes (the 33rd and also the 76th who joined them after 1881), is simply the best regimental history I have read. ....as the 33rd was in pretty well every scrap worth mentioning, the history is virtually a history of the British army, and is a wonderful read. ....you do not need to be a member of the Dukes to enjoy it, for it forms a wonderful history of most of our army's battles, and I most warmly recommend it."

**The Newsletter of the Friends of the National Army Museum.** Reviewed by Major C. S. Drake, TD, MA. Spring 1995.

"This is a sumptuous book, beautifully produced in every way, with well chosen illustrations and neat maps that really do facilitate the understanding of the various battles and campaigns.... In the reviewer's opinion this is an example to which all writers of regimental histories should aspire.... Judicious use of contemporary sources adds strongly to the onward flow of the story and good (sparing) use is made of footnotes .... for a Gunner layman it was an enjoyable and inspiring read, free of all those faults which today seem to mar all too many excellent stories. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and its predecessors have enjoyed a high reputation throughout near three centuries of their combined existence. This book maintains that standard in every way and is highly recommended."

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: P. Sentsi Rengma  
c/o The War Cemetery, Kohima  
Kohima 797001, Nagaland, India

The Editor, The 'Iron Duke'

### 33rd and 76th columns: 1944

I have much pleasure to write a few lines saluting all the surviving soldiers who came to my home village Tseminyu, during the second world war, to fight against the Japanese invasion under the leadership of Major Henschman in April 1944.

I entered the British Government of India in the Naga Hills in July 1938, as an office assistant in the Deputy Commissioner's office, Kohima. When the second world war was started I became a member of the War Fund Committee of the Naga Hills District. At first we could only hear news about the war going on in Europe; but in the later days the Japanese invasion had entered our homeland. The siege of Kohima, our capital town, was started from 3 April 1944 and within a couple of days the Japanese advancing force reached our Rengma area, occupying the British Inspection bungalow at Tseminyu. On 24 April Major Henschman attacked them there. One Japanese was captured and we had two wounded and one killed (a local scout). Since the British had arrived at Tseminyu I had acted as their interpreter as well as a guide. I was with the rear guard under Lieutenant Cole. We covered Thegwepekademyu, Lagami and Kijumetouma. At Kijumetouma we were attacked at night by the Japs on 10 April. Four of us were wounded. On account of severe illness I was relieved as interpreter by Mr. T. Yas and went back home.

This was how I covered both normal and abnormal years until the transfer of power by the crown for India Independence on 15 August 1947. Last year I learnt that the Royal British Legion pilgrimage would come to Kohima to commemorate the battle of Kohima in 1944. Since then I have been anxiously waiting to meet at least someone from The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. But to my sorrow there was none. However, I had a nice time meeting Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, Air Vice Sir Bernard and Rev. R. A. McDonald.

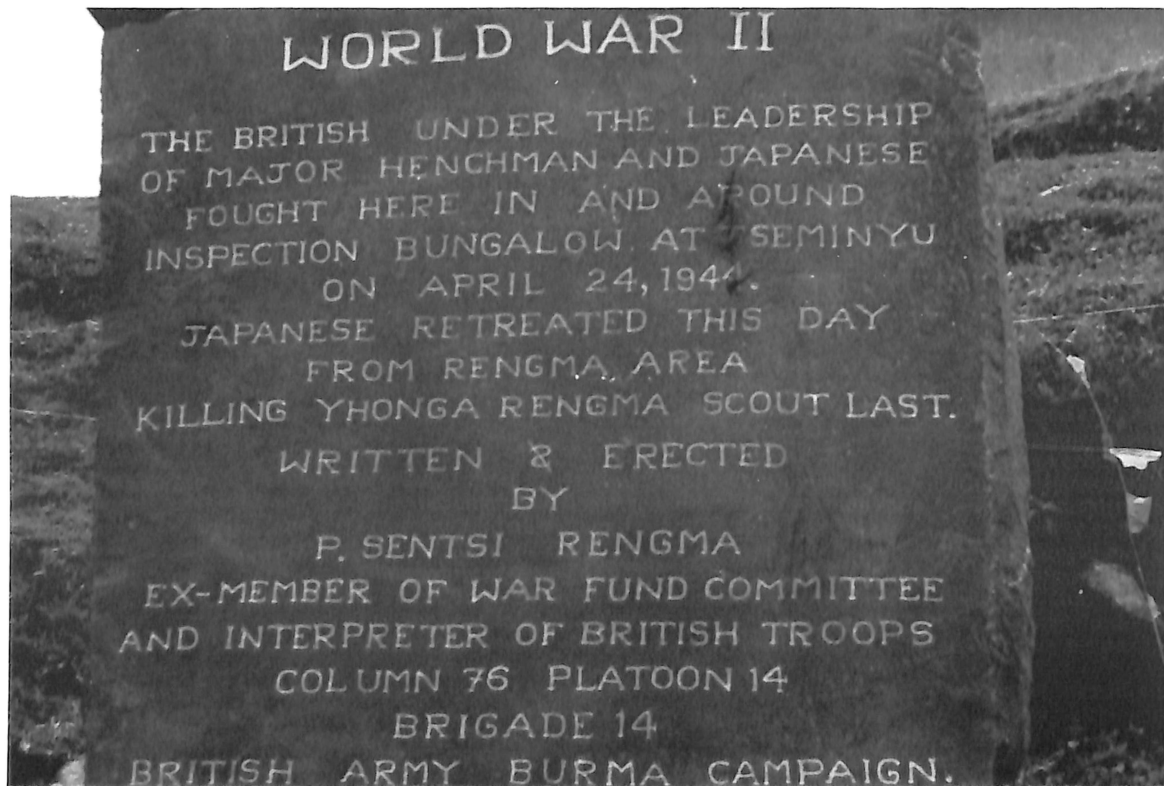
I am in my 82nd year of age and now weak and tired.

My best wishes to you,  
Yours sincerely,  
P. Sentsi

Brigadier A. D. Firth writes:

The Chindit columns operating in the Naga Hill would have been in very serious difficulty if they had not been assisted by English speaking Nagas, such as Mr. Sentsi Rengma. They were invaluable in arranging local guides, obtaining information and recruiting porters. In doing so they risked fearsome reprisals from the Japanese.

Major Henschman was an outstanding officer of the Intelligence Corps, who operated entirely alone, except for a radio operator, between Kohima and the Burma border reporting on the movements of the Japanese army. He was a great support to Lieutenant Colonel Stevens in helping to plan the move of 33rd and 76th columns through the Naga Hills.



The memorial stone at Tseminyu erected by P. Sentsi Rengma.

From: Major-General D. E. Isles,  
CB, OBE, DL  
The Laurels  
Denton  
Grantham, Lincs  
NG32 1JZ  
22 March 1995

The Editor  
The 'Iron Duke'

### Two - not one! - Calcutta Cups

The article on rugby in India in the 1994 winter issue of the Iron Duke and the Calcutta Cup rugby game played between England and Scotland last week, caused me to wonder about the actual Calcutta Cup itself.

I therefore consulted the RFU's Centenary History, published in 1970. I found that for many years I have laboured under the false impression that the Calcutta Cup held in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion and the Calcutta Cup played for between England and

Scotland were identical. Certainly, both cups were presented by the Calcutta FC - ours in 1909 and that to the Rugby Football Union in 1878 (on what turned out to be only a temporary winding-up of the Calcutta FC because of a shortage of players). But, whereas ours is a replica of the actual Calcutta Cup competed for in India, and is shown in the photograph accompanying the Iron Duke article, the one presented to the RFU is described as follows: "...made from the silver melted down from the rupee pieces withdrawn from the bank when the Calcutta Club officials closed their account. It is of the finest Indian chased workmanship, with three snake handles and an elephant surmounting the lid. It stands about eighteen inches high." It is, thus, totally different from ours. Albeit, the elephant is a nice regimental touch!

I have to wonder if I was not alone in my false impression?

Yours sincerely,  
Donald Isles

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL SYMES, 76th REGIMENT

Michael Symes was undoubtedly the most distinguished officer to serve in the 76th during its 94 years of existence, between 1787 and 1881. Of all the officers who served in the Regiment he was the only one to merit an entry in the "*Dictionary of National Biography*" (DNB). The "*Historical Record of the 76th Regiment*", regrettably, gives no indication that his career was anything out of the ordinary.

He was born in Co. Wicklow in 1761, the fifth and youngest son of Richard Symes and his wife, Eleanor. At the age of 18 he went out to India where he joined the Bengal Army of the Honourable East India Company (HEIC). In June 1781 he became a lieutenant.

In 1787 Colonel Thomas Musgrave was authorised to raise one of four new regiments for service in India. Because the costs of the regiments were to be borne by the HEIC it was stipulated that the major, four captains, eleven lieutenants and four ensigns of each regiment would be nominated by the Company. Musgrave's regiment was given the number 76 and sailed from England on 29 March 1788. The five ships carrying the Regiment arrived at Madras on various dates between 14 and 20 July. After disembarkation it was sent to Poonamallee and it was there, in September, that "two companies, which had been formed in Calcutta, joined under the command of Captain John Hamilton, who was one of the officers appointed from the Company's service". Hamilton had resigned from the HEIC service and transferred to the 76th on 8 September 1788, as had Lieutenant Michael Symes. In 1790 war broke out between the British and Tipu, the Sultan of Mysore, which lasted until 1792. Major General Thomas Musgrave had meanwhile been appointed Adjutant General of the British troops in Bengal and Madras. He selected Lieutenant Symes as his aide-de-camp. In 1793 Symes was appointed captain of an independent company. Which company and where it was located is not known. That same year he purchased his captaincy in the 76th Regiment.

In 1795 a serious incident occurred on the Arakan-Chittagong frontier of British India: Burmese forces chasing Arakanese rebels entered British territory and

refused to leave until three rebel leaders had been handed over to them. As a result the Governor-General, Sir John Shore, decided to depute an envoy to the Court of Ava. The officer chosen for reopening diplomatic relations with the Burmese after an interval of thirty three years during which there had been no official contact, was Captain Michael Symes. Why the choice fell on Symes is not clear. He was very well read and well educated, but no more than many others serving in India at that time. Be that as it may, the choice proved to be a good one. After a seven month stay in Burma he returned to Calcutta, having concluded a commercial agreement and obtained permission for the establishment of a British resident to supervise British trade at the port of Rangoon. In 1800 he returned to England on leave and published *An Account of an Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava sent by the Governor General of India in 1795*. Running to more than 500 pages and lavishly illustrated it was the fullest account of that little known country that had ever appeared in any European language. Prefaced with an historical survey of 123 pages, it contained a mass of information about the religion, government, language, geography and economy of the country. On 18 February 1801 Symes married Jemima, daughter of Paul Pilcher of Rochester.

On his return to India early in 1802 Symes joined the 76th Regiment, which was then stationed at Cawnpore, as its second lieutenant colonel in succession to Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Ross. Later that same year there was a new outbreak of trouble on the Arakan frontier, culminating with an insolent threat of war by the Burmese Governor of Arakan. Lord Mornington, who had succeeded Sir John Shore as Governor General, decided once again to send an envoy to the Court of Ava and once again Michael Symes was selected for this task. However, he did not publish an account of his second visit. *The Historical records of the 76th Regiment* merely noted that "he (Symes) was sent on a political mission to the Court of Ava and thus had the misfortune to escape the campaigns of 1803-04-05 (the Mahratta wars)". In February 1806 the 76th, which included Lieutenant Colonel Symes, sailed for England, where it arrived four and a half months later.

Lieutenant Colonel the Hon William Monson, the officer commanding the 76th Regiment, died on 16 December 1807. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Symes, who was then holding an appointment at the Horse Guards, succeeded him, though he does not appear to have joined the Regiment until August 1808 when it was warned for active service in Spain. The force of 15,000 men, under the command of General Sir David Baird, landed at Corunna on 13 October with orders to move southwards to join up with an army under the command of Sir John Moore. However, a French army of 200,000 men under Napoleon entered Spain in late December, which meant that Moore had no option other than to retire. And so, on 23 December 1808, began the dreadful retreat to Corunna. Between Moore and that haven lay some of the wildest country in all Spain. The march would have been arduous in summer, but snow, ice and sub-zero temperatures added to the miseries. On one two day march of 48 miles the 76th lost 45 men, nearly all from exhaustion and exposure. On 12 January 1809 the army staggered into Corunna, ragged, shoeless and starving. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Symes died on board the transport "Mary" on 22 January in consequence of

the extraordinary exertions and fatigues he had to undergo. He was buried in St. Margaret's Church, Rochester, on 3 February 1809.

Michael Symes was a man of fine character and charming personality of whom General Sir David Baird wrote, "He was a gentleman whose civil and military qualities were equally conspicuous; and in all the private relations of life he was universally esteemed. He was twice Ambassador at the Court of Ava; and of his first mission there, the account he published obtained for him considerable literary reputation". (*Life of Sir David Baird*. Volume II). A fitting epitaph for a distinguished member of the 76th Regiment.

A.C.S.S.

#### Sources:

The Historical Records of the 76th Regiment  
The Dictionary of National Biography  
Michael Symes, Journal of his Second Embassy to the Court of Ava in 1802 (George Allen and Unwin 1955)  
D. G. E. Hall  
Hodson Index of Honourable East India Company Officers (National Army Museum)

## RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

### PART IV: FROM EGYPT TO SINGAPORE

The Casr-el-Nil Barracks were very different from the barracks at Gosport. They were far larger and the rooms much more spacious, which was of great benefit in the heat of the day. We soon settled in, though the 2nd Battalion boys continued, for a while, to call us rookies. However, after a few fights we were accepted and soon new friendships were formed. After a fortnight we were allowed out of barracks and set about seeing the sights.

My ambition was to see the Pyramids. So, one afternoon Jones and I set off to see them. On the way we were pestered to buy some dirty postcards, an offer we easily declined for the reason we could not afford them. On arrival at the Pyramids we were surprised they did not look like they do in photographs. They gave the impression that the sides were smooth, but we discovered that in fact they consisted of huge blocks of stone stretching from the bottom to the very top. Jones said "I bet no one has ever climbed them before. What an honour for the Dukes if we can get to the top". Off we set to climb the Pyramid called Cheops, according to what we were told. Eventually, after stopping every five minutes to wipe the sweat from our faces, we reached the top. On arrival we were greeted with the words "Syida effendi. Coffee is two ackers a cup". What I said to Jones does not bear repeating. The climb had nearly killed me and even after all these years the thought of it still makes me break out in a sweat. I told him never to tell the other lads about our climb as we would never live it down and then made him pay for my coffee.

I then discovered there was a place called Luxor where the Pharaohs of Egypt were buried and where there were many interesting sights with thousands of years of history behind them. At the first opportunity I sought a week's leave in order to go with a party on a trip to Luxor. The journey from Cairo to Luxor was by Nile river boat. The sight that met us was unbelievable with tall statues in near perfect condition. You could almost smell the history and I

felt very small. Some of our party entered a big cave in which there was a statue of a Pharaoh going to his wedding chamber. He was about forty feet high and had no clothes on. At first it was difficult to see all of the statue because there was a crowd of American tourists in front of us taking photographs. Much to our amusement there was one lady with a tape measuring the statue's penis, which I reckoned was about six feet in length. There was some embarrassment when they discovered we were watching them.

Shortly after my return from Luxor we were told that the Battalion was to get ready to embark for Singapore in the following week. For those of us who had only recently arrived from England the thought of a few more weeks in a troopship was not a pleasant prospect, but at least we knew what to expect. On the Monday morning we marched through Cairo with the band and drums playing, followed by a crowd of natives telling us what they thought of us in highly uncomplimentary terms. That was not all that surprising as we British thought we were the salt of the earth and called them Wogs. In those days of the Empire we treated all coloured people as inferior. (The war has proved how wrong we were.) On arrival at the station we boarded an armoured train which took us to Suez where, on 12 February 1926, we boarded the troopship *Derbyshire* for Singapore.

After a voyage of three weeks, we arrived at Singapore. Overlooking the harbour was what looked like a fort (it was later named Fort Canning). At that time I had never heard of reincarnation and if anyone had told me about it I would have said they were mad. So it was strange that while on deck with my mates I said "I know this place. I have been here before". Boy Ellis, who was standing next to me, said "Joe, I think you are going round the bend". But I stuck to my belief and told him that at the back of the fort was a ruined temple filled with snakes. About six months later I was with a party of men sent to help clean up the

fort and, as I had foretold, there were the temple and the snakes. The lads told me I had made it up, but later when we arrived in India, I had some more experiences of reincarnation.

After we had landed we marched up Orchard Road with the band and drums playing. The heat was terrible as Singapore is only a mile and a half from the equator. After about seven miles we reached Tanglin Barracks where we were allocated to our various barrack blocks. The barracks was well ventilated and spacious and we had punkahs to help to keep us cool. It was a great relief to get a bath and a change of clothing. Singapore was a completely different place to Egypt. It was beautiful and clean with plenty of open spaces. Near the barracks were the Botanical Gardens where we gave many open air concerts.

On the other side of the barracks was a banana grove. One day two of us decided to have a look at how they grew. It proved too much of a temptation and my mate climbed the tree and at the top grabbed a few bananas and threw them down. Hearing someone coming I shouted to my mate to come down quickly. However we did not know that the top of the tree was sticky with melted sugar. My mate was stuck. At that moment an old Chinaman approached. What he said in Chinese I do not know, but it did not sound nice. He got a ladder and helped my mate down. He then said, in pidgin English and very politely, "You are very bad boys. Why do you steal my fruit? If you had asked I would have given some to you". We apologised and offered to pay for them. He smiled, bowed and declined our money, but again said "It is bad to take what is not yours so next time please ask". My mate's uniform was in an awful mess. The old man said "You will get into trouble. Come with me". We went into his

hut where he cleaned my mate's uniform with a special solution. After that we got on splendidly with the old Chinaman and he used to come to the barracks to sell his fruit.

Shortly after we had settled in we were issued with flaps to wear on the back of our topees and spine pads for our backs. It was so hot they nearly killed us and they were soon withdrawn. On church parades we were issued with small sweat towels to wear on our belts. Some of us boys were put in the choir and dressed in white. We looked innocent and good, but if the Padre (\*) had heard some of the words we put to the hymns he would have quit. He was a very kind man and used to invite the boys to visit his quarters where he would serve us soft drinks and some food. He never tried to lecture us on our evil ways, though he must have known what a wicked shower we were.

It was difficult to get into the town, particularly if you could not afford a rickshaw, which on our low pay was very rarely. So we had to walk. Plenty of cars passed but when we put our hands up for a lift the planters and other British people ignored us. What we called after them does not bear repeating. We were always smartly dressed in our white uniforms but it made no difference. On the other hand the Chinese and Malaysians would invariably stop to give us a lift.

J. Kendrew

*\*Padre E. G. Semple MA. A great and much respected friend of all ranks of the 2nd Battalion. When he left Singapore in 1927 a number of presentations were made to him in appreciation of all that he had done for the Battalion. In 1985, following his death, his widow returned the gifts to the Regiment.*

## THE DOGS' CEMETERY

On a summer's day in 1847 the soldiers of the 76th Regiment stationed at Edinburgh Castle were amused and astonished to witness an unusual funeral procession winding its way through the ancient fortress towards the Mons Meg Battery.

The sombre contingent was composed of four regimental pioneers carrying a small black painted coffin followed by two NCOs. The burial party was led by 13 year old James McGregor Grant whose father was an ordnance engineer based at the castle.

He had offered to give the commandant's dog, Fido, a decent burial in a nice quiet spot nearby for the modest fee of one sovereign. The colonel had conferred with his wife and daughters who agreed that they would like Fido to be put to rest in a civilised manner and that James should handle the arrangements. Pocketing his fee the youngster borrowed a tape measure from one of the colonel's daughters and tiptoed up to the attic where Fido lay to take the spaniel's measurements.

Assuring the family that he had the matter well in hand, James headed for the armourer's workshop where he handed Fido's dimensions to the sergeant and asked him to instruct the regimental carpenter to construct the coffin. He specified that the canine casket was to be painted lamp black with 'Fido' and the date of his demise in white letters on the lid. It was to be lined with white flannel and delivered promptly to the colonel's quarters at three o'clock.

His next call was on Corporal Tomkins of the regimental pioneers. Taking the corporal to a small plot of land under the shadow of Mons Meg, James showed him the place where Fido was to be interred. Using the commandant's authority James requested that a burial party of four pioneers report to the armourer's shop at precisely four o'clock. At first the corporal refused, mortally offended at being asked to act as a mourner for a dog even if it had belonged to the colonel, but he quickly changed his mind when James showed him the shiny sovereign promising that each member of the burial party would be rewarded with a shilling to spend on beer in the castle's canteen.

At four o'clock on the dot the burial party proceeded from the armourer's shop and as the cortege marched over the cobbles of the fortress carrying the coffin, the red jacketed mourners were the target for a barrage of offensive remarks and cat calls from the soldiers of garrison. Concentrating on the thought of the payment they were to receive when they had completed their contract the pall bearers ignored the insults and, maintaining their dignity, marched steadfastly onwards carrying Fido to his final resting place.

Reaching the garden, the burial party lowered the spaniel's remains into the grave and shoveled in the earth. After the sods were replaced James handed each of the soldiers the shilling as promised and waved them goodbye as they took off for the castle canteen.



The regimental adjutant had witnessed the ceremony as he was carrying out his rounds, and when he called on the colonel that evening to deliver his daily report the officer suggested that the plot, normally a playground for the children of the garrison, would make an ideal site for any future regimental pets who might expire in the castle. The colonel agreed that the adjutant's proposal was a good one, adding that the area should be named the Dogs' Cemetery.

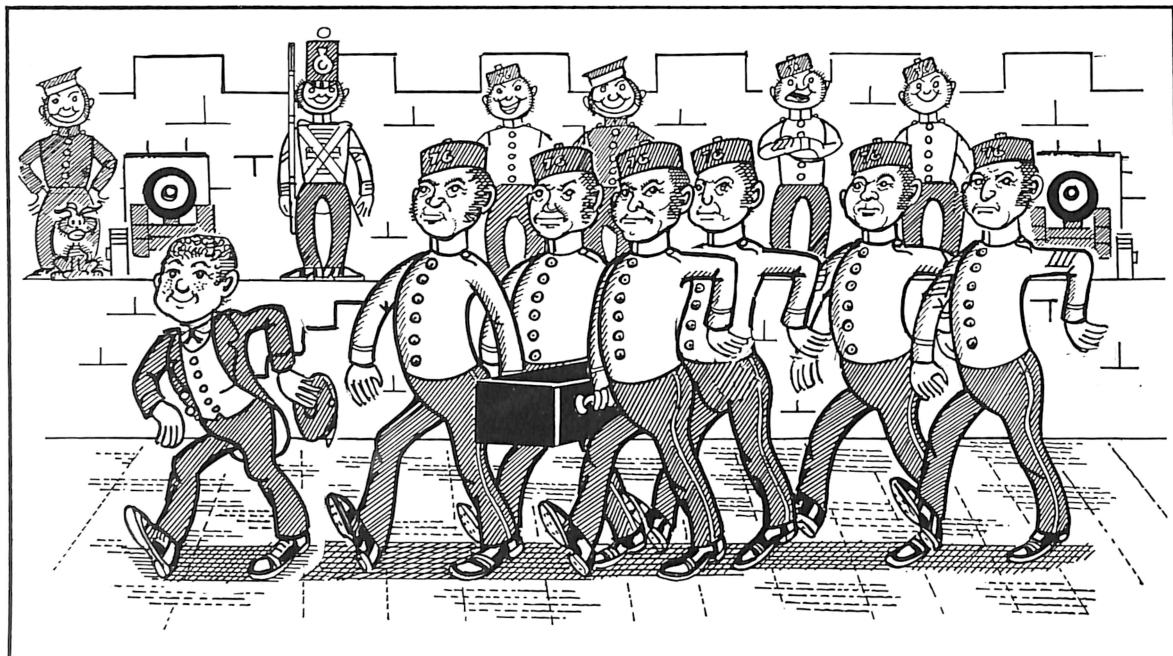
Thirty years later, having emigrated to Canada, James Grant returned to the castle and was surprised to find that nearly forty regimental dogs were buried in the small plot overlooking Princes Street Gardens. The cemetery along with Greyfriars Bobby's Fountain had become a favourite spot for tourists, especially Americans, visiting the Scottish capital.

The ground was carefully tended and a stone or monument stood over each grave bearing inscriptions such as 'Frisky, Dog of the 33rd Regiment, served through the Crimean War', 'Lions, Dog of the Black Watch, present at Lucknow', Caesar, King's Own, present at the Alma'.

No record survives listing the number of regimental mascots and pets who lie in the cemetery. Since the plot was established, dogs have been buried one on top of another and the spot where Fido was laid to rest can no longer be identified.

The identity of many of the regimental mascots and pets buried in the spot has now been lost to history but the name of Fido lives on.

G. Robinson



# Regimental Association

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

President: Brigadier W. R. Mundell, OBE

Vice-President: Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth, OBE

General Secretary: Major R. Heron, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA.

## BRANCHES

**Bradford:** 8.30 p.m. first Thursday of each month at Slackside WMC, Beacon Road, Wibsey, Bradford.

*Secretary:* Mr. D. Woolley, Bute Terrace, 8 Smith House Lane, Brighouse, HD6 2JY.

**Halifax:** 8.00 p.m. second Tuesday of each month at the WO's & Sgts Mess, The Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax.

*Secretary:* Mr. P. R. Taylor, 3 Coley View, Northowram, Halifax, HX3 7EB.

**Huddersfield:** 8.15 p.m. last Friday of each month at Turnbridge WMC, St. Andrew's Road, Aspley.

*Secretary:* Mr. P. Holt, 23 Celandine Drive, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield, HD3 3UT.

**Keighley:** 8.30 p.m. last Thursday of each month at Boothy's Public House, Low Mill Lane, Keighley.

*Secretary:* Mr. C. W. Akrigg, 10 Eastfield Place, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley.

**London:** Twice yearly. 1995 meetings on 29 January and 18 June at the Union Jack Club, near Waterloo Station, London, at 12.00 noon.

*Secretary:* Mr. N. Butler, 37 Addison Gardens, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8DJ.

**Mossley:** 8.30 p.m. first Wednesday of each month at Mossley Conservative Club, Mossley.

*Secretary:* Mr. C. J. H. Quest, 39 Kingfisher Avenue, Audenshaw, Manchester.

**Sheffield:** 8.00 p.m. second Tuesday of each month at Sergeants' Mess, 3 DWR, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield.

*Secretary:* Mr. D. L. Keeton JP, 31 Burns Road, Dinnington, Sheffield, S31 7LN.

**Skipton:** 8.00 p.m. second Thursday of each month at The Royal British Legion Club, Newmarket Street, Skipton.

*Secretary:* Mrs. M. Bell, 39 Western Road, Skipton, BD23 2RU.

**York:** 8.00 p.m. first Monday of each month at the Post Office Social Club, Marygate, York.

*Secretary:* Mr. J. Hemming, 10 Lockey Croft, Wigginton, York, YO3 3FP.

## TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE BATTALION'S OCA

**5th Battalion.** *Secretary:* Mr. L. Stott, 18 Manor Park, Mirfield, West Yorks, WF14 0EW.

**6th Battalion.** *Secretary:* Captain J. H. Turner, The Nook, Church Street, Gargrave, Skipton.

**8th Battalion (145 Regiment) RAC.** *Secretary:* Mr. A. T. E. Duncan, Millmore, Killan, Perthshire.

**9th Battalion (146 Regiment) RAC.** *Secretary:* Mr. T. Moore, 229 Rochester Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4TW.

\* \* \* \* \*

## HALIFAX BRANCH

Future meetings of the branch will take place in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, the Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax at 8.00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Mr. Brian Searson, for many years the secretary of the branch, has handed over to Mr. Paul Taylor. Mr. Geoff Hunter has taken over as branch Treasurer.

## DEIGHTON WAR MEMORIAL

The names of servicemen who died in the second world war will be included on a war memorial at Deighton as part of plans to refurbish it. The war memorial, which is in a garden of remembrance at Deighton Working Men's Club, at present contains only the names of those who died in the first world war.

An appeal has been made for help to find the names of people from the Deighton area who lost their lives during the 1939-45 war. Relatives or friends who want the names included on the memorial are requested to contact Mr. Harold Lodge whose telephone number is Huddersfield (01484) 518507.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FELTON

On 15 January 1995 a memorial service was held at Felton Parish Church, near Alnwick, to commemorate the deaths of ten young soldiers who died during a training exercise at Guyzance, Northumberland, on 17 January 1945. The soldiers were swept to their deaths over a weir while on a river crossing exercise on the River Coquet. Two of them

were Dukes and eight were from the Durham Light Infantry. The two members of the Regiment were Private Norman Ashton and Lance Corporal Mark Friedlieb.

At a well attended service, during which wreaths were laid at a Book of Remembrance to which the names of the ten soldiers had been added, the lessons were read by the Regimental Secretary and the Branch Secretary of the DLI. The Regiment has donated a sum of money to the funds of the church to be used for the purchase of a new linen altar cloth.

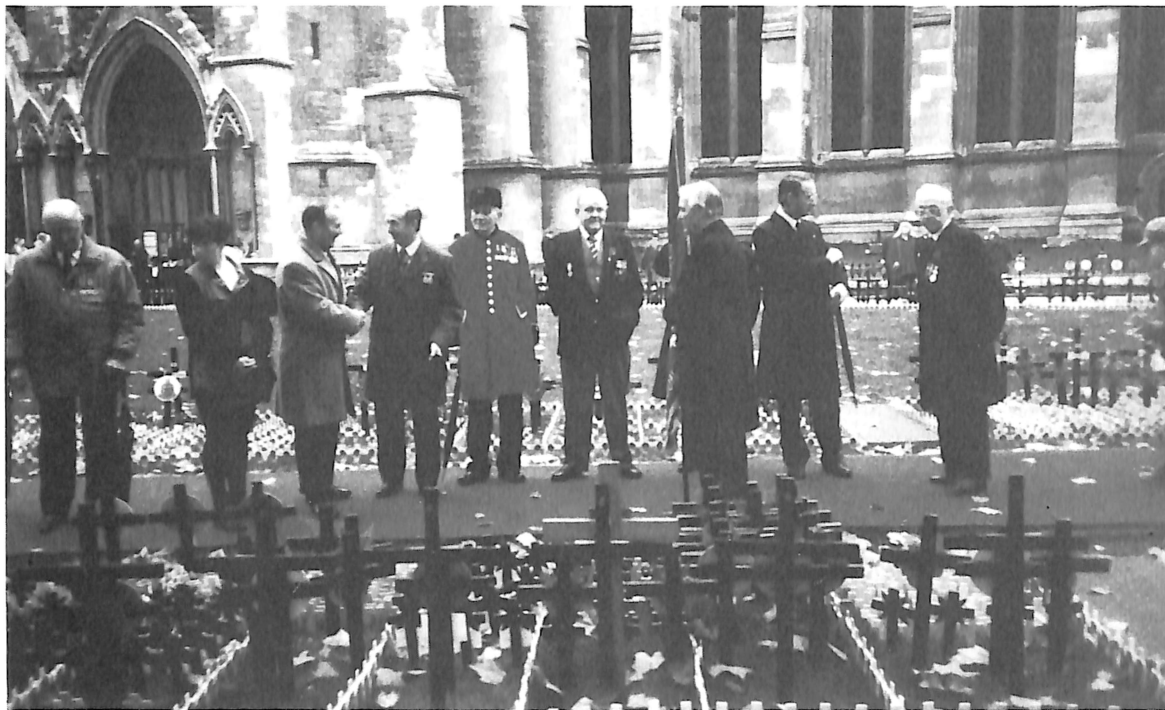
## 6 DWR ANNUAL DINNER

The date of this year's 6 DWR annual dinner is now Saturday 30 September 1995 and will take place at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton. The AGM, which will start at 6.30 p.m., will be followed by the dinner at 7.30 p.m.

The change from the usual first Saturday in October is because of a clash with the Regimental Association dinner.

## THE NATIONAL EX-PRISONER OF WAR ASSOCIATION

The annual ex-prisoner of war reunion will be at Warner's Holiday Village, Hayling Island, from Friday 20 October to Monday 23 October 1995. Ex-prisoners of war relatives and/or supporters who require further information should send a SAE to: Charles Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury, SP2 8HG, or telephone 01722 333599.



Members of the London Branch at the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.



Harry Haldenby being presented with a D Day and battle of Normandy 50th anniversary commemorative medal by the president of the regional council at Caen. Mr. Haldenby is a member of the Huddersfield Veterans Association and of the Halifax Branch of the Regimental Association.



Ex WO2 Paul Grey (left) who now lives in Scarborough raised £870.00 for the funds of the Royal British Legion by taking part in the Great North Run.



Major Alan Westcob's car with its distinctive number plate.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH . . .

**Harry Randall** MBE, who was RSM of the 1st Battalion from 1957-62 is now a patient in St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. Harry, who has lived in north Cyprus since retirement has returned to the UK for treatment. He has been visited by members of the London branch and sends his regards to the Regiment.

**Len Wilson** retired in 1980 after twenty nine years' service. He was then actively involved with the Sheffield branch until he was forced to stand down because of ill health. Len has suffered a number of strokes and has been diagnosed as suffering from multiple system atrophy (MSA) an advanced form of Parkinson's Disease. The result has been a complete loss of mobility and speech. In order to try and improve Len's quality of life the Regimental Association, with assistance from the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal British Legion, has installed a stair lift in his home.

**Norman Welch**, who served in North Africa and Italy in the Recce Troop of 145 Regiment RAC (8th Battalion DWR) would like to make contact with former members of the Troop. His address is: Namron, Hillside, Coalpit Lane, Langley, Macclesfield, SK11 0DQ.

Recently **Gino Repetati** and his wife were travelling by train from Canterbury to Victoria for a meeting of the London branch when their train was hunted into a siding. Shortly afterwards they saw the Britannia class steam engine, *Iron Duke*, pass on its way to Dover. Its task was to haul the last train out of Dover Marine Station before it was closed down.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS/\*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

\* Mr. D. Mace, 5 Bute Street, Heaton, Bolton, Lancashire, BL1 5JN.

Mr. G. R. Brook CBE, 'Monkwood', 2 Abbey Court, Abbey Road, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 8HX.

Mrs. D. Burton, 27 Lindsay Street, Kirriemuir, Angus, DD8 5DQ.

Mr. D. L. Dey, 10 Jasmine Close, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 4PD.

Mrs. V. A. M. Vaughan, 38 Queens Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 3EA.

Mrs. D. M. Foxley, Fairhaven, 468 Winchester Road, Bassett, Southampton, SO1 7DD.

\* Mr. T. J. Coburn, 5 Grayling Court, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, HD4 1TF.

\* Mr. B. Johnson, 272 Darton Lane, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 6AJ.

\* Mr. C. H. Owen, 49 Palewood Close, Noctorum, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L43 9YW.

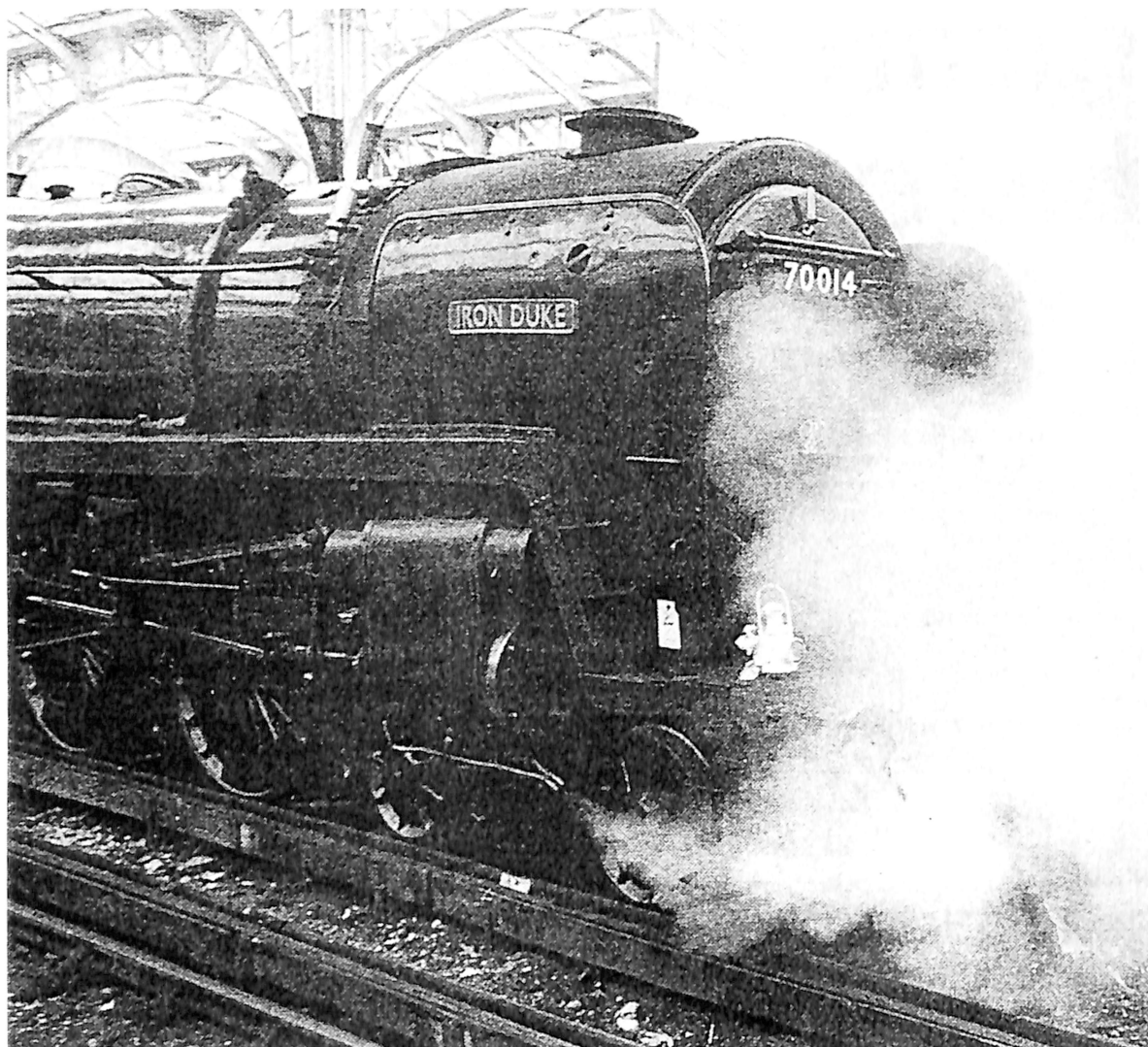
\* Mr. Kurt Troels Larsen, Tagensvej 166 1/tv, 2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark.

Lieutenant Colonel M. J. Stone, ITC Catterick, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS.

\* Mr. E. Pemberton, 16 Glenlee Road, Lidget Green, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 2QA.

Mr. N. G. Borwell, 4 Heathlands Drive, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 4NF.

Brigadier A. D. Firth OBE, MC, Trinity House, Front Street, Burnham Market, Norfolk, PE31 8EJ.



The steam engine "Iron Duke" at Dover.

\* Mr. Peter H. Robinson, 323 West Jefferson, Blondinsville IL, 61420-0271 USA.

Mr. M. Tinsley, 2 Chestnut Court, Bulford Road, Durrington, Wiltshire, SP4 8HA.

Mr. B. Noble, 8 Burtree Avenue, Skelton, York, YO3 6YT.

Rev. T. W. Richardson, 3 Broadgait Court, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2DL, Scotland.

\* Mr. L. Brook, 52 Swindon Road, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 4PU.

Mr. C. A. Harvey, 17 Abbot's Hill, Abbot's Ann, Andover, Hants, SP11 6QD.

Mr. R. F. Diacon, 65 Middle Mead, Hook, Basingstoke, Hants, RG27 9TE.

Major M. A. Lodge, HQ CSSG (UK), Buller Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BX.

\* Mr. E. F. W. Grant, 20 Iona Avenue, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3JQ.

Mr. R. W. Sharpe, 105 9004 86th Street, Fort St. John V1J SZ6, B.C. Canada.



## Obituaries

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

### Colonel J. Davidson

Colonel Jimmy Davidson died on 18 November 1994 aged 80.

He was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He joined the Regiment in Malta in 1935 and very early on made his mark as a regimental officer. Although a firm disciplinarian, he carried the gift of being a friend to his men throughout his life. He possessed a sound knowledge of administration, and this combined with his patience and tolerance greatly influenced the efficiency of the 1st Battalion during his tour as second in command.

He returned from Malta with the 1st Battalion in early 1937 for a short tour of duty at the Depot before becoming successively adjutant of 2/7th DWR and then 10 DWR. This led him to the Staff College at Camberley, and the appointment of GS0II of 55 Division. For the remainder of the war he had a roving commission: in Burma, he was brigade major of 72 Infantry Brigade; then he served with the 2nd West Yorks, before going to Java as Brigade Major 91 Indian Infantry Brigade. Then he was back with 2nd West Yorks in Malaya as second in command and finally went to Meerut in India as Brigade Major 16 British Brigade Group, of which the 2nd Battalion was part.

After the war Jimmy returned to the 1st Battalion as a company commander at Strensall which was followed by a tour with West Africa Command before going to Gibraltar as second in command to Bob Moran in 1954. He was then appointed to command 5/7th Battalion in Huddersfield, where he was instrumental in reinforcing the Regiment's strong ties with the West Riding. He was AQMG at HQ East Africa Command, where he and Dorothy were splendid hosts to members of the 1st Battalion when it was despatched to Kenya on emergency tours in 1959 and 1960. On promotion to colonel, he became Garrison Commander HQ BAOR, and then finally, in his last appointment before retiring, Yorkshire Brigade Colonel. In this appointment the Regiment had a significant friend at court, and benefited from Jimmy's wise advice, especially on career planning. In retirement from 1966-1979, he took up the appointment of Officer in Charge of Records, Prince of Wales Division, at Imphal Barracks, York.

He was a keen sportsman, a first class rugby player with a blue at Sandhurst, and captain in 1934. He was also a good cricketer and from time to time played for the Yorkshire Gentlemen. He was a very reliable golfer and a good shot. Tall, well-built and handsome, he was aptly described as the "Gentle Giant" by one of his brother officers.

G.F.U.

### S. M. Canham

Lance Corporal Stephen Canham died following a motorbike accident on 27 November 1994. He was 25 years old. He enlisted into the army as a junior soldier in December 1985 and joined the 1st Battalion in

September of the following year. He saw service in Northern Ireland, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Bosnia. He was employed as a rifleman and then as an assault pioneer before joining the Regimental pioneers in 1991. There he found his niche. He will be remembered as a popular and cheerful soldier, particularly on Operation Grapple where he was often found helping to maintain high morale both among his fellow soldiers and local civilians.

### L. C. Derrick-Jehu OBE

Leonard Derrick-Jehu died on 14 December 1994 aged 75. He served in the 146 Regiment RAC (8th Battalion DWR) in North Africa and Italy as 2i/c of a squadron.

### Major F. J. Lauder

Francis, "Harry", Lauder died on 28 October 1994 aged 84. He was commissioned into the Regiment in 1930 and almost immediately joined the 2nd Battalion, then serving in India. He remained with the Battalion until early in 1939 when he joined the 1st Battalion at Borden. He accompanied the Battalion to France in August 1939 as 2i/c of a company. Sometime before Dunkirk he was selected to return to the UK to help train newly raised TA battalions. His service thereafter was almost entirely away from the Regiment and included tours in West Africa and BAOR. He retired in 1955.

### Captain N. E. Tuckwell

Nigel Tuckwell died on 25 November 1994, aged 78. He volunteered for the army in February 1940 and in 1942 joined the 1st Battalion. In the campaigns in North Africa and Italy he commanded the anti-tank platoon until captured and taken prisoner at Anzio. He spent the remainder of the war in Oflag 78 in Germany. After the war he became a schoolmaster at Dover College, where he remained until his retirement.

He will be remembered as an efficient, cheerful and calm officer who was liked by all who knew him.

### Mr. W. Margison

Bill Margison died suddenly, on 1 February 1995, aged 54.

Bill joined the 1st Battalion in 1957 and completed nine years service. He will be best remembered for his time working in the officers' mess and as the Battalion Rugby XV touch judge for a number of years. Bill was a most likeable character and made friends easily. This was reflected in the large turnout at his funeral which took place in Halifax on 7 February 1995.

### Mr. J. Buckley

Jack Buckley died on 22 November 1994 after returning home from a visit to France with his Mossley Branch of the Regimental Association. He was aged 74.

Jack served with the 1/7 Battalion during the second world war in Iceland and NW Europe. He is remembered by his comrades of C Company as a 'sniper' of some ability.

Jack's funeral was attended by many members of the Mossley Branch.

#### Major T. W. Hibbert

Tom Hibbert died on 14 February 1995 aged 84.

Tom was commissioned into the 1/7th Battalion in September 1939. He served with the Battalion in Iceland and Normandy. For a short period in 1942/43 he was adjutant of 69 Recce Unit. Late in 1944 he attended the Staff College following which he held staff appointments in London and the Netherlands. After his wartime service, which ended December 1945, he joined British Mohair Spinners, Bradford, as an accountant. Within three years he became the finance director. In 1977 he became chairman and managing director of the company, an appointment he held until his retirement in 1980. He wrote a book "In Search of Mohair" based on his experiences in the industry.

Tom was president of the West Yorkshire Society of Chartered Accountants in 1962. He was closely involved with the Yorkshire Association of Boys' Clubs of which he was president until 1994.

Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier and Major Bruce Murgatroyd represented the Regiment at the funeral.

#### Mr. A. H. Yeadon

Alfred (Alf) Yeadon died on Tuesday 28 February 1995, aged 75 years.

Alf served with 1/7th DWR throughout the second world war in Iceland and NW Europe until he was seriously wounded in Wageningen, Holland in April 1945. He was a signaller in the carrier platoon at the time, when his carrier was blown up by a mine.

After extensive treatment and rehabilitation, Alf eventually returned to Huddersfield where he worked for the timber merchants, Jarrett, Pyrah & Armitage for the rest of his working life.

The funeral service took place at St. John's Church, Golcar. Members of the Huddersfield Branch of the Regimental Association represented the Regiment at the funeral.

#### Mr. B. Harrington

Bernard Harrington died on Tuesday 28 February 1995, aged 79 years.

Bernard joined the Dukes in 1940 and served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions throughout the second world war in Africa, India and Burma (Chindits).

In recent years, Bernard Harrington has been a regular supporter of the London Branch of the Regimental Association. A number of the branch members attended his funeral.

The following have also died during recent months:

**Major E. Whitehead.** Died on 5 December 1994, aged 73. He served with the 5th Battalion during the second world war and subsequently with the 5th/7th Battalion.

**Mr. S. A. Middleton.** Died on 28 November 1994. He served with the 1st Battalion in Italy during the war. He and his wife were present at the minster service on 5 November 1994.

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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# Officers' Location List

As at April 1995

## Colonels

A. D. Meek, Comdt ITC Wales

## Lieutenant Colonels

P. D. D. J. Andrews, ITDU Warminster  
D. M. Santa-Olalla MC, SO 1 DS Staff College  
N. St. J. Hall BA, CO 1 DWR  
K. Best, CO 4/5 Green Howards  
T. C. S. Bonas BA, CO 3 DWR  
A. H. S. Drake MBE, HQ King's Division  
M. J. Stone, CO ITC Catterick  
S. C. Newton, JSDC Greenwich

## Majors

C. N. St. P. Bunbury MBE, Asst Comdt MCTC  
C. G. Fitzgerald, ATR Winchester  
P. J. Morgan MOD, DIS, DI  
M. S. Sherlock, 2i/c ITB Strensall  
C. F. Grieve MBE, Trg Maj 3 DWR  
D. I. Richardson, HQ King's Division  
P. R. S. Bailey, 2i/c 1 DWR  
G. A. Kilburn MBE, HQ ARRC  
G. D. Shuttleworth, 2i/c 1 Kings  
N. G. Borwell, 1 DWR  
C. S. T. Lehmann, 1 DWR  
D. S. Bruce, 1 DWR  
P. Wilkinson (LE), QM ITB Strensall  
M. L. Sullivan (PWO) 1 DWR  
P. M. Lewis, HQ NI  
J. C. Bailey, 1 DWR

## Captains

M. A. Lodge, HQ CSSG (UK)  
R. N. Chadwick, Abu Dhabi UAE  
R. C. Holroyd, HQ NI  
R. N. Goodwin, HQ Land Command  
A. J. Adams, Adjutant 3 DWR  
S. R. Neath, DWR. Retires 6 May '95  
M. D. Norman, RMAS  
M. J. Wolff, 1 DWR  
B. J. T. Faithfull, 1 DWR  
J. H. Purcell, 1 DWR  
D. P. Monteith, Adjutant 1 DWR  
B. W. Sykes MBE, (LE) QM 1 DWR  
S. C. Pinder, 1 DWR  
T. G. Vallings, 1 DWR  
J. C. Mayo, (SRC) 1 DWR  
R. C. O'Connor, 1 DWR

## Subalterns

R. J. Douthwaite, ATR Glencorse  
J. R. Bryden, 1 DWR

## SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION OFFICERS

### Captains

P. M. Ennis, (LE) 1 DWR  
G. Knight, 1 DWR. Retires 10 April '95  
A. J. D. Wheatley, AAC  
M. T. I. Priest, 1 DWR. Retires 31 March '95  
P. R. Fox, 1 DWR

### Subalterns

R. F. E. Hammond, 124 (DWR) AYT  
J. N. Mitchell, ITC Catterick  
N. M. B. Wood, 1 DWR  
B. H. Walsgrove, 1 DWR  
S. J. Stewart (A/Capt) CTC RM  
W. T. Mundell, ITC Catterick  
N. P. Rhodes, 1 DWR  
G. A. M. Purcell, 1 DWR  
J. E. Townhill, 1 DWR  
C. P. B. Langlands-Pearse, 1 DWR  
J. F. C. Victoria, 1 DWR  
A. J. M. Liddle, 1 DWR  
J. W. Charlesworth, 1 DWR  
T. G. J. Golding, 1 DWR  
R. M. Pierce, (LE) 1 DWR