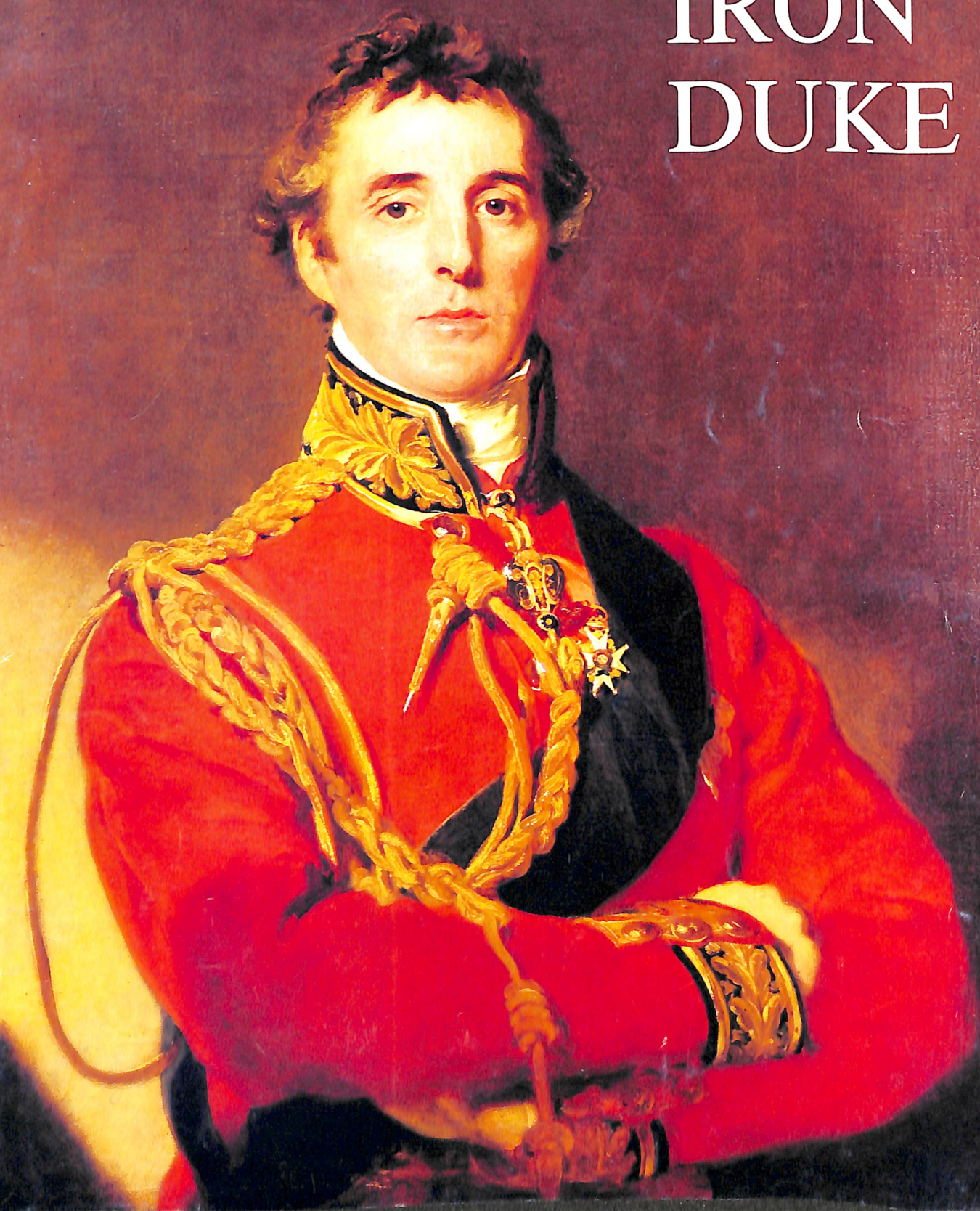


WINTER 1996  
No. 232

# THE IRON DUKE



# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

Vol. LXV

Winter 1996

No. 232

### BUSINESS NOTES

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The opinions expressed in the articles of the journal are those of the  
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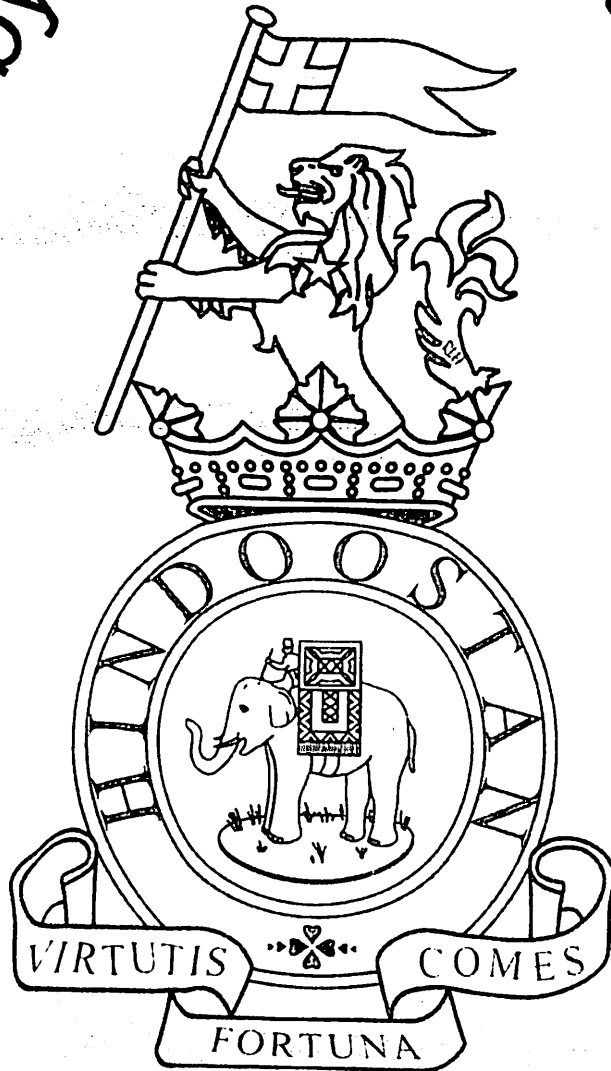
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# THE REGIMENT

## *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 Royal Armouries Museum, Armouries Drive, Leeds, LS10 1LT.*

#### **Regimental Headquarters**

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

Regimental Secretary: Major D. L. J. Harrap, LL.B.

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 T. G. Vallings

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 A. J. Sutcliffe

#### **3rd Battalion**

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

Honorary Colonel: Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, KCB, CBE

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel A. H. S. Drake, MBE

Adjutant: Captain J. H. Purcell

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

### **ARMY CADET FORCE - DWR**

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

D Company Detachments  
OC: Major P. Cole

Halifax	Heckmondwike	Mirfield	Thongsbridge
Huddersfield	Keighley	Skipton	

#### **Humberside and South Yorkshire**

C Company Detachments  
OC: Major B. Bradford  
D Company Detachments  
OC: Major T. Scrivens

Barnsley	Thurcroft	Wombwell
Darfield	Wath on Dearne	
Birdwell	Endcliffe	

### **COMBINED CADET FORCE - DWR**

**Giggleswick School CCF**  
CO: Lieut. Col. N. J. Mussett

**Leeds Grammar School CCF**  
CO: Squadron Leader R. Hill

**Wellington College CCF**  
CO: Lieut. Commander J. J. Hutchinson

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

#### **Les Voltigeurs de Quebec**

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

Honorary Colonels: Colonel Marcel Jobin, CM, CQ

Lieutenant Colonel André Desmarais

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel Claude Pichette, 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**

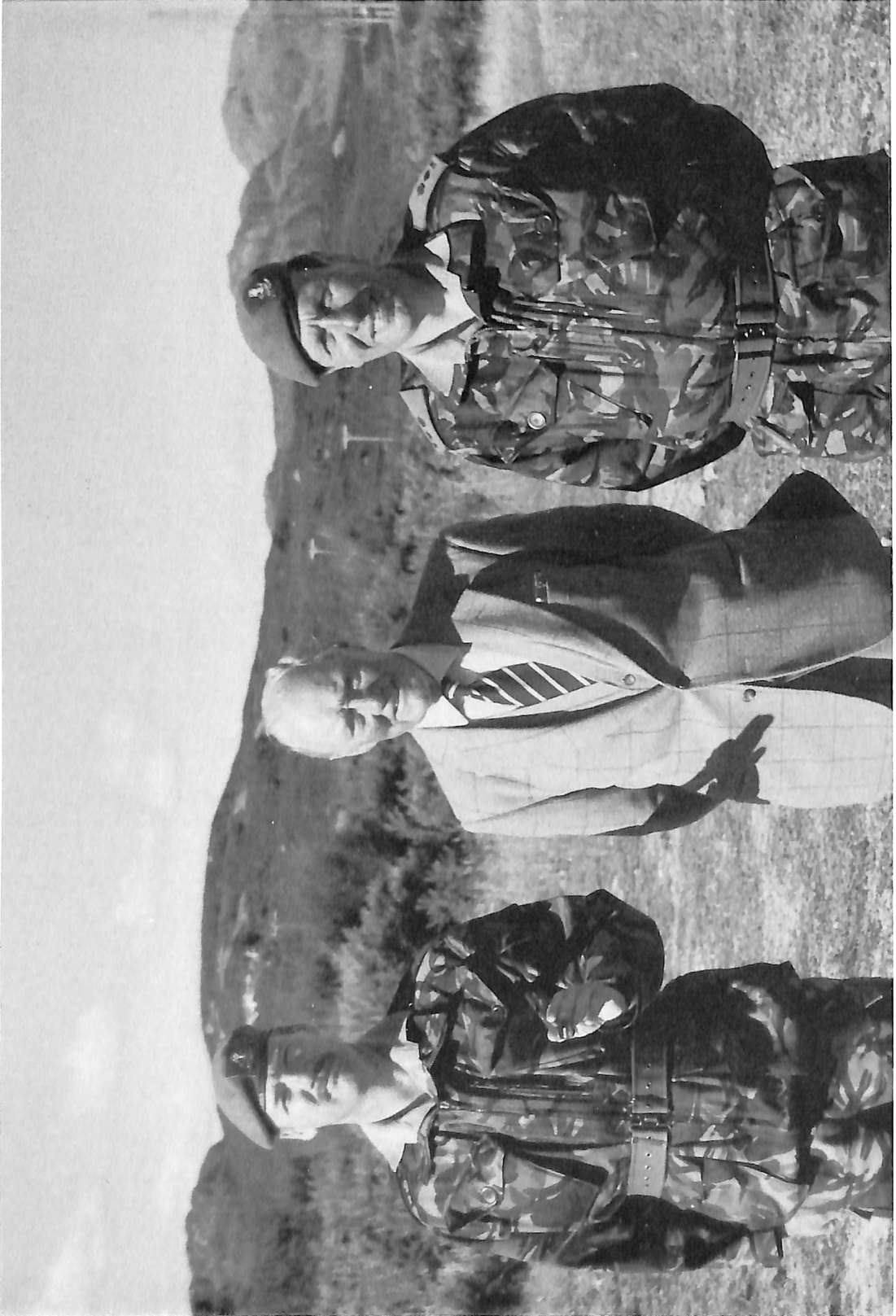
**H.M.S. Iron Duke**  
BFPO 309

Commander C. J. Bryning, BSc, RN

**H.M.S. Sheffield**  
BFPO 383

Commander T. M. Karsten RN





*3rd Battalion annual camp. Garelochhead, Scotland.*  
Left to right: WO1 B. J. Thomas, BEM, the Colonel-in-Chief, Lieutenant A. H. S. Drake, MBE.

# Regimental Headquarters

## Regimental Notes

### PRINTS OF THE BATTLES OF WATERLOO AND ALMA

Prints have been made of David Rowland's paintings of the Battle of Waterloo and the Battle of Alma. The dimensions of each print are 15" x 22 3/4", with a border of 2 3/4". The Colonel in Chief and the artist have signed 100 copies of each print. The cost is £60 per pair, plus £2.50 p&p. The cost of unsigned prints, which can be purchased individually, is £12.50 per print, plus £2.50 p&p.

Orders should be placed with the Regimental Secretary, accompanied by a cheque made out to "Central Funds The Duke of Wellington's Regiment".

### REGIMENTAL RECEPTION

The Regiment held its annual reception on Saturday 22 June 1996 at Endcliffe Hall, home of the 3rd Battalion, which has been described as one of the most impressive headquarters buildings in the British army.

Over 200 people, mainly from West and South Yorkshire, attended. Among the guests were the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Lord Mayors, Mayor and Councillors of all the major towns and boroughs within the Regimental recruiting area and managing directors of local businesses. Also present were representatives of HMS Sheffield, 2nd Division and 15 (NE) Brigade.

The Normandy Band, together with the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, provided the music, which culminated with beating the retreat.

### OFFICERS' DINNER

The annual officers' dinner was held at the Royal York Hotel, York, on Friday 1 November 1996. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and eighty six officers were

present. Brigadier Mark Strudwick CBE, Director of Infantry, was the guest.

### MUSEUM DISPLAY: ULSTER AND BOSNIA

The Regiment is seeking material for its display of Ulster and Bosnia in the Regimental Museum. Gifts or loans of appropriate material will be welcomed. One of the aims of the Ulster display is to reflect the changes that have taken place over the 25 years of the Regiment's involvement.

### MUSEUM VIDEO

It is the intention to produce a video depicting various scenes from the second world war for display in the Regimental Museum. It will be backed with recorded recollections from participants in one or other of the campaigns in Europe (1939/40), Burma, North Africa, Italy and NW Europe (1944/45). Anyone who would like to contribute to the video is requested to send brief details of service and experiences to the Regimental Secretary. It is anticipated that those selected will be invited to record their recollections at the 1st Battalion at Weeton in May/June 1997.

### REGIMENTAL SILK TIE

A silk version of the Regimental tie has been approved by the Colonel of the regiment and is available from RHQ at a cost of £11.50.

### AN ENGRAVING OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

A proof impression of an engraving of the Duke of Wellington on the day of the public thanksgiving in St Pauls (1816c), has been presented to the Regiment by Miss M. B. Worthington. It is now hung in Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield.

## THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

### TRUSTEES

A meeting of the trustees of the Regimental Museum was held at Halifax on 17 October 1996. Present were: Brigadier E.J.W. Walker OBE (chairman); Major K.M. McDonald TD, BA, JP, DL; Major A.C. Jowett; Major J.R.A. Ward FBIM, and Major D.L.J. Harrap. In attendance were: Lieutenant Colonel A.S. Drake MBE, CO 3 DWR; Major B. Sykes representing CO 1 DWR; Mrs J. Hill representing Mrs Rosie Cook; Mrs P. McKenzie and Mr J. Spencer of Bankfield Museum and Mr W. Norman.

### Museum sign

Mrs Hill reported that Bankfield Museum was commissioning a new sign. It was agreed that a joint sign would be best and that the Regiment would meet its share of the cost.

### Trust deed

Major Jowett introduced a discussion on the subject of the Trust deed and the adoption of the model deed

produced by the Ogilby Trust. It was agreed, in principle, that the Ogilby Trust model deed should be adopted, subject to a number of amendments. They included:

1. A limit of £500 on cheques that could be signed by a single trustee.
  2. A thirty day limit on loans from the museum, instead of the present seven days.
  3. An increase in the number of trustees to a total of ten.
- In future these to be:

Chairman	Nominated by the Colonel of the Regiment
Ex officio	Colonel of the Regiment Regimental Secretary Commanding Officers of the 1st and 3rd Battalions
Nominated trustees	Five

**Current projects**

It was agreed that the proposed video would be improved by the inclusion of recordings of individuals who had taken part in the campaigns illustrated on the video.

Work on the medal collection was nearing completion. The next phase will be to record all relevant details onto a computer.

**Future projects**

Mr J. Spencer reported that the lighting system was now obsolete and failing. A replacement system would cost £13,000. It was agreed that a separate meeting should be held to examine the problem and the

possibility of applying for lottery funds to help defray the cost.

**Chairman**

Brigadier Walker informed the trustees that because of pressure of work he had advised the Colonel of the Regiment that he wished to stand down as chairman after the next meeting. The Colonel of the Regiment has since appointed Lieutenant Colonel W. Robins to take over.

**MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Medals of Sergeant F. Goldsborough, donated by his widow. Medals, photographs and maps belonging to Captain J. Lappin MC, donated by his widow.

# 1st Battalion

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

The busiest period during the past few months was certainly when the Battalion deployed to cover the Drumcree Orange March in Portadown, and then played a major role in containing the serious outbreaks of disorder that ensued. The Province was described in the media to be 'on the edge of the abyss', and to us it felt to be just that for several days. And fortunate though it was that a return to full scale violence did not occur, there is no doubt that enormous damage to the peace process was done over those few weeks in July, and inter community tensions rose dramatically. As we deployed on the streets of Portadown in our Saxon armoured vehicles (the first time for several years that the RUC had requested such military support for a public order situation), we learnt that some one hundred and sixty one years earlier the 33rd of Foot had been moved from Newry to cover an Orange March from Drumcree, proving the point that not much changes in Northern Ireland over the years! Since July we have deployed once more as a complete Battalion, had an additional company deployment, and been placed on

reduced notice to move at least once. No doubt we shall be kept busy right up to the end of the role.

We have also managed to keep busy elsewhere. Despite the deteriorating situation in Northern Ireland, and to our surprise and delight, Burma Company group got to Belize for a superb six week training package. I witnessed some first class jungle training being undertaken by soldiers who, with two weeks growth of beard, could almost have been mistaken for Chindits - albeit probably looking less gaunt. And the adventurous training opportunities out on the Cays, sailing, scuba diving, windsurfing, plus the big game fishing, were thoroughly appreciated by everyone. OCs Alma and Corunna have just returned from recess to Gibraltar and Oman, respectively, and are preparing some excellent training and adventurous training exercises for next year, which also sees company deployments to the Falklands and to Canada. Finally, on the sporting front, teams and squads are warming up to at least match last season's successes.

**ALMA COMPANY**

- OC - Major P. M. Lewis
- 2i/c - Captain W. T. Mundell
- CSM - WO2 S. W. Grogan
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant M. I. Denton

**1 Platoon**

Captain T. G. J. Golding  
Sergeant B. W. Roberts

**2 Platoon**

Lieutenant S. Richardson  
Sergeant C. Hollinshead

**3 Platoon**

Lieutenant A. S. Garner  
Sergeant S. J. Bramwell

The summer has been an active period for Alma Company. The 'marching season' took place in between two Ops 1 deployments, the Cd 3 (riot training) package, run by the RRW at Ballykelly, was to stand us in good stead for the summer months. On 4 July the

company found itself back in Dramadd Barracks, Armagh City. The barracks was a hive of activity, with two companies and TAC from the Battalion preparing to be deployed to the Drumcree 'stand off'. Alma, along with Burma and TAC were deployed to People's Park



Lance Corporal Coulson and Corporal Blake of Alma Company practice for the "Drumcree standoff".

which was adjacent to Garvaghy Road. The companies' main aim was to stop anyone marching up the Garvaghy Road, which was the main bone of contention for both communities. It was hard to predict the outcome of the 'stand off' and how long it was going to last. This meant the platoons were essentially living out of the back of their Saxon vehicles with no real sanitation. This was rectified by a welcome delivery of portaloos via a call sign from Corunna Company. It was difficult for the platoons to get into any sort of routine due to the unpredictability of the situation and dependent on how much the local residents had to drink. During the five days on the Garvaghy Road the company had to respond to a number of incidents, including suspect VBIEDs (Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device). On return to Dramadd Barracks we found ourselves being rapidly deployed to Armagh city as a riot was in progress. However, we could not find one; hopefully this was due to our presence on the ground. The company returned to Weeton on 18 July for some guards and duties and it was not long before we were being deployed to the Maze prison to cover the Apprentice boys marches in Londonderry. In the end the company did not deploy on to the streets but a hard fitness regime was implemented. The Battalion was also able to run an inter-company competition of which 1 platoon was the winner. After our short stay at the Maze prison we returned to Weeton to enjoy our summer leave. On return from leave the company had two main objectives; that of preparing for next deployment and

the training of the company boxing team for the inter company competition. Due to manpower requirements these had to run hand in hand. This was a gruelling task for the members of the boxing team. On arrival at Bessbrook the boxing team was formed into a multiple which was commanded by Corporal Marsden who was also their "beast master"; it was his responsibility to ensure all members of the team were up to the required fitness and at the correct weight. This often meant the boxing multiple had four hours sleep between tasking and was only allowed to eat one meal a day. On the actual night the boxers put in their all.



The Colonel of the Regiment with Captain Tim Mundell

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**BURMA COMPANY**

OC - Major J. C. Bailey  
 2i/c - Captain A. J. M. Liddle  
 CSM - WO2 A. Stead  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant D. Dobbs

**4 Platoon**

2nd Lieutenant J. F. McKenzie  
 Sergeant M. D. Hughes

**5 Platoon**

2nd Lieutenant G. R. Tiplow  
 Sergeant M. C. Lakey

**6 Platoon**

Sergeant D. Cole  
 Corporal L. J. Mower

"Claymores out...Sentries out...Chill out". So runs the phrase which summarised Burma Company's exercise "Native Trail" in Belize in September and October this year. Six weeks of tough jungle training and imaginative field firing on the mainland were combined with a week's adventure training on the Caribbean island of St George's Caye. The balance of work and enjoyment was just about right and made a welcome change from the marching season in Northern Ireland and the bogs of South Armagh.

Each platoon underwent a week at a basic jungle school and a week at an advanced jungle school, situated in a remote area named Sibun Gorge. Basic school was designed to de-mystify the jungle and show the soldiers how to live, survive and navigate in it. After six days we began to realise that there really wasn't a tiger hiding behind every tree or a tarantula waiting to sting us under every leaf - only some of them! Advanced school got to grips with the section and platoon tactics in "the trees" and by the end of that we looked, thought (and smelled) like Chindits.

The permanent range team based itself in a tented camp on Baldy Beacon. It set up some of the best battle inoculation ranges that many soldiers are ever likely to experience and each platoon went through a testing battle run, concluding in a platoon attack on a feature nicknamed Boot Hill.

Soldiers could then relax for a week and do some adventure training amidst the palm trees, crystal clear sea and the sun on the Caribbean paradise of St George's Caye. There were diving, windsurfing, dinghy sailing, yachting or sea fishing, and of course, a few beers in the bar of Cottage Colony each evening. Many soldiers chose to return there for a spot of R&R at the end of the exercise while others went for San Pedro or Cancun in Mexico.

**Jungle Warfare Instructors' Course**

When Major Bailey OC Burma Company said "Corporal Ledingham how does a few weeks in south east Asia sound?", I jumped at the chance. The course was the Jungle Warfare Instructor's Course which was from 4 June to 30 June 1996. This was to take place in Brunei and would be conducted by the TTB or Training Team Brunei.

Our group arrived at London Heathrow and our sixteen hour flight began. We arrived at Hong Kong and were due to stop over for the night so we decided to see the sights before embarking on another six hour flight to Brunei. Our first night out in Hong Kong was a real sensory overload, but a good night was had by all.

Upon arrival at Brunei's only major airport we faced a four hour coach journey to our camp at Medicina lines. We were then ready to start our JWIC which was to last eight weeks.



*Jungle warfare instructors' course*  
 Corporals Ledingham and Buckingham

The first couple of weeks consisted of lectures in an air conditioned hall along with demonstrations outside in the stifling heat. Unfortunately our accommodation didn't have air conditioning so during the first couple of weeks the only relief from the heat and high humidity was in the main lecture hall. Having now completed our safety and survival lectures we were ready to venture into the jungle which was referred to by our instructors as the "J".

The training conducted on the course was hard but very realistic. We conducted river and air operations as well as using the Huey Bell 212, but for the most part movement was on foot through primary jungle with

heavy loads. One of the most difficult tasks to master is jungle navigation which requires constant pacing and working off bearings. Overall the course was both very physically and mentally demanding with numerous navigation patrols and tabs covering features up to 5,000 feet in height. A total of forty two days were spent in the jungle with the final exercise being eleven days long. The phrase of the course "Claymores out, Sentries out, Chill out" was echoed throughout the picturesque jungle of Brunei. The experience of steamy jungle and rolling hills reminds me of another occasion but that's another story.

### CORUNNA COMPANY

OC - Major R. C. Holroyd  
2i/c - Captain P. J. Fox  
CSM - WO2 F. J. Devaney

#### 7 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant N. C. Wilkes, AAC  
Sergeant J. E. Lawrence

#### 8 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant P. M. J. Cowell  
Sergeant J. Fisher

#### 9 Platoon

Lieutenant D. J. J. Kirk  
Sergeant C. G. Scott

Corunna Company has once again been busy spending most of the summer in the Province. Two tours in Bessbrook in quick succession and the operation at Drumcree with a little leave thrown in and the summer had gone! The "stand off" at Drumcree provided a great deal of excitement. The Company was detached from the rest of the Battalion under command of 3 R Irish. Our role was to maintain the security of the routes in and around Portadown to ensure that the security forces could operate on the blocking position at the church. Once the Chief Constable took the decision that the parade would not be allowed to march down Garvaghy Road our work started in earnest. Whilst Alma and Burma sunned themselves in Peoples Park Corunna Company attempted to prevent the Loyalists of Portadown from blocking the main arterial routes. During the five days of the operation the Company cleared forty barricades (usually burning) and six suspect improvised explosive devices. The barricades were normally re-erected as fast as we demolished them and the supply of bricks for those manning the barricades seemed to be never ending. Once the Chief Constable reversed his decision and the parade was allowed to proceed the company mission changed. We remained under command of 3 R Irish but became responsible for policing the interfaces of Lurgan and Portadown. It was a stark reminder of the beginning of the troubles as soldiers from the Company stood guard over nationalist estates through the night to prevent attacks from Loyalist gangs. The deployment to Drumcree was a particularly challenging and exciting period. Many of the soldiers experienced crowd violence and public disorder for the first time.

The Company re deployed to Bessbrook two weeks after the Drumcree operation. The deployment, although quiet with regards to incidents, was still busy. The Company played a small but significant part in the

capture of two terrorists and subsequent weapons find. There were also a number of minor operations involving fast-roping skills both to stop suspect vehicles and on to specific targets. Fast-roping is still a skill which needs to be rehearsed, practised and perfected. Exercise "Bright Star" at McGilligan was an excellent vehicle for doing this. Multiples worked with Lynx crews to practise these skills.

Time between ops was dedicated to the preparation of the Company boxing team. The ideas of being a "tracksuit" soldier soon disappeared when WO2 Devaney and Sergeant Scott commenced the training, almost like something out of a Rocky film with the squad running around the mill in a huddle all with the compulsory "Bennie" hats as headwear. Most of the lads would wear an extra shirt or jacket just to make them sweat more to get them down to their relevant fight weight. Obviously with any health farm the eating of certain "evil" foods, in this case, chocolate biscuits from the rations was forbidden.

The actual competition was an excellent event with a very good turnout from the Battalion, considering the current deployments, and from the Regimental Association. The fight night lived up to expectations. The fight between Private Sheldon and Private Dhurmea showed all the boxing attributes of strength, speed, fitness and skill. The competition brought fighters from the same company together. The light-welter weight category was fantastic, firstly with Williamson against Wignall in a hard fought bout to the next fight of Williamson's against the much stronger Gill. Again this was a most entertaining fight without any of the milling that you often see at inter company boxing nights. The training and commitment from the Corunna Company boxers was vindicated in the final with every fight apart from the first two having Corunna boxers present. This means there were eight Corunna

Company finalists, yet in the light welterweight final there were two Corunna finalists making the fight night a Corunna Company event.

A presentation team was despatched to Rishworth School, Halifax in late September to give a presentation on peacekeeping in South Armagh and Bosnia. This was followed by a visit from fifteen cadets from Leeds Grammar School's CCF. The cadets thoroughly enjoyed

the weekend, the activities were both mentally and physically demanding.

The Company is fortunate to have been selected to undertake exercise "Rocky Lance" to Oman in autumn 1997. The OC led an intrepid recce party from wet and windy Weeton to the delights of Oman in early October, to see exercise "Rocky Lance" 1996. The recce was a great success.

### SOMME COMPANY

#### Mortar Platoon

Captain N. Wood  
Sergeant A. Williams

#### Milan Platoon

Captain N. Rhodes  
Sergeant R. Miller

#### M.G. Platoon

Drum Major I. Johnson

### Drummers by the Danube

On Monday 16 September the Corps of Drums departed from Weeton Barracks by coach, accompanied by the Normandy Band of the Kings Division. Their destination was the Austrian Military Academy at Weir Neustadt, a town situated south of the Austrian capital, Vienna. At the Regimental weekend in June there had been three Austrian officer cadets and their company commander, visiting from the Austrain Military Academy. They had been so impressed by the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo performed by the Band and Drums that they wanted them to come and repeat the performance at their commissioning parade on 20 September in Austria. Each yearly intake at the Austrian Military Academy is named after a famous person. These cadets were part of Intake Wellington. Wellington's name had been used as he had moulded the European allies together to defeat Napoleon. In a time when Europe is looking to be moulded together again it seemed fitting that a man who had accomplished it successfully in the past should be used to name an intake of men who would be instruments in the formation of a new Europe some 200 years later. Wellington had also been awarded the highest Austrian military award, the Cross of Maria Theresa, the Austrian equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Each cadet wore an intake badge that included the Regimental motto.

The coach journey took a mere twenty nine hours of practically non stop driving to complete! Therefore on arriving at the barracks where the group was staying the last thing the two officers wanted to hear was that they were late for the regimental dinner night and would they be so kind as to change as quickly as possible for the short drive to the academy. Not wanting to appear light weights on the first night the request was obeyed. The remainder decided to investigate the colourful local nightlife. It was the beginning of the incredible hospitality shown to the group by our Austrian hosts.

On Wednesday morning the group travelled to the academy. It was given a lesson on the history of the academy and a guided tour. After lunch of "Leberklosse" soup and a horse meat steak, the next stop was a tour of Weir Neustadt, but not before we had had a short ceremony to raise the Union Jack in the academy courtyard. We were then guided around the local town. The locals were accustomed to seeing their

own soldiers walking around the streets in uniform, but not fifty British soldiers. The look some of the older citizens gave us said it all: "Not another invasion!". The last time British forces came to Weil Neustadt they dropped thousands of bombs from the air and flattened everything except fourteen houses. Fortunately the bombs fell from Lancaster Bombers and not Wellington's, as otherwise the irony may have been a little too much. Our guides may have been somewhat optimistic about the interest level of your average Duke in the difference between Renaissance and Baroque styles of the churches, and after two hours on the subject they were definitely batting on a losing wicket. So when they asked if we would like to go and see another church or go to the pub the comments were along the lines of "show us another church and there will be more than one crucified person hanging in it". We went to the pub. Austrian lager starts at 5% alcohol by volume and gets stronger, the Schnapps is more potent still. That evening rehearsals were conducted for the parade on Friday. On Thursday more rehearsals were carried out and recesses of the other locations to be played in were conducted. These involved the centre of the local town and a casino, which was the sponsor of the trip to bring the Band and Drums to Austria. The casino had paid the £5,000 transportation bill. On Thursday evening our hosts took us to a wine tavern for a meal. The inevitable singsong commenced which developed into the band getting their instruments out, followed by the drummers with their ultraviolet light show. Fortunately the rest of the customers thoroughly enjoyed it, even when they were ordered to join in "Climbing up the Sunshine Mountain". Friday involved more culture, this time in Vienna and no matter how much of a philistine you are you cannot but be impressed with the statues and buildings of this lovely city. Even so when asking a drummer which part of the day he most enjoyed it was not surprising to hear him say "Going to McDonalds for a BigMac".

Friday evening brought the reason the group had travelled so far. No one had actually grasped how big an event this was really going to be. There were representatives from all over the globe. China, Russia, Finland, America, Poland and Germany to name but a few of the obvious uniforms present. Colonel Meek and his wife were representing the Colonel of the Regiment,

accompanied by Captain Vallings. A presentation was made to the academy of a print of the Battle of Waterloo and of a copy of the Regimental History which was to be placed in the academy's library.

The parade started at 18:30 when three Austrian bands performed their marching routines, although dancing performances would more accurately describe what they did, highly skilled but definitely not British. The commissioning parade itself with the speeches followed and went on for an hour and a half. Then when everyone thought it was all over, a spotlight appeared on a grassy knoll by the side of the parade square illuminating a cadet playing the Duke of Wellington of his Charger Copenhagen. In fluent German the Duke announced that the parade was not over and that the Corps of Drums of his Regiment and the Kings Division Normandy Band would re enact the Battle of Waterloo. Drums roll, spotlights snap on and the Band and Drums emerge from a tunnel beneath the audience. The Regiment can be proud of the performance the Corps of Drums produced. They were smart and professional and

maintained all the standards expected of the Regiment. The applause and cheers which followed were the truest reflection of what had been achieved. You do not have to speak a foreign language to understand the excited chatter around you, and to know that the audience was mightily impressed. The spectacle was repeated twice more over the weekend, once in the town centre where people were watching from their apartment windows and stopping their Saturday shopping to listen to the men in scarlet. An old lady even came up and shook the director of music's hand. The last performance was in the casino after which gifts were exchanged with our Austrian hosts and pledges to repeat the visit if at all possible. Then after one more beer with our new friends in a service station we said goodbye and headed off for the border.

The memory of Austria is a pleasant one especially when you hear the whole intake of a foreign academy singing "Hali, Hali, Hali, Hali, Halifax" as they march off parade. You cannot get more on the international map than that.

### HOOK COMPANY

- OC - Major B. W. Sykes, MBE
- CSM - WO2 K. J. James
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant G. Ingham

The Company has been busy supporting the Battalion on two major deployments to Northern Ireland. During this period a rear party was formed from all personnel unable to deploy. Weeton Barracks is a potential target for the PIRA and therefore a relevant training programme was organised to get us all sharp, up to date and able to guard the barracks and protect our families. A weekly cross country run every Friday became a popular event. The Company remains a keen participant in the inter company sports competition. As always the Regimental recruiting cell remains busy and successful. Since January 1996 we have taken sixty seven on strength, twenty soldiers have been recruited by members of the Battalion, who are rewarded with a long weekend for the initial recruitment and a week's leave once the recruits arrive in the Battalion. We are currently twenty seven over strength with a forecast of fifty two by March 1997.

#### QM's Department

Our main effort is obviously supporting the operational administrative needs of our soldiers deployed in Northern Ireland. This we have

continuously done throughout the period, since assuming the PRB role, mostly from our warm offices in Weeton but on other occasions as an echelon party alongside the troops. The most notable occasion was the July deployment to Armagh and Portadown where many members of the Battalion were used to assist the RUC in defusing the situation at Drumcree. Echelon played a vital part supporting soldiers on the streets and satisfying where possible every SNUR (short notice urgent request) that came our way.

In Weeton there have been many other priorities to consider. The clothing team has been working overtime for the past few months receiving and issuing the Combat 95 clothing pack. Most soldiers are now kitted out.

The barrack management and accommodation team continues to ensure that Weeton Camp remains as pleasant as possible. There is very little the unit wants for within the barrack area, for we reside in easily the most modern and best maintained camp and accommodation for many years. Even the Battalion's anglers needn't leave the camp vicinity to pursue their hobby.

### BOXING

After the most outstanding and successful season for many a year, which culminated in the Battalion winning the Army Grade 3 Novice Championship for 95/96, I was asked by the Commanding Officer whether I would like to take over the reins as boxing officer from Major Mick Sullivan who has left the Battalion. The team and I know we have our work cut out to achieve the same

success as last year. Unfortunately we have lost a number of our talented boxers due to upgrading or injury.

In September General Richards, the Army Boxing President, requested four boxers from our winning team of last season to represent the army this year. Next this year's inter company novices got under way on Monday





***Battalion boxing championship***  
**Brigadier W. T. Mundell and Lieutenant Colonel N. St J. Hall with all those who took part in the championship.**

7 October with over sixty boxers taking part. From the start the standard was excellent, which is a credit to those entering for the extra hard work and dedication required. The final took place on 10 October with the Colonel of the Regiment, Commander 3 Brigade, Brigadier Balfour, and over seventy Old Comrades and guests and members of the Battalion not on essential duty in attendance.

The draw for the first round of the army grade 3 novice championship took place on 1 October at Aldershot and has pitted us against the beaten finalists of last year 1 Royal Anglian.

Over the next few months the team may take part in a number of civilian bouts both at Weeton and at local venues. And I have been informed that 1 Royal Anglian has conceded the event, which means the Battalion progresses through to the quarter finals where we will meet 1 Staffords in late January or early February next year.

The following trophies were presented by the Colonel of the Regiment:

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
Bantam	LCpl Feely	LCpl Jackling
Feather	Pte Hennigan	Pte Smith
Light	Pte Roper	Pte Lawrence-Brown
Light Welter	LCpl Thompson	Pte Combes
Welter	Pte Gill	Pte Wignall
Light Middle	Pte Jepson	LCpl Daniels
Middle	LCpl Dhurmea	Pte Backhouse
Light Heavy	Pte Jones	LCpl Coulson
Heavy	Sgt Lawrence	Pte Moore
Super Heavy	2Lt Cowell	Pte McAllister

Most promising boxer: LCpl Dhurmea

Captain K. G. Johnson

### ATTACHED TO THE DUKES

"You two are going to do your attachment with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment." John McKenzie and I looked blank and replied "Who?". "The Duke of Wellington's Regiment based just outside Blackpool." Another pause followed, "I thought it was meant to be an operational attachment full of excitement like Northern Ireland or Bosnia". "Obviously you haven't been to Blackpool", was the reply.

That was how I found out how I was going to spend my first six months in the real army. Soon I found out that there would be more to it than visits to the pleasure beach and Yates wine bar. A letter from the adjutant informed me that Bessbrook in South Armagh would also play a major part in my attachment.

Two weeks after the commissioning ball my blood/alcohol level had reached normality thus allowing me to drive to Weeton, by that I mean Weeton Village as at

first I had failed to notice the large hangars with an army camp attached. When I finally arrived at the reception I was greeted by lots of cars travelling in the opposite direction. It was my company going on leave! Next stop, the mess. As I drew up, the adjutant appeared behind me, I introduced myself and five seconds later I was in the bar. I tried to escape but to no avail and received a legendary Dukes welcome.

Next question; which platoon was I going to be given? Corunna Company was in a unique situation in the army. It had more platoon commanders than platoons. I was not going to complain as it gave me a welcome opportunity to learn in the shallow end, both in camp and later in Northern Ireland. This was especially useful for my first deployment to Bessbrook. Fresh from my Northern Ireland replacements training I became a member of a team which enabled me to shadow the multiple commander. After a week I reached the heights of team commander only to become a multiple commander a few days later. This build up to the dizzy heights was very useful. I gained an insight into what it felt like to be a soldier on the ground not always knowing what was happening. Then more importantly what it felt like to be a flanking team commander playing catch up.

On returning to Blackpool the officer situation was rectified. The old army air corps attached officer, 2nd Lieutenant Bell, left for the flying course at Middle Wallop. Then my mentor, Lieutenant James Charlesworth, disappeared to New Zealand, while I deployed with the rest of the company to Portadown for the "Siege of Drumcree".

The "Siege of Drumcree" was possibly the highlight of my attachment. Our role was to maintain the security of the main supply routes for the security forces in the front line at the church. For the first week this included clearing roads blocked by the Loyalists. One road became 'bomb alley'. It was always blocked and you could guarantee a few bricks and the odd petrol bomb at least. By the end of the week the Orangemen marched and the Loyalists suddenly became more friendly. The trouble did not stop, there was still violence at the interfaces between the Catholics and Protestants. This was my first experience of crowd violence and public disorder. It was challenging and exciting. It put into practice what I had learned in training but also showed me how much more I had to learn.

The last statement is valid for the whole of my attachment. It has been a highly valuable experience for me as it has given me a chance to command real soldiers and adapt to the real army; it is vastly different from Sandhurst. I have seen how much fun it is to work with soldiers. Sadly for the next eighteen months all I will be in command of is myself. In the new year the Army Air Corps will stop attaching their direct entry officers to infantry battalions and cavalry regiments. This is due to the establishment of a new longer joint services flying course. So as I am probably the last attached officer for the time being, may I say thank you to the Battalion for its hospitality and patience with me, 2nd Lieutenant McKenzie, 2nd Lieutenant Bell and any previous Army Air Corps officer.

2nd Lieutenant Wilkes, AAC



A short service was held by members of RGBW in Gorazde for those killed while on UN peace keeping duties. The party from RGBW also went to Private Taylor's memorial and there, having carried out a short service, tidied up the memorial and surrounding area.



# How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

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You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



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If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

# 3rd Battalion

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

The Battalion Annual Camp at Garelochhead in Scotland was attended by 258 TA soldiers. With attachments and regular staff, the total was over 300. With 25 soldiers unable to attend due to attachments with the regular army and 57 soldiers undertaking courses in lieu of camp, the attendance figure was at a satisfactory level. Many more soldiers are currently in employment, therefore TA training time has to be balanced with other conflicting requirements, and so it was encouraging to see that so many were indeed able to attend. However, a worrying development was the number of soldiers who were only able to attend for one week, thus invoking a request for a reduced camp liability to achieve their bounty requirement.

Training during the first week of camp concentrated on collective training at company and battalion level in preparation for a brigade exercise in the second week. The brigade exercise proved to be physically demanding but the Battalion rose to the challenge. We were delighted that the Colonel in Chief and the Colonel of the Regiment were able to visit the Battalion. In addition the Chairman and Secretary of Yorkshire and Humberside TAVRA, the Brigade Deputy Commander and Lieutenant Colonel Kings Division also visited. Included amongst the attachments were two officers and two SNCOs from the United States National Guard who were able to enjoy both Yorkshire and Scottish hospitality.

A recruit cadre was held throughout the period of camp. A main reason for running the cadre was to enable our female infantry recruits to complete phase 2 training, as they are currently not allowed to attend the combat infantryman's course at ITC Catterick. All of the female recruits passed the course and it should be noted that the best student on the cadre was a woman. There are currently four officers and forty four female



**The Colonel in Chief with Major P. D. Buczko**

soldiers serving in the Battalion, of which three officers and twenty three soldiers are capbadged Dukes. They have wide ranging administrative roles and are consequently an important element within the Battalion.

### 'A' COMPANY

OC - Major I. Marshall  
 2i/c - Captain P. A. Davies  
 PSAO - Captain J. Harding  
 CSM - WO2 I. Machin  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant M. Smith

#### 1 Platoon

Lieutenant M. K. Hunter  
 Sergeant R. S. Pilley

#### 2 Platoon

WO2 N. Hinchcliffe  
 Sergeant S. A. Padley

#### 3 Platoon

Lieutenant T. Carsley  
 Sergeant A. G. Goddard

'A' Company members have trained in diverse locations, such as Bosnia, where three corporals are serving six month tours with the regular army. Some soldiers went to Canada to act as opposing forces for exercise "Medicine Man 3". Some trained on Ascension Island, and one man trained in the USA with the Virginia Army National Guard - all for a fortnight.

We took part in the Battalion's skill at arms meeting at Strensall, where the 'A' Company team won the falling plate knockout competition. Thereafter, the emphasis shifted to collective field training. This has certainly led to satisfying and challenging activities.

Our company defence weekend allowed us to practise trench construction with complete overhead cover. We





**Annual camp**  
**'A' Company assault landing on the beach at Altbea peninsula**

could see with our own eyes the difference between trenches constructed with pickets and corrugated iron sheets, and trenches made using individual protection kit sheets. We also saw which version's stores was the more man portable!

We held a good company patrolling/attack weekend, but one highlight of our recent training was our participation in a battalion area defence weekend exercise, when each rifle company of the Battalion provided a platoon. This enabled the Battalion to deploy a good-strength company, complete with mortar fire controllers, medium machine gunners and Milan detachment personnel from 3 PWO, Yorkshire's TA fire support battalion.

This company deployed into a ready-made position at Ripon to conduct routine in defence, including the despatch of two ambush patrols. The mutual support between trenches was minimal; these pre-dug trenches may well have been constructed by engineers, but they were certainly not sited by infantrymen! Sunday morning saw the company being attacked by an enemy force before mounting a counter-attack.

Shortly after this followed the Battalion's annual camp in Scotland at Garelochhead and Gairloch. We conducted training at platoon and company level, in order to prepare for a one and a half day Battalion exercise and a subsequent four day brigade exercise.

#### 'B' COMPANY

OC - Major A. Greenside  
2i/c - Captain C. Baron  
PSAO - Captain M. Carter  
CSM - WO2 J. Diamond  
CQMS - Colour Sergeant K. Whiteley

#### 4 Platoon

Sergeant D. J. Lynch

#### 5 Platoon

Sergeant S. R. Williams

#### 6 Platoon

Colour Sergeant G. J. Roberts  
Sergeant N. B. Holmes

Attendance on training weekends has only been average during this period, both platoon commanders have put in a lot of hard work chasing up bad and non attenders. We have continued to send soldiers to the regular army and have at the moment six soldiers with the Green Howards on one year S Type engagements who are in Germany, two of our soldiers are coming to the end of a six month tour in the former Yugoslavia and

Sergeant Lynch has just returned from an extremely interesting seven week trip to Canada with a regular army battle group. Also just returned from an overseas exercise are Corporal Brunton, Privates Norrish, Fairhirst and Nightingale who were part of a composite battalion platoon who trained on Ascension Island for two weeks recently.

As always recruiting and retention continues to be one of our highest priorities, we have tried to achieve our aim in numerous ways including good press coverage, showing ourselves to the local communities in a good light by having open days, attending galas and supporting local charities.

We decided to hold our open days in June, our Keighley Detachment on the 8th and at Halifax on the 22nd. Both events were supported well and a great deal of interest was shown by the general public. Both events were also held in conjunction with charity fund raising forced marches by members of the company, the marches being from York to Keighley and from Sheffield to Halifax, involving about thirty of our soldiers who between them marched a total of ninety four miles, carrying full bergans. A cheque for the Keighley Detachment march for £375 was presented to the Airedale Hospital Child Asthma Support Group on 16 July and for the Halifax march a cheque for £423 was presented to the Mayor of Calderdale for her LOGOS Trust Fund Appeal on 3 September. The press coverage we received for the events and presentations was extremely good, we also had numerous recruiting enquiries many of which resulted in new recruits. Our recruiting situation looks reasonably healthy, we have twenty two recruits actively in the system, we have had eight soldiers pass the combat infantryman course this year, one who is presently on the course and probably thirteen who will pass the course to be held at annual camp.



**Colonel W. Tovey, deputy commander 15 (NE) Brigade, presents the inter platoon trophy to Colour Sergeant Roberts, 'B' Company.**



***Inter platoon competition***  
**The 'B' Company winning team.**

**'C' COMPANY**

- OC - Major R. Bramham  
 2i/c - Captain T. Johnston  
 PSAO - Captain B. Melia  
 CSM - WO2 S. A. Routh  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant L. L. F. Robinson

**7 Platoon**

2nd Lieutenant P. Stephenson  
 Sergeant D. A. Bentley

**8 Platoon**

2nd Lieutenant T. Brearley  
 Sergeant C. R. Bamforth

**9 Platoon**

Sergeant V. J. Kirkley

In the past six months 'C' Company has continued to engage in a varied training programme at both company and battalion level. The emphasis has generally been at section and platoon level, in preparation for annual camp.

The first was a key point defence exercise at Holcombe Moor, whose aim it was to test the entire company, in particular the command elements, on the finer points of the key point defence routine. The scenario was gradually built up weeks in advance with a continued flow of intelligence reports, including details such as names and registration numbers of the exercise "Suspects".

In terms of realism, the exercise's only failing was that everyone was kept so busy, with serials being initiated at a rapid rate. In real situations the periods of inactivity stretch far longer, and the unusual, out of the ordinary occurrences aren't quite as blatant, but for training purposes they were excellent. Everyone was kept on their toes and the lads rotated through the duties, such as QRF, guard and an OP manned around the clock. This had been well sited and provided the company HQ with some excellent intelligence. We even received a JOGGEREP when the fresh OP team anxiously watched a lone figure apparently chasing the outgoing patrol!

The second weekend with a difference was executive stretch at the end of May. This Battalion run weekend was designed to give junior managers from north eastern companies a taste of the territorial army. Our role was to assist with the various stands being run, and also to accompany and administer the groups through the weekend.



**Exercise "Executive Stretch"**  
 Colour Sergeant Murten, PSI 'C' Company, assists a young female executive.

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**HQ COMPANY**

OC - Major S. Boocock  
 2i/c - Captain D. K. Rhodes  
 PSAO - Captain H. Baxendale  
 CSM - WO2 D. Braisby  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant V. J. Kirkley

**OC Sniper Platoon**

OC - Captain D. K. Rhodes  
 2i/c - Colour Sergeant D. Wright

**OC Recce Platoon**

Captain P. Sherris  
 Sergeant R. J. Yates

**OC SF Platoon**

Lieutenant D. Curran  
 WO2 J. Stevenson

**MT Platoon**

OC - Lieutenant G. Metcalf  
 2i/c - Colour Sergeant M. Heathcote

**Assault Pioneers**

WO2 A. A. Nanney

**RRTT**

Captain S. Garnham  
 Lieutenant R. Bulmer

**Signals Platoon**

Captain D. Ogden  
 WO2 D. Brown

Camp this year was always going to be complicated due to the complexity of the programme. It came along very quickly. It doesn't seem two minutes since we were at Folkestone. We had many tasks to complete this year, the recruit cadre, signals cadre, assault pioneer also specialist training in Edinburgh and SF Platoon live firing, which was carried out at Otterburn.

Most of the preparation for camp was done prior to departure. On arrival at Garelochhead, the first thing that hit us was the weather, it was brilliant, and the sun continued to shine on us during the whole camp. As soon as the briefings were finished the BFT was approached, to be met with cries of "What, already?". Nevertheless, it was a good turn out with 200 plus taking part and passing.

During the next few days the companies carried out various training packages, including a 36 hour exercise, a day adventure training, a day on the ranges, and of course the inter platoon competition. During this time we in HQ Company supplied their transport, their meals and looked after the various visitors.

In the second week and the actual exercise, the company was split, some went to Gareloch, and a small number went to Glasgow to implement the recovery programme. Everyone who could walk or swim was taken to the exercise area, leaving behind only a small party of drivers. At the same time the recruit cadre departed for Edinburgh to carry out their field training.

Echelon was based at Mellon Charles, which is near the Isle of Ewe, ready for the D Day landing on Rubha Reidh. Here everyone learnt the art of disembarking from landing craft and rigid raiders belonging to the Royal Navy. There were also a Puma and a Gazelle helicopter to learn about, and everyone had a ride in one or the other. Flying above us even higher were Tornado jets and Hercules transport aircraft. During this time the enemy had departed and was in position to stop us taking the peninsula. When the enemy was next seen, 6 RRF and the umpires nearly died with laughter, as WO2 Braisby and his marauders appeared dressed in Braveheart war paint, a Scotsman tam o'shanter, with wig attached.

During the next four days the soldiers were put under a lot of pressure due to the terrain they were covering. It was hilly, to say the least, there was not even a sheep path to follow. However, as the Commanding Officer said, "A bloody good effort!", and that he would lead us to war if ever the need arose. A fine testament to the territorial army. Eventually we won the war, and endex was called. After a brief thank you from the Brigadier and CO, everyone departed for their TAC on coaches, a long trip indeed. The road party stayed in Glasgow overnight on Friday, and arrived back home safe and sound on Saturday lunchtime.

**THE 3 DWR SKILL AT ARMS MEETING**

The 3rd Battalion held its annual skill at arms meeting over the weekend 14-16 June at Strensall training centre near York. The weather was ideal for both competitors and spectators with the NAAFI tent doing a roaring trade in the sale of ice creams, ice lollies and cold drinks.

The weekend consisted of a number of individual and team competitions that included a pistol shoot, a march and shoot, a section match and a falling plate competition. Various prizes were there to be won ranging from winning company, winning team and best individual shots on rifle, pistol, and LSW.

The competition throughout the weekend, not only between companies but also between teams within

companies and individuals within teams was fierce. Adding to this competitive spirit was the fact that the Battalion SAAM is one of the competitions running throughout the year that counts towards the champion company competition.

On the Sunday prizes were presented by Colonel Weare the chairman of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Association (TAVRA) to the following:

Winning company	HQ Company
Runners up	'C' Company
Falling plate winners	'A' Company



## EXERCISE "TURTLE REEF"

### Monday 12 August 1996

RAF Brize Norton. A composite rifle platoon taken from the 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was flying out to conduct exercise "Turtle Reef" on Ascension Island from 12 to 24 August 1996.

Ascension Island is a volcanic island 10° below the equator in the South Atlantic between Africa and South America. With St Helena 700 miles to the south it forms a British colony.

The island comprises 34 square miles and consists of 44 dormant volcanoes, 33 miles of road and has 1,400 sheep. Although most of the island is barren volcanic rocks, the north east side of the island is more grassy, and tropical bamboo vegetation exists on the summit of Green Mountain; environments not often encountered at Catterick.

### Tuesday 13 August 1996

After a long flight the first thing to do was to check in to the hotel, or rather 'bunkbed city'. A familiarisation tour of the island that followed ended at the beach and gave the platoon its first opportunity to sample the warm water and golden sands. They also had their first opportunity to meet the Black fish, related to the piranha and present everywhere in the water. They generally do not bother swimmers but will devour anything else en masse.

### Wednesday 14 - Friday 16 August 1996:

#### The Range Package

Wednesday was the day for zeroing in preparation for the two day range package to follow. The CQBR range package began on Thursday morning.

The range complex is called 'Broken Tooth' ranges and is very aptly named. It is mostly sharp, unforgiving volcanic klinka contained inside a baking hot basin feature that shades the ranges from the gentle and refreshing breeze that sweeps across most of the island. The klinka meant that the soldiers had to discard their normal tropical combats for tough temperates, elbow and knee pads and leather gloves which did not help with the heat.

The shoot was approximately two hundred metres long with four hand pulled targets that pop up along the way. Live flanking fire from a LSW provided some additional realism as soldiers advanced down the range individually.

The range package concluded on Friday, and after the range had been tidied up and weapons cleaned, the platoon made for the beach for a few hours before evening meal. Beach volleyball was the order of the afternoon, much to the delight of the RAF who don't normally have enough people around to field two decent sized teams.

### Saturday 17 August 1996: Adventure Training

Organised adventure training gave the platoon a chance to relax for a day and finish off their acclimatisation period on the island. Some went walking, some mountain biking, one diving and some clay pigeon shooting with the local RAF club. The remainder took the opportunity to beg, borrow or steal a mask and fins to take advantage of the very good snorkelling that the bay allows.

Evening meal was a beach barbecue, burnt by our very own chef. No one really noticed though as the sea, the sunset and a few beers took it all away.

### Sunday 18 and Monday 19 August 1996:

#### Military Training

Sunday marked the end of acclimatisation and the beginning of the military training. The first day was conducted by section commanders and was aimed at section level tactics such as patrolling skills, section attacks and observation posts. The terrain and the climate made training difficult; hot sun, sharp klinka and vicious biting thorn bushes.

Following the section level training the day before came platoon level training. This focused on platoon harbours and platoon attacks.

### Tuesday 20 - Thursday 22 August 1996:

#### Exercise "Devil's Ashpit"

The military training was geared towards exercise "Devil's Ashpit" and a scenario was given the night before out to get the platoon into a tactical frame of mind.

'**Situation:** Eight days ago sanctions were imposed on Burundi by all East African countries after the massacres of Hutu civilians by the Burundian Army. Only Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government said it would not join in. The sanctions caused immediate unrest in Burundi and resulted in the new Tutsi-led military regime being overthrown. The Tutsi president of Burundi has been secretly exiled on the island of St Helena, with the full approval of the British government, to await trial for war crimes.

Loyal Tutsi military forces, having discovered his whereabouts, are now planning to remove the president from St Helena and restore him to power. To do this the Tutsi forces intend to use Ascension Island as a platform with which to launch the operation, and have inserted a small advanced recce team of European mercenaries in the area north of Green Mountain.

The enemy force, while believed to be only of section strength, does possess a mobile anti-air and anti-ship capability that prevents additional British forces being brought in. The main Tutsi task force is currently five days away from Ascension in old second world war ships. Political pressure from the UN has prevented the use of air power against these ships. However, HMS Sheffield, presently on exercise in the South Atlantic, has been tasked to intercept the Tutsi task force at Ascension and force them to return using the threat of her far superior weaponry.

A platoon of infantry from the 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment is currently conducting exercise "Turtle Reef" on the island. In the absence of any other British combat force on the island, 3 DWR has been tasked to neutralise the anti-ship capability of the mercenary force present on Ascension, prior to the arrival of HMS Sheffield in three days time.'

Orders for the exercise were issued to section commanders who then issued their own. Everyone then took the opportunity to sort out their kit before getting an early night.

Just before first light on Tuesday morning the platoon departed for the dew pond, the first stage of the three day tactical exercise, "Devil's Ashpit". The dew pond was built by the first Royal Marines on the island to catch drinking water. It is situated at the summit of Green Mountain at a height of 2,817 ft. A road goes most of the way, but the last couple of kilometres are via tracks that pass through a thick bamboo forest grown to create a unique ecosystem and stimulate rain.

Once the summit was reached, the platoon then descended a way before contouring the mountain round to the north and into the "Devil's Ashpit" area. The path round to the area was quite treacherous in parts and exhilarating in others, as it cut into the side of the mountain affording stunning views. The path was littered with land crabs who were constant companions for the entire exercise.

By noon a patrol harbour was established and orders began for the next phase. By last light three four-man observation posts (OPs) had been inserted into the high ground around the plateau type feature where the enemy was believed to be.

Late in the afternoon the next day one OP was compromised by the enemy, or rather by sheep who gave them away to the enemy. The OP made a fighting withdrawal. All OPs were then ordered to extract and return to the harbour. The patrol reports from each OP painted similar pictures of the enemy position, strengths and routine. From it a plan was developed, and orders for a platoon deliberate attack were given to the whole platoon just before last light.

At first light on Thursday, with a section of fire support positioned on the side of Green Mountain overlooking the enemy position, the platoon conducted a deliberate attack. The position was taken thirty minutes later.

After a short tab out of the training area to the transport the platoon set to the task of post exercise administration and weapon cleaning. With the beach calling this was done in record time.

The NAAFI that evening was hosting an all-ranks quiz night. However, the task seemed to be not to answer the questions but to just last the distance as round after

round of dozens of questions went on into the night. After a while the platoon soon decided it was time to leave. As everyone on the island knows, Thursday night is disco night at Two Boats village.

#### **Friday 23 August 1996: Adventure Training**

Another day of organised adventure training helped the platoon to try and relax following the exercise. The beach barbecue was followed by another disco. The place to be on Friday night is the bar on the American base called the Volcano Club. Unfortunately, unlike the rest of the island, the beer in the VC is very expensive, with a can of Budweiser costing \$1, or around 70 pence!

#### **Saturday 24 August 1996**

Saturday provided everyone a chance to top up their tan around the pool, which is actually a reserve water tank. This was the only way to obtain funding for the pool!

#### **Sunday 25 August 1996**

RAF Brize Norton again.

Much of the RAF presence on Ascension Island will diminish to a token presence during 1997. Contractors will take over the running of the island, and while they will be contractually obliged to support the five "Turtle Reef" exercises that take place there every year, the island will not be the same. Much of the atmosphere there comes from the RAF and without them it may be more of a dust bowl than a tropical island.

Exercise "Turtle Reef" was a never to be repeated experience, on an island not readily accessible to civilians where the beer is virtually free, the sun is hot, the beaches are golden, and even the volcanic wastelands have a strange beauty about them. The training we did there was also unique: on broken tooth ranges the heat and the klinka made every stumble dangerous; Green Mountain with its solid bamboo forest around the summit where the dew pond sits; and Devil's Ashpit, a grassy pleasant contrast to the remainder of the island, swarming with land crabs and dramatic views.

Captain P. A. Sherris

## **THE INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE, WALES**

The reorganisation of the whole of the infantry training organisation in 1995 resulted in the closure of divisional training departments and the creation of the Infantry Centre Catterick, the restructuring of Warminster, and the move of the Skill at Arms Wing from there to Brecon. The old NCOs Tactical Wing of the School of Infantry was consigned to history (along with all the pre-war huts in Dering Lines) and on 1 April the Infantry Training Centre Wales was borne. As with any new beginning the formation of ITC Wales offered the opportunity to examine all working practices and make any alterations that were seen as necessary. Today, every year a total of twenty different types of courses

are run at ITC Wales, over 2,500 students experience the new Dering Lines, activity is equally divided between tactics and skill at arms, and over 20pc of training is dedicated to the TA. But far more important is the fact that the culture of the establishment is one of inclusiveness: instructors want students to succeed because there is nothing more demoralising for them than to see NCOs fail. All the training is physically demanding, mentally taxing and as realistic as possible. Some 70pc of all work is conducted on the training area regardless of the weather, and there is a lot of weather at Sennybridge, and the basic standards have not altered.



#### The Infantry Training Centre, Wales

From left to right: Lance Corporal D. J. Lingard Medical Section, Colour Sergeant S. Caine (Junior Tac Company), RQMS (Tech) F. J. Dean, Colonel A. D. Meek, Colour Sergeant J. S. Capel (GMPG (SF) Sniper Division), Private S. J. Ogden (Pioneer Section).

## ARMY CADET FORCE

### 'D' Company, Humberside and South Yorkshire

On Sunday 13 October 1996 'D' Company Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force team won the North East District "Colts Canter" 1996 competition at Catterick, snatching the trophy from Cleveland ACF, holders for the past four years.

The team consisting of eleven members was finally selected on Saturday 12 October after several intensive training and selection weekends.

The team members were:

Team leader Cadet Sergeant Hines  
 2i/c Cadet Sergeant Smith  
 Cadet Corporal Dyble  
 Cadet Corporal Cater  
 Cadet Corporal Cox  
 Cadet Lance Corporal Brennan  
 Cadet Lance Corporal Hughes  
 Cadet Lance Corporal Chambers  
 Cadet Lance Corporal Dawson  
 Cadet Lance Corporal Ward  
 Cadet Lance Corporal Copeland  
 Cadet Wragg

This was a composite team made up of cadets mainly from Birdwell Detachment, including the team leader and 2i/c who are badged DWR, Norbury Hall, Rotherham and Somme Barracks Detachments.

Winning the Colts Canter competition was down to the final march and shoot phase resulting in a nail biting finish with 'D' Company the last team to shoot and winning the competition by ten points from 'B' Company second and 'E' Company third, also of Humberside and South Yorkshire ACF.

### 'D' Company, Yorkshire (North and West)

Annual camp, this year, was at Sennybridge training camp in Wales, where fifteen staff and one hundred cadets from the company joined another four hundred cadets and staff from other companies. Apart from the normal cadet training, which included a 24 hour exercise on the Black Mountains, there was adventure training, mountain biking, abseiling and canoeing.

The following have recently distinguished themselves:-

- Cadet Sergeant Lynch of the Thongsbridge detachment won the County Cadet of the Year competition.

- Lieutenant Ann Miller of Heckmondwike detachment won the Jack Agar trophy, presented to the female making the greatest contribution in the shooting calendar, at county and company level, throughout the year.
- Cadet Webster of Keighley detachment was the highest scoring male cadet in the county smallbore

championship. Keighley detachment came second in the championship and Allerton detachment was third.

- In the annual county swimming competition the company won the junior male and female competitions and came third in the senior competition. For the second year in succession the company took the winner's trophy.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**RIDING THE RETREAT. Mons to the Marne 1914 revisited.** By Richard Holmes. (Pimlico) 313 pages, £10.00.

Richard Holmes was for fifteen years a lecturer in military history at the RMA Sandhurst. In 1993 he and four companions, mounted on horses, rode the route taken by the British Expeditionary Force when it was obliged to retreat from Mons in August 1914. Before giving his account of the retreat he devotes a most interesting chapter to describing the men, culture, equipment and training of the army just prior to the outbreak of the war. As for his description of the retreat itself, he devotes much of it to the part played by the artillery and cavalry. It makes a good story, but there is, for instance, only one brief reference to the Regiment. The fact that it had over 400 casualties on the very first day the retreat started, due to non receipt of the order to withdraw, may account for that. Although no way as long as the retreat carried out by the Burma army in 1942 it was a most gruelling experience. The weather was hot and the superior numbers of the German army were always close behind them. Well before the retreat came to an end on 5 September 1914 the troops were staggering along with, in many cases, only their rifles remaining from the arms and equipment, and their clothing reduced to absolute minimum.

The story of the epic retreat is interwoven with an account of the experiences of the five companions as they follow the route. Two of them were Brigadier Evelyn Webb-Carter and his son Clive, a son and grandson of the late Brigadier Brian Webb-Carter.

**BIRD SONG.** By Sebastian Faulkes. (Vintage) 407pp, £5.99.

This is a remarkable novel in which the author describes the operations on the Somme in July 1916 in what appears to be authentic detail, though he was not born when the battle was fought. His account of the work of the tunnellers (mostly ex-coal miners) who operated before the mines were exploded under the German trenches, is harrowing in its detail. Being a novel, there is a beautiful love story around which the experiences of the principal protagonist is woven. However, it is for its moving account of trench warfare in the ghastly Battle of the Somme that it is highly recommended. Few regiments are mentioned by name. The author does, however, more than once, refer to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

**FACING ARMAGEDDON. The First World War experienced.** Edited by Hugh Cecil and Peter Little. (Pen & Sword paperbacks) 936pp, £25.00.

The original concept of this book was to publish the papers presented to the Leeds International 1914-18 Commemoration Conference. Its scope has since been much widened and the book now contains a series of papers that cover every aspect of the first world war, both from the allies view point and from that of their enemies. The result is 64 separate essays of great interest, covering such subjects as the responsibility and stress of command, soldier morale, the naval and air war and propagandists and their audiences. Each subject is covered by five or six writers. Thus that no morale of soldiers has essays on the morale of the armies of Britain, Germany, Austro-Hungary, Russia and Italy. All are written by historians of repute. There are over fifty black and white illustrations, most of them from the Liddle collection in Leeds University. The book aims to deepen the understanding of what it was like to go through the tragic conflict of the first world war. In this it succeeds brilliantly.

A. C. S. Savory

**THE EYES AND EARS OF THE REGIMENT. 67th Field Regiment RA.** By Richard Whitfield (Square One Publications, The Tudor House, 16 Church Street, Upton-on-Severn, WR8 0HT) £12.95.

As I say in my foreword to this book - "perhaps I am biased, as the author is a first cousin of mine, but his down to earth reminiscences as an artillery observer in the second world war are, in my opinion, a first class account of what life was like for those who were attached to the forward infantry and also for the gunners of his regiment upon whose close support the infantry so often had to rely." Family bias or not, this is without any doubt a splendid story of endurance and skill at arms.

Richard Whitfield and his regiment supported 2nd Infantry Brigade in the 1st British Division and it will be recalled that the Dukes were in 3rd Infantry Brigade. Thus much of his story has a direct bearing on what the Dukes were doing, both at the Anzio beachhead and on to the Gothic Line. There are many useful maps and Dukes who fought in the Italian Campaign will remember well the battles which were fought and there will be much nostalgia for such name places as Monte Grande, Borgo San Lorenzo, Monte Cerere and the like where we dug so very many slit trenches and lost so many good comrades.

The winter of 1944/45 was a ferocious mixture of mud, snow and freezing temperatures and the book describes admirably how the gunners had to cope, not only getting the guns into position, but importantly how the FOOs had to flog their way, by mule and heavy

personal loads, into the OPs - usually on exposed mountain tops or in shell ruined houses which the enemy had accurately registered. However, despite the grimness of the war the sense of humour of the gunners

is faithfully recorded. It is a valuable book, well worth reading and a sound addition to the history of the 1st British Infantry Division and the Royal Regiment.

D. E. Isles

## LOAN SERVICE IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

I had mixed feelings when I learnt I was to go on a loan posting to the United Arab Emirates, for I knew that there would be some hurdles to overcome, not least that of the Arab language. I attended a course at the Defence School of Languages in Beaconsfield. I found the ten weeks I spent there to be the most mentally demanding period in my life. However, I came away from Beaconsfield with a fair grasp of the language having laid a firm foundation for further study once I arrived in the country. I was now ready for my new job as an infantry tactics instructor at the NCO School in Abu Dhabi. It was good to leave the chill of the UK in January behind and feel the heat of the Middle East. I learnt that I would be working with a small team of British loan servicemen, comprising a lieutenant colonel, a major, two captains and five warrant officers from various infantry regiments.

After being issued UAE uniform of an American style and UAE military ID card I realised that the work I would be doing was very different to anything I had ever experienced. The Arab soldier, being of a different cultural background to our own, has a very different

approach to his profession and his priorities differ considerably to those of his British counterpart.

Religious prayers are normally conducted on five separate occasions at set times throughout the day. The most interesting experience I had regarding prayer was during a patrols exercise, whilst carrying out silent rehearsal for a night attack. The fire support was in position and the two assault groups had begun to assault when, to my amazement, I heard, and then saw, a lieutenant colonel standing on a large sand dune shouting "Allah huwa akbar" (God is great). I thought this was strange but there was little time left before last light so I decided to ignore the distraction and continue with the rehearsal. However, the Arabs had other ideas about this. Suddenly everyone stopped, dropped their weapons and equipment, and washed their hands and faces three times in the sand. They then formed up in front of the lieutenant colonel and began to pray. Twenty minutes later, the prayers finished, we returned to the patrol base (the attack rehearsal forgotten). This is the way in the Middle East: the men had prayed and were happy; their prayers were far more important than a rehearsal.



*Loan service in the United Arab Emirates*  
WO2 D. E. Dowdall with one of his instructors and a PTI.



Although they do not have some of the qualities which we take for granted and normally associate with the infantry soldier, they do understand that in order to become a more effective army they must seek guidance, advice and quality training from teams such as ours. To this end our mission to establish an infantry tactics school to be run by Emirati instructors is progressing steadily. At present the UAE Army does not have enough officers and SNCOs with the qualifications required to train SNCOs and JNCOs in a similar fashion to our junior and senior Brecon courses. In time,

however, more instructors will be trained to a standard where they can plan, organize, administer and conduct courses without our assistance.

Loan service can be very frustrating but it does have its rewards. The language barrier, local culture, religion and, of course, the harsh desert environment provide an enormous challenge. However, nurturing potential instructors and students to a high standard in all aspects of infantry skills is very satisfying and makes everything worthwhile.

WO2 D. E. Dowdall

## WITH THE 2nd BATTALION IN BURMA IN 1942

After the Sittang the battalion was very much depleted. The parade state was given as a total of 316, which included one company which had managed to cross the bridge before it was blown. What the strength was before we went into action I do not know and I doubt if any true figures could be given for casualties.

Because of this we were amalgamated with the 2nd Battalion The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry whose strength at that time was shown as 206. This did not work out very well, and "The Kings Own Dukes" as we unofficially called ourselves only lasted a matter of days. We did not care for them and equally they did not care for us.

Our Divisional Commander Major General J. G. Smyth VC, relinquished his command and was replaced by Brigadier D. T. Cowan. I have always felt very sorry for the general, seeing that nobody knew what was going on at the time. It was vital not to let the Japs get the bridge intact or Rangoon would have fallen at a time when the 7th Armoured Brigade was arriving, so he was in a very unenviable position. I wonder what the person who "retired" him would have done had it been his responsibility to decide at the time whether to blow the bridge with the bulk of his troops on the wrong side, or to let it fall into enemy hands intact, still with the bulk of his troops on the wrong side? He was, in my opinion, made the scapegoat, but I am glad that he fought his case and was eventually reinstated. Despite this he must have been a broken man.

Now in Pegu we were guarding a bridge in the middle of the town. I was ordered onto a truck with about a dozen of the platoon. We were unloaded somewhere near the Divisional Headquarters and told that we had been transferred to the Royal Military Police. It was beyond my imagination that I could be taken away from the Dukes just like that and promptly requested to be returned to my unit. I got very short shrift and was informed in no uncertain manner that I was needed where I was and that is just where I would stay. So I decided to desert back to the Dukes, at the first chance. First though I was going to have a good feed for this lot certainly were living on the fat of the land, having great opportunity to help themselves to the stores abandoned in Rangoon. In the meantime I would act stupid and have a non co-operation campaign of my own.

When told to do anything I would stand with my mouth open and cause the staff sergeant to have to repeat his orders again, then I would ask stupid

questions until he started to lose his temper. We were not the best of friends.

Given a notebook I was detailed to take the names of all men who had lit fires. The first unit was a Gurkha battalion where everyone seemed to be brewing up. So I had a mug of tea and a chapatti and after a good rest went back with a nil return. In no way was I going to report our Gurkhas for such a trivial thing as brewing up. My superiors were not at all pleased having seen all the smoke.

That evening I had to post the Indian MP's to their duties for which I was given a 15cwt truck. As a result of my behaviour I was not believed when I told them I had no idea how to drive it. So one of the Indians showed me what to do and we managed to get through between us. On return I ran it into a tree on purpose in full view of everyone, then made a joke of it. Once again they took a dim view of me.

### Return to the Dukes

My final cock up was when I was put on traffic control on a very busy cross roads, but this time I did not have to pretend. I just did not have any idea what to do and got the division into a real muddle so that I had to be helped out and then replaced.

The next day we were informed that several were to be returned to unit and I thought that in view of my reluctance to serve with the RMP I was head of the list. I was not. Another interview and another chewing off. I reckoned they could see through me and were as determined not to let me get away with it and I was to go.

Some did not want to go back and one such was Tommy Lister who did not want to be separated from his mucking in chum. So I said that I would see if we could exchange and after going out of sight for a few minutes I came back and told him it was okay.

Back into the truck I kept out of sight and when Tommy's name was called I answered it as present. On return to the Dukes the orderly room sergeant queried this, so I said we had been changed over and that was accepted.

We had somehow received two more mortars and Sergeant Ginger Yarnold was the platoon commander with Sergeant Ginger Staniforth and myself detachment commanders. I had Jack Longden. Smith 83, and two newcomers, a ginger haired lad called Sosti (Idle) Smith who had a very easy manner but was in no way idle, and

a rather quiet lad called Adams. We were at a place called Hlegu, Major Faithful (Bull) was in command and we had two companies, No.1 Captain Coningham, No.2 Major Robinson. Weapons were very short and the only thing we had in my section was an Italian 6.5mm Carcano Carbine with three six round clips of ball ammunition. Later we received Lee Enfield rifles. There was one .45 Webley revolver and some 36 grenades.

### **Burmese bandits**

We were roused very early one morning and told to get marching in the direction of Rangoon, later turning east towards Prome. The road was packed nose to tail with transport and refugees trying to get away from Rangoon about to be abandoned. I found it very pitiful to see these poor Indians who carried what possessions they could, along with their exhausted children. They trudged towards India. Gangs of Burmese bandits were in wait who robbed them of what scant belongings they had, then brutally hacked them to death with their daks, women and children included. Later I saw evidence of this and was filled with hatred for the perpetrators of these terrible crimes. It was quite beyond belief.

An enemy force heading for Rangoon hit the Prome road ahead of us and put up a strong road block near Taukkyan. Despite several attacks we were unable to move it. Ginger Yarnold got me on one side and asked me if I would be prepared to break out with him in the event of a surrender. I had taken no notice of the surrender rumours that had circulated, or that we were trapped. When it came from such a person as Ginger Yarnold I knew there must be something in it and was shocked to the core. I told him that in no way would I surrender to the Japanese and felt very alarmed that we might be in for another Singapore. We knew little of the barbarity of the Japs in those days but I had a strong suspicion. As the army withdrew we had to picket the road and would lay spread out a hundred or so yards from the road. It was a very lonely job which seemed to last for hours, the sound of vehicles and marching would fade away while you were still there. This led you to think that you may have been left behind - as sometimes happened. You began to look if there was still somebody on your flanks, and what a relief when you found there was and what a great feeling it was when you were withdrawn. One felt like running to the road but did one's best to look nonchalant.

### **Back to the Prome road**

Feeling very tired and hungry we moved towards the sound of the battle. We nervously edged forward only to find that the Japs had abandoned their road block and without knowing it let us out. They had had us trapped and did not know it. We lived to fight on. The area of the road block was littered with dead and there were some burned out Stuart tanks. Off the road to the right was one of our wheeled carriers "The Iron Duke", Captain Christison's who had been one of the first to discover the road block and was killed with his crew Corporal Maddocks, Private Cooney and Private Corker, the ones I had met at the Sittang. As we passed the Gloucesters

were giving us covering fire. The front part of our Battalion edged forward with some caution while the rear moved on to get away from that nasty place.

Darkness came and we staggered on all night, I believe it was Lieutenant Gilby who was leading us on this compass march. We fell asleep as we marched to be awoken when the man in front of you stopped and you crashed into him, you then flopped onto the ground deadbeat. There was little trouble in getting us on the move again for we had a constant fear of being left behind and alone.

Come daylight we got back to the Prome road where some transport eventually picked us up. Major Faithful got himself into quite a precarious position on the top of the cab of our truck and shot at the enemy aircraft. In his typical way he gave battle to all and sundry showering us with the flying empty cases.

I read later that a Jap force had been ordered to get to Rangoon with the greatest of speed. They came to the Prome road and seeing us in full retreat they could not resist putting up the stray road block. General Alexander ordered that if we did not smash the road block by nightfall we were to destroy all our vehicles and heavy equipment and infiltrate out in small groups. This episode was the worst I felt in Burma even though we saw but little action but, to my joy, I found a small pack on the road which contained all the toilet implements that I needed and it was nice to be able to clean ones teeth and have a shave.

We withdrew along the Prome road for some 400 odd miles in a delaying action but did not have any contact with the enemy. At Tharrawaddy my section was positioned in an abandoned police station where I had a nice time reading through the records of the criminals and terrible deeds that they were up to. We came to Zigon and set up in a very convenient rice mill with a large pond. Sosti caught a lot of tiddlers and we had a feast of fish and rice. Heads and tails were all consumed. Hot in the day and cold at night your wet shirt would often still be wet with sweat when night was upon you and then it was really cold. If you were lucky you might have a blanket and if not it was either straw, banana leaves, or nothing.

### **Fighting patrols**

Towards the end of March we were at a place called Hamwaze and it was from there that we were informed that we were to launch an offensive to retake Rangoon, the Dukes having the honour to be leaders. I was quite elated that we were going to attack the Japs for a change and was most surprised to find that some of the others did not share my view.

Two strong fighting patrols were formed; Captain Coningham was No.1 and No.2 was Major Robinson. Morale was high though we did have reservations that we were such a small force with about zero artillery for us infantry, we did have the tanks fortunately who I think had a battery of 25 pounders. Mortars were allocated 2 x 12cwt trucks into which we put a three inch Mortar, one hundred rounds HE and twenty rounds white phosphorous. With the commander and one

# New book tells the Naafi story.

A new book - ***Naafi Up! More than just a char and wad*** - has been published by Naafi to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

The lavishly illustrated book tells the story of Naafi's progression from an amalgamation of canteen boards into the large, multi-million pound organisation it is today.

It charts its humble beginnings, the active service during the Second World War, and its role in modern times, including the Falklands War, Gulf, and today in Bosnia.

Alongside all of this are stories and anecdotes from former service personnel, Naafi staff, and celebrities who have used Naafi facilities. Among the more famous names appearing are Sir Harry Secombe (who remembers the ornate Naafi in

Naples), Michael Bentine, and Max Bygraves. Max actually met his wife, Blossom, in a Naafi club during the war, and they are still together after 50 years.

***Naafi Up! More than just a char and wad*** is available from the Naafi shops. It costs £7.95 for Service customers, and £9.95 for those in Civvy Street. It is also available by mail order (+ £1.00 to cover postage & packaging) from: The Naafi Shop, Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire, SP9 7NR. Cheques made payable to: Naafi

## Naafinews

detachment commander the truck was loaded to its limit and the crews (led by myself - junior) had to travel by other means, usually on foot. Not the best of arrangements but that is how we worked those days and we got on with it. With No.1 Company on the right and Robbo's on the left we set off with the Gloucesters to beat the Japs and re-take Rangoon.

As we had a nasty habit of shooting our Indian, Gurkha and Burmese comrades in mistaking them for Japanese the force was to be all British, with orders to shoot anyone who was not, plus anything above the grass (none existent). Radios were nil and so communications were the method we knew best, runners.

It was not long before we were in contact with the enemy and for some reason we mortar men were back on the infantry role. We went into a village and as I went through I spotted an old Burmese man wandering about and took aim at him, no way could I shoot so I shouted and beckoned to come forward which he did falling on his knees at my feet and trembling from head to foot. Sergeant Yarnold was soon on the spot and cocking his .45 Webley revolver he put it to the poor man's head while I shut my eyes and prayed that he would not do it. There was a momentary hesitation and Ginger shouting at him in Urdu - which the poor fellow did not understand, told him to be off. He was so scared he was unable to stand, so I helped him onto his feet and set him off in the right direction. Ginger said that he had not got the heart to shoot him and to keep my mouth shut. He went up even further in my estimation.

### We fired...

The section was ordered back and on reaching battalion headquarters found our trucks, then went into action with all speed and excitement. The target was pointed out but Sergeant Yarnold refused to fire on safety limit grounds. A short argument took place between him and Bull while we all looked on. It was pointed out that if we fired we could cause casualties to our own troops but most would get out, if we did not they stood very little chance. We fired. It was many years before we ever lived it down, constantly being reminded that we fired on them. This was the very first time that we had fired a mortar and I wondered what would happen when the bomb went off and how it would look on landing. Smith 83 got his foot under the base plate but fortunately the ground was baked hard and no bones were broken, he did hobble for some time though, a rather risky thing. To my memory the range was 1,050 yards and we fired over open sights, direct. The company started to stream out and was fired on by Jap machine guns as they came so we tried to locate these but had no way of telling how effective we were. No.1 Company had had a very hard fight and heavy casualties, Captain Coningham killed, and Lieutenant Dunn badly wounded. Contact was lost with No.2 Company and we were all very anxious about them. We tried to get news and hung on until the last minute but as we were probably now the front line we could not stay too long and withdrew. Onto the trucks we piled and to hell with the loading tables.

By now several road blocks had been put up behind us, resulting in us having to attack to withdraw, as usual. Other units did this and the value of having the tanks must have saved us. At one such block Sergeant Yarnold and I went to see if we could help with some casualties from the Cameronians who had been attacking open paddy. The platoon was in three sections, all dead, all facing the enemy. I noted that every man was shot in the face and concluded that they had been finished off with a pistol. The last man was about 100 yards from the gun and had a live grenade in his hand with the pin still in. Looking over the Jap MG position I noted the tripod imprints, and empty cases. These were thirty round metal strips of the Hotchkiss type, calibre 7.7mm. This would be the Heavy MG Type 92, standard machine gun for infantry. They were quite in the open and seemed to have been untouched. Ginger was most upset because we had been parked but a few hundred yards away and had we known could have soon sorted them out with the mortars, even in the dark. Lack of equipment and communications certainly cost us dearly. We could only collect the ID discs and weapons and leave them to rot.

The trucks had gone on some job so once again we were infantry and marching. Happily I spied a broken carton of dried apricots in the middle of the road which I grabbed and we all had a good munch as we plodded along, with no thought as to what effect they would have on us later.

#### **Very weak**

When we came to the final road block at Shwedaung an attack had to go in without the support of the tanks as the Japs had let them through and cut us off from them leaving us without the much needed armour and them without the essential infantry support. We were very weak through casualties and the two companies being battle fatigued. The missing No.2 Company had managed to rejoin us after having a very rough time and our strength would have been about 100 to 200, a guess. We were given the task of attacking some woods on the enemy's right flank, our two mortars were to support them.

We came into action in the open paddy with no cover at all. On a range of 1150 yards (as far as I remember) we ranged onto the wood. Having a range finder proved to be a great asset and our first shot was very near the mark. We supported No.2 Company until I thought they were near the safety limits of overhead fire. During this shoot a long bracket was ranged over us by the enemy, when their third shot shortened I knew we were in a pretty serious position. Fortunately an officer from one of the few remaining tanks that had not gone through the road block came running to us and gave us what he thought was the Jap mortar position and while I kept up the covering fire Ginger Staniforth's mortar engaged, firing three rounds at it. They landed in the right place and although we could not be certain we got it, it did not bother us again. Stage one completed we now had to switch on to another two. Jack Waterhouse was our range finder and he had not been idle; he gave me the range, and we laid the mortar. An enemy machine gun opened up on us and gave us a going over but his fire was not very effective and we took little notice of it. About to fire again when the tank officer re-appeared

and said he could see the LMG up a palm tree between our tanks. I did not believe him, even though he had some powerful binoculars and we did not, who would put an LMG up a b..... palm tree? So I thanked him and got on with the job in hand. The ranging round went off at 1300 yards and to our great surprise hit the palm tree, it was miles off target and I was panic stricken in case I had landed it on our own troops. A great cheer came from our rear and the tank officer congratulated us on the finest shooting he had ever seen. "Well, we are the Dukes, you know", I said and let him think it had been intended. How it got there I will never know, my No.1 is still suspected. Incredible luck if he did it on purpose and he was the type that would. Years later at Gibraltar I was talking to ORQMS Garry Hall about Burma and he told me that he was with No.2 Company at Shwedaung and he saw a sniper up a palm tree who had just shot Denis (Busty) Mitchel. He rested his rifle on a bamboo fence and was about to press the trigger when a shell hit the trunk and the tree broke in half. I could hardly believe it and maybe you won't either but it is absolutely true.

#### **A tin of peaches**

After very severe fighting and casualties the road block was still there - for all his faults, the Jap was a very tenacious fighter and a first class soldier who would never give in. Ammunition expended, we were back to infantry, and into Shwedaung we went, leaving our trucks at the side of the road. While awaiting orders I jumped on to a burning tank to see what I could salvage in the way of food. The crew was roasted inside, and one of our own officers lay dead by the roadside, with his arm pointing in the air. I shot the lock off the storage bin and found a tin of peaches within. They were hot and so were my feet. We shared them but after eating two I felt sick and I did not know or care what happened to them. I also met Captain O'Hara, our medical officer, who had just seen to a fresh lot of casualties. He told me that Denis Mitchel was in a very bad way with a bullet near his heart, but that he was so strong that he thought he stood a chance. He said that Tiny Redfern was also there with a burst in his guts but he would be dead by tomorrow. "What was that?" came a voice from within. "You will be drinking beer in Mandalay tomorrow" said the MO. "I know what you said" replied Tiny. Tiny and I decided to join the commandos in 1943 but somehow he did not make it. Denis still has that bullet in his chest to this day.

#### **An unjust world**

While awaiting orders Bull Faithful appeared and was supervising the setting up of a Vickers MMG to cover our rear. Some twin engined bombers appeared, they came down the road in single file and at tree top level (I believe they were Kawasaki Type 99 or perhaps Mitsubishi Type 1). They dropped some very nasty anti-personnel bombs, destroying most of our transport and killing or wounding anyone who did not get below ground. I dived into the monsoon ditch on the side of the road and as the bombs landed on the road itself the fragmentation passed over the top and I was safe. Flames from the burning vehicle were just about as high as the planes themselves. The usual shout of "Don't

shoot and let them think we have gone” went up. Back they came to give us another going over and as they came one of our more stout hearted soldiers calmly positioned himself in the very middle of the road and waited for them. Despite the bombs he just stood there and shot at them and I saw his tracers plough into the right hand engine of one. A sheet of flame came out of it and it did a nose dive and crashed with a mighty thump. A great cheer went up from us all and a man who I thought to be the CO of the Inniskillings ran out shouting “Congratulations sergeant that is the bravest thing I have ever seen, who are you?” It was Sergeant Bill Townend who had once been our solo clarinet in the band. I expected him to get an immediate award of the VC but all he ever got was our admiration. Later he did it again and was rewarded with a severe reprimand for firing without orders. It’s an unjust world.

### **A green canister**

The section had disappeared in that holocaust and I presumed them to be either dead or scattered so I headed for the crossroads where we were being held up. On the way I met my old pal, Sticky Glew, who had discovered a basket of fresh tomatoes, so we had a feed but the shout went up that the Japs were attacking, so we took up a position about a hundred yards from the road. There was no attack, but I did see a Jap about eighty yards away and took a shot at him. At the same time I heard something hit the ground nearby and saw a green canister with smoke coming out of it; almost as I fired it exploded making my ears ring. I did not see any more Japs but there must have been others because eighty yards is a heck of a long way to throw a grenade. Sticky looked me over and found one or two bits of tin which were easily pulled out. I now reckon that it was a percussion grenade. Anyhow it did me little harm.

On reaching the vicinity of the crossroad there were some men of the Gloucesters who were going to go over the road in a Bren tracked carrier and wanted a volunteer to help them throw grenades into a house on the opposite side where fire was coming from. By now all fear had left me so into the back I went, only to find that I would not be able to duck below the armour because some camouflage nets were jammed into the well, and I could not get them out. Given a box of twelve 36 grenades I hoped for the best, but as we were about to set off somebody came and cancelled the job. I was most relieved and cleared off with all speed. Then I saw why it was cancelled. Some gunners had pushed a 25 pounder up to the road and, ducking behind the gunshield, fired point blank into the house across the road, which silenced the occupants. Those gunners were indeed brave men and I am full of admiration for them. I went back to try and find my section but without success. However I did find a Bren gun and, taking magazines off the previous owner, went back to the crossroads. The gunners had gone but a group were going to rush over in an American truck so in I jumped telling everyone to give fire as we went. We set off, only to stall right in the middle of the road. Many jumped off and ran back and I fired from a sitting position, catching many of the empty cases in the leg of my shorts which burned but I did not dare stop firing. We got off again and some distance away we stopped, coming under fire

from a house less than 100 yards away. I could see where the machine gun was and directed my fire onto it. This was quite easy because the house was made of bamboo, matted, and whitewashed. Clouds of white dust arose as my bullets struck, and I emptied the rest of the magazine at it. A voice said “They’ve all gone”. This was Donald Warner who had been acting as my No.2. Grabbing some magazines we beat it fast. Donald died on his way out of Burma and his diary was later found and is now in the Imperial War Museum.

Running through the village I heard somebody calling me and found it to be Harry Kay who was a boy soldier with me. He was shot through the kidney (area) and needed help. I got him over my left soldier and was able to hold the Bren in a waist position. With Harry, the Bren, my rifle and the Bren magazines I was somewhat cluttered, but I had no intention of ridding myself of any of my weapons, and certainly not my old friend Harry. We were soon left behind and were alone. We moved blindly on. Only on one occasion did we meet up with any Japs and that was when I saw one look over a wall - maybe he was not one of the enemy but I could in no way imagine him to be otherwise. So over went one of the grenades that I had taken from the Bren carrier. Being the first that I ever had thrown I wondered what would happen. I was relieved when it went off because I was still not sure if it was primed. We moved on with all the speed I could muster. We reached the dangerous road but I was long beyond care about it. To my great surprise I saw a 25 pounder coming along being towed by a Quad on which some men were crouched. I shouted for a lift but they yelled that the place was alive with Japs and it was too risky. When I told them I had a wounded man they did stop and told me to get onto the gun itself but not to rest on the platform as it was only held with two leather straps. I could see no other way, so Harry went onto the platform and I sat on him so he would not bounce off. Not being sprung the gun bounced all over the place. It was very difficult to hold on as there was only the very thick tarpaulin that I could find to grip. When we came under fire I returned it as best I could hoping that I would not add further injuries to Harry who seemed to be unconscious. The gunners were glad of the covering fire I gave them. At one point the Quad slowed down and a figure came charging towards us, I was about to let him have it when I realized it was one of us, my very good friend and comrade Bill Townend. He somehow managed to cling onto the gun and stay there. Eventually we came into open country and stopped near a tank whose crew were casually brewing tea of which they offered us some. I warned them not to give any to Harry as he was wounded below the stomach and it could kill him. They were very sympathetic and took him over. Harry was unconscious for most of the time but he did open his eyes as we were leaving and thanked me for helping him through. He was always very close to his mother and asked me to write to her which I did from India, but I never knew if she ever received my letter. Thanking the gunners for saving us I said “That is the second time the Royal Artillery had rescued me, the first time was at the Sittang”. “Royal Horse Artillery if you don’t mind” was the reply, and I felt proud of the regimental spirit that they showed.



### Regrouping

When I found the Battalion it was regrouping, and most of the platoon was there. To my joy I found that we now possessed three mortars plus quite a lot of ammunition. One of our drivers whom we called Snowball was a negro - though his parents were white. He was a great character and somewhere he found an abandoned 15cwt mortar truck complete. The radiator was punctured but somehow he plugged it, got some water, filled it up and got it out. A sterling job. A few days later a somewhat irate officer came, demanding the return of the mortar we had stolen from his unit, and I would never repeat what the bold Ginger Yarnold said to him. He went away with a mighty flea in his ear, plus

a shaky 15cwt, our duff mortar, and no ammunition, glad to escape. The platoon had got out by a different route with many others of the Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Faithful gave us a talk the next day before going into hospital with a badly burned leg which he got when a motorbike fell on him. He told us that the present strength of the Battalion was 120 all ranks, I later found that our casualties were five officers and 117 other ranks.

That was my last action with the 2nd Battalion in which I was born and bred. Some days later I broke my ankle and had quite a nasty time to get back to India. "But that is another story" as Kipling would have said.

W. Norman

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Dr J. W. Hayes  
16A Cuthbert Street, Bondi Junction  
NSW 2022, Australia  
28 August 1996

Dear Sir,

### Regimental Contractors

During a recent visit to Hong Kong I came across something I had long forgotten. While taking a short cut through an arcade in Kowloon I noticed two smart-looking young men measuring up a European for a suit or shirt. When I stopped to glance at the shop window, I saw that the premises belonged to "H Ahmed Din and Sons, Regimental Contractor to the 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment since 1882".

While this discovery did not prompt me to order some shirts, it did make me think back to the multifarious duties of the contractor during the days when some of us were attached to the Battalion for a short stay in 1953, before being sent to join the 1st Battalion in Korea.

The regimental contractor was clearly a venerable institution in eastern military stations. The 2nd Battalion spent many years in Singapore and India before, during and after the war. Perhaps some former members of the Battalion can shed some light on the subject with some of their memories.

Yours sincerely,  
James Hayes

## THE 33rd REGIMENT IN THE WEST INDIES

### Introduction

Today a holiday in the West Indies is seen as a luxurious indulgence - it was not always so. Throughout the 18th and during much of the 19th centuries members of the British army considered being posted to the West Indies as the equivalent of being sentenced to death. Their fears were justified for there was an exceptionally high death rate due to yellow fever, malaria, heat exhaustion and over indulgence in the drinking of rum. The service was so unpopular that prisoners were often given a chance to commute their sentences by substituting them for service in the West Indies. Even so, there are records of soldiers preferring to undergo a sentence of one thousand lashes rather than undertake such service. Very often numbers within a regiment were made up by drafting from others. Colonels, hardly surprisingly, took advantage of the situation and seized the opportunity to rid themselves of their worst men, heedless of the unhappy corps to which they consigned them. Service in the West Indies was necessary in order to protect British colonies there which, for much of the period, generated great wealth from the production of sugar. Because of their wealth the plantation owners were able to exert considerable pressure on the government to ensure the security of

their investments. There were also wealthy individuals involved in the "triangular trade" of financing ships to sail from Bristol and Liverpool to the west coast of Africa, pick up slaves, deliver them to the West Indies and then transport sugar to Great Britain, before repeating the cycle. They too were able to bring their influence to bear.

### 33rd Regiment: 1793-1794

In August 1789 the French National Assembly made the declaration of the Rights of Man. The coloured peoples of the French West Indies, and especially in St Domingo (Haiti), the most important of them, immediately claimed their privileges under the declaration. The whites resisted and soon a vicious conflict developed. Nor did it cease when the Assembly, alarmed at the potential ruin of once rich colonies, rescinded its decree. Some of the principal planters in St Domingo even went so far as to appeal to the British government to take over the island. When, therefore, war broke out with France early in 1793 the British government saw a splendid opportunity of hastening France's financial exhaustion by ruining its West Indian trade. The armed forces already stationed in the West Indies quickly occupied St Domingo and then captured

the island of Tobago. However, a planned attack on Martinique, a far more formidable proposition, was aborted because of panic among the French royalists serving in the British force.

At home, meanwhile, William Pitt had given responsibility for the conduct of the war to his friend Henry Dundas, a man so profoundly ignorant of war that he was not even conscious of his own ignorance. On receipt of the news of the abortive attack on Martinique Dundas ordered General Sir Charles Grey to prepare to take a force to the West Indies. Included in the force were the flank companies of fourteen battalions, thus denuding the affected regiments of the élite of their soldiers. Included in the force were the grenadier and light companies of the 33rd. Leaving England in late November 1793 the force eventually arrived in the West Indies in January 1794. There the fourteen flank companies, together with the flank companies of those regiments already stationed in the West Indies, were formed into a brigade of grenadiers and a brigade of light infantry. In accordance with the prevailing practice each company was to have four negroes attached for fatigue duties. But the West Indian planters showed their cupidity by refusing to part with them except at an exorbitant price.

Grey, who was most ably supported by the fleet under Admiral Sir John Jervis, made Martinique his first objective. He launched his attack on 5 February 1794 and by 23 March the island had been captured and had become a British possession. It is recorded that during the numerous engagements the light company of the 33rd particularly distinguished itself. Grey's next objective was St Lucia, which he successfully captured before moving on to Guadeloupe. There the first landing took place on 11 April, but it was not until 21 May that the island capitulated. Grey had now to defend the islands he had taken with his rapidly diminishing resources as his men began to break down fast from sickness and the effect of two months' incessant campaigning in the tropics. Nevertheless a period of relative tranquility followed during which Grey did his best to deal with the matter of prize money in accordance with the vague instruction he had received from Dundas.

Dundas made no effort to send Grey reinforcements until November, despite Grey's repeated requests. On the contrary, he sent him exhortations to send every man he could spare to St Domingo, completely ignoring the effects of the trade winds. In June Grey and Jervis received intelligence that seven French ships and 1,500 troops had arrived at Guadeloupe. There followed some heavy fighting in which the grenadiers and light infantry again distinguished themselves. But the incessant fighting was taking a heavy toll on the sick and debilitated British soldiers. Since they had left England not one scrap of stores had been sent to them; their clothes were in rags and they had no shoes to their feet. In the ten islands to windward, which were in British possession there were nominally thirteen complete battalions and twenty eight companies of infantry, besides four or five companies of artillery. But the whole did not comprise 4,500 of all ranks fit for duty, with a sick list of 1,200. Grey was again obliged to press for reinforcements. "You seem to have totally

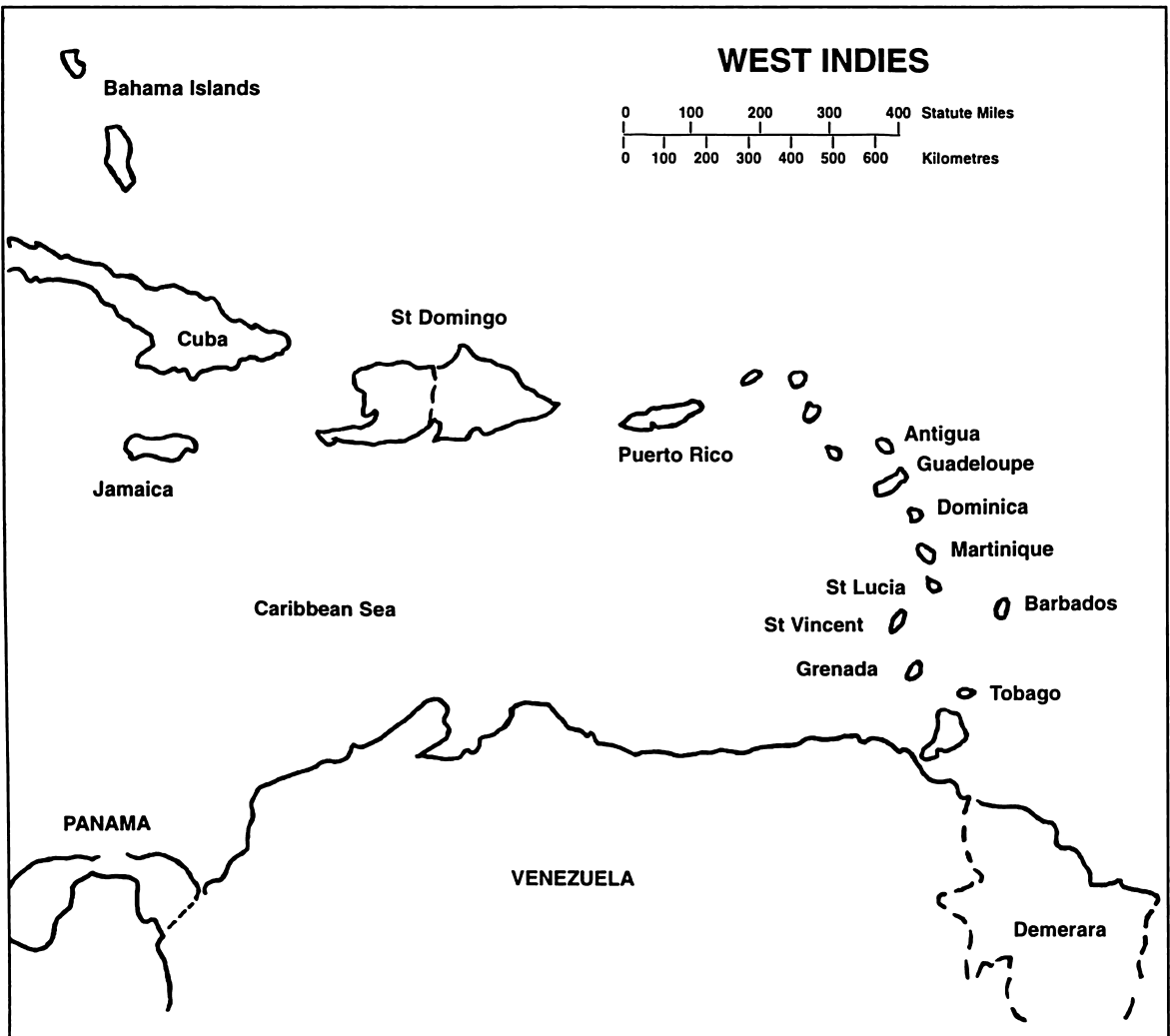
forgotten us", he justifiably felt obliged to tell the Horse Guards. Finally a letter arrived from Dundas which drove both Grey and Jervis to resign their commands. The purpose of the letter was to cancel all that had been done by Grey in the matter of prize-money, on the grounds that what he had done was illegal and that he was guilty of rapacity, extortion and oppression. The truth was that a great many West Indian merchants, who had instigated the allegations against Grey and Jervis, had either invested their capital in French and other foreign islands or were carrying on illicit trade with them and the seizure of their goods endangered the repayment of the money due to them from their French clients. Dundas had quite forgotten that he himself had sanctioned a detailed scheme drawn up by Grey at his own request. To anticipate the final solution of the controversy: Grey and Jervis fought the matter out with great success, though it was not until 1806 that a final division of the prize-money was made. In the meantime, fighting continued on the island of Guadeloupe, until on 6 October the 125 men who remained (out of three battalions, twenty three companies of infantry and two companies of artillery) were obliged to surrender, "fitter for hospital than to be under arms".

Meanwhile the British, who had been invited to St Domingo on the basis that they would protect the white inhabitants, were finding their task increasingly difficult because of the lawless state of the country's negro inhabitants. By the autumn of 1794 the members of the British garrison were reported to be "*dying like rotten sheep*". Nor was that all, for in early 1795 the negroes of Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and Dominica became involved in uprisings of various degrees of severity. By mid 1795 the British cabinet realised that the condition of affairs in the West Indies was so serious that nothing less than an expedition of overwhelming strength could amend it. Accordingly a force was assembled of six brigades, which included the 33rd (less the flank companies, already in the West Indies) allocated to the 2nd Brigade. However, shortly after the fleet set sail it was dispersed by a violent storm. When it was re-assembled it was decided that the 33rd (under command of Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Wellesley) would, instead, proceed to India.

The British poured their troops into the pestilent islands of the West Indies in the expectation that they would destroy the power of France thereby, only to discover, when it was too late, that they had practically destroyed the British army. Fortescue estimated that in the long war against the French between 1793 and 1815, 97,000 British soldiers served in the West Indies, of whom seven out of ten died. As for the flank companies of the 33rd Regiment, the Digest of Service records that they "*were totally destroyed*". A nominal roll amongst the papers of the Duke of Wellington, now in Southampton University, records the names of sixty men of the grenadier company who died while serving in the West Indies.

### 1822-1832

On 18 November 1821 the 33rd Regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel S. Moffatt, marched from Dublin to Cork, there to embark on four transports for service in Jamaica. The strength of the Regiment



was 700. On the voyage the ship carrying the Regiment's headquarters and two companies struck a reef off the island of Antigua and the troops had to disembark. They stayed for two months, and it turned out to be a very pleasant interlude. Lieutenant William Thain, the adjutant, wrote in a letter to his father "Officers and men are all as well as they were at home; indeed the climate at this season of the year is delightful". However, matters were very different in Jamaica, where they eventually landed on 12 April 1822. The members of the main body of the Regiment, who had arrived two months earlier, regaled the new arrivals with nothing but depressing stories of fever, dysentery and death. Thain was struck with the pale, sickly appearance of the officers and men when compared to the sunburnt faces and strong healthy looks of the new arrivals. The Regiment was stationed at Up Park, which proved to be extremely unhealthy. In May 1822, a mere month after arrival, Thain is writing to his father that "Death is our next door neighbour". Because of the unhealthy conditions at Up Park the Regiment was, from June, gradually withdrawn to

Stoney Hill, a far more congenial station, though not before there had been over sixty deaths at Up Park. During the next six months there was not a single death. In March 1824 the 33rd was moved to the north side of the island. According to Thain, "Sir John Keane (the newly arrived commander of the forces in Jamaica) has determined to send us round to the north side, no doubt in consequence of good behaviour... Falmouth and Maroon Town, the former on the coast and the latter twenty miles inland...are by far the most healthy stations in the island". While there, some of the companies were employed in quelling a revolt. The Regiment remained in the north of the island until September 1825, when it was moved to Spanish Town. Thereafter it circulated between Up Park Camp, Stony Hill, Fort Augusta and Spanish Town.

In 1830 Lieutenant Colonel Moffatt returned to the UK after having been severely injured in an accident. Thain recorded that: "...our colonel is looked up to by all the staff here and is popular above all the other commanding officers in Jamaica...he possesses every good quality of an honest heart, and a noble.

upbringing. Indeed though he may have faults as a commanding officer (and they all may be said to lean to virtues side) yet he is a good man, and he and Mrs Moffatt are so truly estimable in private, and live so happily together, that we cannot but respect and admire them. The example they set of conjugal affection is almost superior to any I ever saw". His successor was Lieutenant Colonel Charles Knight.

In December 1831 the Regiment was due to return to the UK. As was the custom, the soldiers were requested to inform the authorities whether they wished to extend their service in the island by volunteering for service with a regiment that was remaining. 139 volunteered for the 84th and three for the 22nd, despite the high death rate. They were doubtless influenced by the offer of a handsome bounty of £1.50. According to the Digest of Service: "*In consequence of the number of men that had volunteered, and the late season having been very sickly, the Regiment embarked only two hundred and forty nine rank and file*". The Regiment arrived off Spithead on 1 May 1832 and was then stationed at Gosport. During its ten years in Jamaica its losses through sickness amounted to eleven officers and 560 NCOs, drummers and privates.

#### 1841-1843

Late in 1840 the 33rd regiment, then stationed in Gibraltar under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Knight, was again warned for service in the West Indies. The short time that had elapsed since the previous posting was in order, apparently, to bring into effect a new rotation system. The news was received with dismay, as recorded by Captain H. W. Bunbury. In September he wrote: "...nearly all dislike the prospect". By January 1841 he was writing: "...faces in the Regiment get rapidly longer and here is a general feeling of uneasiness and dissatisfaction becoming every day more apparent". The Regiment embarked on three ships on 4 February, but the prevailing westerly winds and heavy storms meant that the Regiment had to remain embarked for nearly three weeks before it was able to set sail for Barbados on 23 February. It arrived there just under one month later and disembarked 636 all ranks, 40 wives and 91 children. The accommodation was totally inadequate as there were 2,500 troops on the island and barrack accommodation was for only 1,000. Those not in barracks lived in tents without even a blanket to cover them. It is not to be wondered that their health suffered. By July Bunbury was writing: "*We have 91 men in hospital and the number increases daily...fever, dysentery and delirium tremens are the principal complaints. It makes one sad to see a fine Regiment like this going to ruin so fast from the effects of the climate*". Bunbury observed that deaths from yellow fever were even higher among those regiments in which, "*the officers ran away to some healthy spot, leaving their men depressed and discouraged at being abandoned*".

On 21 July the popular and much respected Lieutenant Colonel Knight, who had been in a very bad state of health since his arrival at Barbados, died while awaiting a passage back to the UK. Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Harty purchased the lieutenant colonelcy, but did not take up the appointment. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel R. Westmore. Other officers in the Regiment followed the example of Lieutenant Colonel Harty, reckoning discretion was better than death from yellow fever. More than once Bunbury commented on the situation, with considerable irritation. "*It is really very hard the way officers get leave and remain in England, leaving two or three (captains) to do all the work in the West Indies*", he wrote.

Having weathered the sickly season, without suffering too much, yellow fever suddenly broke out in the Regiment, in November, in a most virulent form. Within twenty four hours of contracting it a man would be dead. The Regiment was therefore ordered to Gun Hill for a change of air. There was an immediate beneficial effect on the men's health. Early in 1842 the Regiment was redeployed. The Headquarters and two companies went to St Vincent, two companies were sent to St Lucia and Captain Bunbury and two companies to Dominica. The depressing conditions were not enlivened by the prospect of a new commanding officer. In August Bunbury wrote: "*My poor Regiment is all at sixes and sevens, through gross mis-management, and I fear our present Lieutenant Colonel, even when he does come out, and that will not be before the end of the year, will not mend matters at all; on the contrary, he is so much disliked that the Regiment is likely to be even more divided than it is now*". A year later the Regiment was again in Barbados, the move coinciding with the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Westmore. Its stay was short lived, for in April 1843 the Regiment, less two companies, was sent to Demerara. The two companies stationed at Berbice suffered particularly severely from yellow fever and were soon moved to Port Mahaica. On 11 November 1843 the 33rd Regiment's tour of the West Indies came to an end, when it sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia. During the thirty three months it had been stationed in the West Indies the Regiment had lost six officers, 21 NCOs and 135 soldiers. Meanwhile Captain Bunbury had joined the staff on St Vincent, which he found a most congenial posting: "*Nothing could be more delightful than the climate of this island...I should be well satisfied to pass the rest of my service in the West Indies at St Vincent*". When the Regiment sailed for Halifax it was without Lieutenant Colonel Westmore. He had been commanding officer for less than a year, which, in view of Bunbury's earlier remarks, is not all that surprising.

A. C. S. Savory

## GERMANS SERVING IN THE 33rd REGIMENT

During the Crimea war (1854-56) regiments serving overseas were kept up to strength by German recruits, the British personnel being taken for reinforcements to the regiments engaged in the Crimea. After the war the German element was gradually disbanded, the men being offered passages to the colonies, together with an allowance for agricultural implements etc. Some appear to have enlisted into the regiments of the East India Company and it is known, for instance, that the 3rd (Bombay European) Regiment, which in 1861 became 109th (Bombay Infantry) Regiment, had five hundred Germans out of a strength of nine hundred at about this time.

In 1867 the 33rd embarked from Karachi for service in Abyssinia. According to the book 'Queen Victoria's little wars':

"...the 33rd, although a Yorkshire regiment, was filled with Irish men. The men of the 33rd were noted for being a tough, hard swearing, hard drinking lot, and difficult to manage. Also in the Regiment were ninety Germans, most of whom spoke little or no English. These were the remnants of a British Foreign Legion, which had been raised for service in the Crimea war, but had not been used and ended up in South Africa instead. Now for some obscure reasons, they were made part of Her Majesty's 33rd Foot in Abyssinia."

Whether these particular Germans had come from South Africa is open to doubt. It is more likely they were volunteers from such units as the 3rd (Bombay European) Regiment, as the 33rd served in India from 1857-67.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

### PART VIII: MALTA 1935

After being abroad for nearly nine years in Egypt, Singapore and India, the time came for us to return to the 1st Battalion, in England. It was not so unusual for us to be abroad all those years - when we had an empire it was taken for granted. The men signed on for seven years and did six abroad, but as a boy we signed for nine years and three in the reserve.

The 1st Battalion, which was going to Malta, was stationed in Mandora Barracks, Aldershot. After India Aldershot was a different world and it took some getting used to. The RSM gave us a friendly warning that we were not the only people who had been abroad and not to get it into our heads that we could get away with anything, and added that he had his beady eye on us.

After returning from leave we went to Southampton, and set sail for Malta. We changed into tropical kit when we reached the Mediterranean and wore it in Malta until September when we changed back to khaki. After a pleasant voyage we reached Malta and sailed into the Grand Harbour. It was a wonderful sight. The harbour was full of battleships, destroyers and numerous small craft. After India it was pure delight. We disembarked near Valetta and marched several miles up the sea front to St George's Barracks. They were situated right on the

sea front and when we had settled in, the first thing was a swim in the bay. It was such a change from anything we had known. Parades were in the morning, and it was an order that most ranks were to swim or play water polo for an hour after dinner. Then the rest of the day was our own. It was in Malta that for the first time in my service we were allowed to wear civilian clothes.

Most days after the swim my mate and I used to stay in the sea and swim round the point into St Julian's Bay, where most of the Maltese people and naval personnel passed the rest of the day, trying to catch the eye of some of the lovely women who swam there. One day I saw a lady in distress who was shouting for help, and being the hero, as usual, I swam to her and brought her ashore, where she thanked me for saving her life. She was lovely, and I asked her if she was married and she said no. I was very interested, and arranged to meet her again. She lived in Medina, the ancient capital of Malta, and I arranged to meet her there. There was one snag, the Maltese are a very religious people, and everywhere I went with her, her brother came too. He was about ten years old and I tried to bribe him but it was no use, I never got as much as a kiss.

J. Kendrew



# Regimental Association

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## BRANCHES

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

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

**Halifax:** 8.00pm second Tuesday of each month at the WOs & Sgts Mess, The Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax.

*Secretary:* Mr P. R. Taylor, 1 Gibb Lane, Halifax, HX2 0TW.

**Huddersfield:** 8.00pm last Tuesday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess; TA Centre, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield.

*Secretary:* Mr R. F. Woodhead, Dr Brown's Public House, 52 Wakefield Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3AQ.

**Keighley:** 8.30pm last Thursday of each month at Pop & Pasty Public House, Bradford Road, Keighley.

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

**London:** 1997 meetings on 26 January and 22 June at the Union Jack Club, near Waterloo Station, London, at 12.00 noon. AGM on 21 September in the Park Court Hotel at 11.00am.

*Secretary:* Mr K. Jagger, 26 Digby Road, Barking, Essex, IG11 9PU.

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

*Secretary:* Mr G. Earnshaw, 32 Cawood Square, Brinnington, Stockport, Cheshire, SK5 8JS.

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

*Secretary:* Mr S. Thompson, 64 Kilvington Road, Sheffield, S13 8AH.

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

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

## TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE BATTALION'S OCA

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

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

**8th Battalion (145 Regiment) RAC.** *Secretary:* Major F. B. Murgatroyd, Millcrest, 3 Fulwith Mill Lane, Harrogate, HG2 8HT.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## TRUSTEES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FUND

The trustees met at Halifax on 20 September 1996. Present were: The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Charles Huxtable, KCB, CBE, DL; Major General D. E. Isles, CB, OBE, DL; Brigadier D. W. Shuttleworth, OBE; Colonel R. R. St J. Barkshire, CBE, TD, JP, DL; Lieutenant Colonel N. St J. Hall; Major K. M. McDonald, TD, BA, JP, DL; Major D. L. J. Harrap; Major R. Heron; Mr J. P. B. Golding. Lieutenant Colonel W. Robins, OBE, and Mr S. Flaving were in attendance. Brigadier E. J. W. Walker, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel A. S. Drake, MBE, and Major A. C. Jowett were unable to attend.

### Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1996

The chairman of the finance committees, Mr Golding, gave a report on the state of the Regimental Association Fund. He stated that the fund was in a healthy state and that all payments had been scrutinised and found to be in order. A number of issues were raised for consideration by the trustees and these were considered as separate agenda items.

## Investments

Colonel Barkshire gave a review of the investments of the Regimental Association.

- The FT index for 1995/96 had increased by 17.6%. All three funds in which the Association was invested had exceeded this figure.

- He reminded the trustees that in 1988 they had decided they would forgo short term income for capital gain. As a result of this decision the market value of the fund was now £446.00, instead of £200.00 had the fund remained invested in gilts. Furthermore there had been only slight reduction in income.

## RHQ travel costs

The Regimental Secretary informed the trustees that the RHQ travel budget had been halved from £5,600 to £2,800. As a result all future travel costs relating to the business of the Regimental Association would have to be met from Association funds. It was decided that so as to avoid the Regimental Secretary and Assistant Regimental Secretary in effect subsidising Association funds such costs would be at the higher official duty rate, rather than the lower public transport rates. It was

anticipated that the additional cost to the Regimental Association fund would be around £2,000 per annum.

### Iron Duke

Major Heron stated that there had been an excess of income over expenditure during the last financial year of £549. However, costs were rising and he could anticipate a need to increase subscription rates. Furthermore there was a need to purchase new covers for the journal, at a cost of £1,600. After a general discussion it was agreed that a decision would be deferred until the review of the Regiment's finances had been completed.

There was also a discussion concerning the merits/costs of incorporating colour in the journal. It was agreed that this also would have to wait on the review of Regimental finances.

### Annual donations and grants

The following grants were approved:

Army Benevolent Fund	£4,000
Royal British Legion	£250
Salvation Army, Huddersfield	£50
Huddersfield Army Veterans	£100
Salvation Army, Halifax	£50
BLESMA	£100
Combat Stress	£100
Ex-servicemen's Fellowship	up to £100
Regimental Museum	£400
Branch Management Fund	£900
Honarium	£400
Iron Duke free list	£66
Assisted holiday scheme	up to £500
ATR Glencorse	£400
Regimental Chapel, Halifax	£50
Regimental Chapel, York	£50
RMAS Memorial Chapel	£20
Subsidies:	
Reunion dinner	up to £800
London Branch dinner	up to 50% of cost
CO 1 DWR welfare fund	up to £600

### 1 DWR funds

Lieutenant Colonel Hall stated that the NAAFI rebate was about to cease and the income received by the Battalion was smaller than it had been for many years. He said that there was a requirement for financial assistance within the next six months to support a variety of much needed adventure training expeditions. It was agreed that adventure training could be supported up to a sum of £5,000 and that Lieutenant Colonel Hall should submit a detailed case for the money he required to the Colonel of the Regiment.

### Regimental strategic plan

The Colonel of the Regiment stated that arising from the plan was the need to raise substantial sums of money, both from within the Regiment and from external sources, in order to improve the financial state of the Regiment. Some of the likely future expenditure had already been discussed. In the subsequent discussion General Isles suggested that in future the trustees should review all of the Regimental funds and

not just those of the Association, as there was a growing overlap between the payments from the funds.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Regimental Association was held at the Stakis Hotel, Bradford on 5 October 1996. The Colonel of the Regiment presided.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 October 1995 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Colonel of the Regiment.

### The General Secretary's report

The General Secretary covered the following points:

**a. Accounts for the year ending 31 March 1996.** The total income for the year was £48,541 against expenditure of £34,663, giving an excess of income of £13,878. The market value of investments stood at £392,152, making the total worth of the fund, including cash at bank and investments at market value = £445,362. The General Secretary explained that most of the annual income is received through the serving soldiers 'Day's Pay' subscriptions and from investment income. He also explained that expenditure is almost exclusively on benevolence grants to members of the Regiment and to charities with similar aims to the Regimental Association, particularly the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).

**b. Grants.** During the financial year the Association, with help from the ABF, assisted a total of 102 (88 in 1995) benevolence cases and dispersed £18,423 (£17,900 in 1995). The trustees also authorised grants to welfare organisations totalling £11,514.00.

### Tercentenary

The Colonel of the Regiment announced that the Regiment's plans for the celebration of its tercentenary are now underway and would be based on the presentation of new colours to the 1st and 3rd Battalions. The Colonel explained that although the tercentenary is 2002, the actual celebration date would depend upon the future location of the 1st Battalion. He also explained that considerable financial resources would be needed to properly fund this event and the planning is now underway to achieve this.

### Regimental Service 1997

A proposal was made by the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion that the 1997 Regimental Service be held in Halifax Parish Church and that future services be shared between York Minster and Halifax Parish Church. This proposal was discussed by the meeting and it was agreed that the 1997 service be held in Halifax on a trial basis, followed by a buffet lunch to be organised by the 3rd Battalion and RHQ. It was also agreed that this proposal was dependant upon a guarantee that we would not lose our traditional slot in York Minster in future years.

(Afternote: It has now been confirmed that the Regimental Service will take place in Halifax Parish Church on Saturday 1 November 1997.)

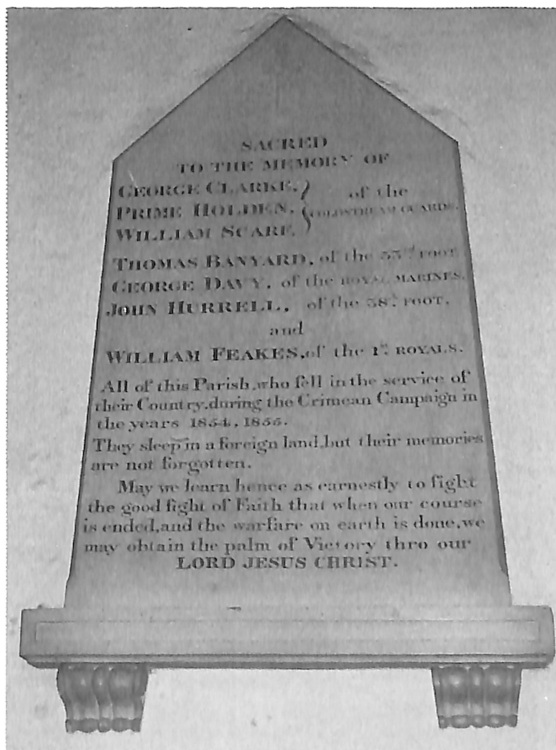
### Any other business

The Colonel of the Regiment gave the meeting a short brief on the current state of the two battalions, commenting particularly on the success of their recruiting efforts.

## ANNUAL DINNER

The annual reunion dinner followed the AGM. Some 271 sat down for the dinner and at least the same number turned up after the dinner.

The toast to the Regiment was given by the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 3rd Battalion, WO1 B. J. Thomas. The Colonel of the Regiment replied. The Colonel stated that he hoped at next year's dinner we could muster at least 300 Dukes sitting down to dinner.



**Memorial in the church at Bardwell, near Bury-St-Edmunds, which includes the name of Thomas Banyard, killed in the Crimea war.**

## 9th BATTALION (146 REGIMENT) RAC

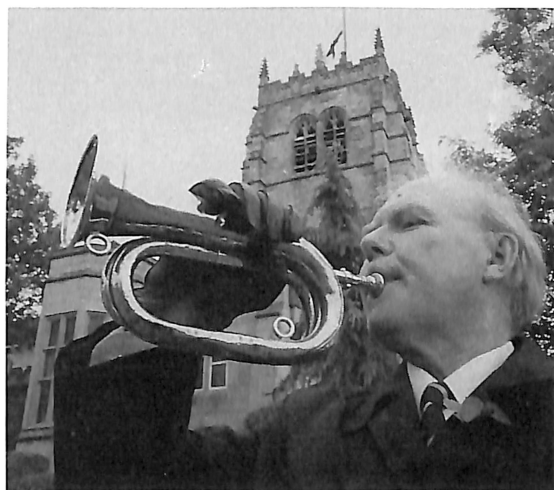
Former members of the 9th Battalion and their wives gathered for their 49th annual reunion lunch at the Golden Lion Hotel, Leeds on 1 October 1996.

The 50th reunion lunch is to be held at the same venue on Tuesday 7 October 1997. This should be a very special occasion for all members of the 9th Battalion. Anyone who would like information regarding this reunion should contact either RHQ (01422 361671) or Captain Tom Moore, Secretary (01474 362999).

## LONDON BRANCH DINNER 1997

The London Branch dinner will be held at the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate on Saturday 19 April 1997. The Regimental Association will be sponsoring a coach from Yorkshire to London, departing Friday 18 April and returning Sunday 20 April. Accommodation will again be at the Victory Services Club. Details will be sent to branches as soon as they have been confirmed.

Anyone requiring further information should contact RHQ or the Secretary of the London Branch.



**Mr David Peckover plays the Last Post at Bradford Cathedral, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the battle of the Somme.**

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS/\*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr A. C. Allcock, 9 Aukstone Close, Dunstan, Northants, NN5.

D. L. Borwell Esq, 9 Fairwinds Close, Dronfield, Sheffield, S18 6RZ.

Mr I. E. Brett, 2 Shirlands Court, Sea Avenue, Rustington, BN16 2AH.

Mr N. Butler, 17 East Clapperfield, Edinburgh, EH16 6TU.

Mr P. D. Horsfall, The Nook, Arkholme, Carnforth, LA6 1AX.

WO2 (RQMS) P. Hutchinson, Episkopi Garrison, BFPO 53.

Major R. H. Ince, "Fairtrees", Woodstock Lime Grove, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7UJ.

Mr M. A. Lodge, 41 Rewley Court, Rewley Road, Oxford, OX1 2DD.

Lieutenant Colonel T. D. Lupton, Churchills, Newton St Cyres, Devon, EX5 5AW.

Mr A. D. Meek, 41 Duke of Cambridge Close, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7DG.

Mr I. E. Metcalfe, 7 Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NP.

Mr T. B. Musgrove, 16 Birling Park Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5LQ.

Mr F. R. Parkinson, 58A Hawthorne Avenue, Haxby, York, YO3 3RN.

Mr N. Pogson, 33 Country Meadows, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3LP.

Mr C. L. Roberts, 7/1 Ashford Avenue, Rockingham, West Australia.

Major D. A. Ross, 131 The Keep, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 5UF.

Fr Alberic Stacpoole, MC, OSB, St Mary's, Broadfield Walk, Leyland, Preston, PR5 1PD.



**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 1996**

ASSETS	1996		1995	
	Market	Cost	Market	Cost
	Value	£	Value	£
<b>Investments</b>	<u>392,152</u>	292,889	<u>311,010</u>	272,889
<b>Stock</b>				
Regimental Items		4,528		3,137
Histories		28,917		30,164
<b>Cash at Bank</b>				
Current Account		3,581		1,999
Charities Deposit Account		17,454		25,336
<b>Debtors</b>				
Wreaths		30		165
		<u>347,339</u>		<u>333,690</u>
<b>Creditors</b>				
ABF NH Grants	1,300		1,456	
Postage & Packing	<u>-</u>	1,300	<u>13</u>	1,469
		<u>346,099</u>		<u>332,221</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>				
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>				
Balance Brought Forward	332,221		323,707	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>13,878</u>		<u>8,514</u>	
		<u>346,099</u>		<u>332,221</u>

**Auditors' Report**

We have audited the balance sheet and accounts and the Funds as set forth and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

In our opinion, such a balance sheet and accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the affairs of the Funds and are in accordance with the books and papers produced to us.

This . . . 18th day of June 1996.

K. W. Howarth & Co., Chartered Accountants, 36 Clare Road, Halifax, HX1 2HX.

**Schedule of Investments (at cost)**

	Cost	Market
	£	Value
	£	£
<b>Regimental Association Fund</b>		
249,850.93 CAF Invest Balanced Growth Fund Units	144,479	211,424
30,519.052 Charishare Income Shares	60,000	75,748
64,718.682 Schroder Charity Equity	88,410	104,980
	<u>292,889</u>	<u>392,152</u>

At 1 April 1995 the Cost of Investments was £272,889 (Market Value £311,010).  
13,075,314 Schroder Charity Equity Units were purchased at a cost of £20,000.  
Below is a comparison of the Market Value per unit and percentage changes.

	Market Value per Unit		
	1996	1995	%
	£	£	
CAF Invest Balanced Growth Units	0.8462	0.7144	18.4
Charishare Income Shares	2.4820	2.049	21.1
Schroder Charity Equity	1.6220	1.359	19.4



**BRANCH MANAGEMENT FUND**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 1996**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Dinner and Raffle Profit	170	-
Regimental Association Fund	700	700
Donations	1	5
Sundry Income	-	20
Excess of Expenditure over Income	-	126
	871	851
	871	851
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Branch Management Meeting Expenses	203	216
Regimental Service Subsidy	474	504
London Dinner Subsidy	-	131
Postage	95	-
Excess of Income over Expenditure	99	-
	871	851
	871	851
<b>REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION DINNER AND RAFFLE</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Tickets Sold (Dinner)	2,855	3,075
Raffle Tickets Sold	1,372	1,017
Subsidy (R.A.)	-	59
Wine - Top Table Refund	-	107
	4,227	4,258
	4,227	4,258
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Raffle Prizes	712	209
Band/Disco	80	300
Cost of Dinner	3,186	3,662
Extra Duty Pay	-	75
Printing, Advertising & Other Expenses	79	-
Ticket Refunds	-	12
Transfer Profit to General Fund	170	-
	4,227	4,258
	4,227	4,258
<b>REGIMENTAL SERVICE</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Lunch Tickets Sold	959	529
Subsidy from General Fund	474	504
	1,433	1,033
	1,433	1,033
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Overprint of Tickets - R.A. Fund	56	29
Flowers	114	128
Room Hire	70	65
Coffee	264	242
Lunch	681	424
Coach	-	145
Buffet	248	-
	1,433	1,033
	1,433	1,033
<b>LONDON DINNER WEEKEND - 1995</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Tickets Sold	2,545	1,943
Subsidy (R.A.)	365	388
Subsidy General Fund	-	132
	2,910	2,463
	2,910	2,463
<b>Expenditure</b>		
London Branch O.C.A. Dinner Tickets	542	385
Coach Hire	684	776
Victory Services Club Membership & Accommodation	1,684	1,302
	2,910	2,463
	2,910	2,463

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 1996**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1995</b>
	£	£
Cash at Bank	2401	1561
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
London Branch Dinner 96 receipts	1212	
Waterloo weekend visit receipts	881	
	<u>2093</u>	<u>1352</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	209	335
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	99	(126)
	<u>308</u>	<u>209</u>

## Obituaries

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

### Major F. J. Reynolds

Jeff Reynolds died on 29 July 1996, aged 80.

Brigadier P. P. de la H. Moran writes:

"Jeff and I joined the Regiment on the same day in August 1936. We immediately struck up a close friendship, partly due to our enthusiasm for sport. The following year we were warned for service with the 2nd Battalion, then stationed in India, and sent on embarkation leave. However, in his first rugby game that season, playing for Old Cranleighians, Jeff was spotted by one of the selectors for the English international rugby team, who was impressed with what he saw. Within days of his intended departure for India his posting was cancelled. Very shortly afterwards he was playing fly half for the army and England. In 1938 he accompanied the British Lions to South Africa. However, his top level rugby career was short lived, for during the tour he suffered a serious injury to his left leg. Apart from playing rugby for the army and England he represented the Regiment at cricket, hockey and boxing.

At the outbreak of war he was serving with the 1st Battalion at Bordon. In July 1940 he was appointed adjutant of the 8th Battalion, which in the following year was converted to 145 Regiment RAC. He accompanied the Regiment to North Africa, where he served as a squadron commander. In April 1943 he was mentioned in despatches. Later that year he attended the staff college at Haifa. On completion of the course he was posted as a squadron commander 48 Royal Tank Regiment, then serving in Italy. In February 1944 he was again mentioned in despatches. In November 1944 he joined the 1st Battalion, then stationed in Palestine, but after a year was appointed to the staff of British Military Mission in South Africa, in the rank of lieutenant colonel. In June 1947 he reverted to the rank of major on the assumption of an appointment in the Adjutant General's department at the War Office, where I was also working.

Jeff, who by then was married, had lost his appetite for a life in the army. He, therefore, decided to leave and

start a new career in the hotel business. After intensive training in London and New York he emigrated to South Africa in 1951. He became manager of country clubs, initially in Johannesburg and then in Rhodesia. From 1974 until his retirement in 1980 he worked in catering in the university in Cape Town. Five years after his retirement he had an operation to straighten his left leg which was not a success. As a result he had to have it amputated above the knee.

Jeff was a splendid companion, who possessed a likeable personality of great charm. His numerous friends will be saddened by his death.

### Captain N. Wimpenny, MC

Noel Wimpenny died on 8 August 1996, aged 75.

Noel served in the 2/7th from 1939-42, rising to the rank of sergeant. He saw service in France in 1940 before being evacuated from St Nazaire. He was commissioned in 1942 and joined the 1st Battalion with whom he served in North Africa, Italy, Palestine, Syria and Egypt. He was demobilised in 1945 and then joined the family firm of builders in Huddersfield. He had a good war record, being mentioned in despatches in North Africa and awarded an immediate MC for his bravery on the Anzio beachhead.

Noel had a charming personality and was most popular with all ranks. He was a regular attender of the Officers' Overseas Dinner Club and will be much missed by the rapidly dwindling number of those wartime stalwarts.

### Major J. M. Brereton

John Brereton died on 9 September 1996, aged 84.

John, who had nine published books to his credit, was commissioned in 1897 to write a comprehensive history of the Regiment from 1702 to 1992. His initial draft was revised and added to by Major A. C. S. Savory, using his extensive knowledge of the Regiment. With John Brereton's agreement, he was subsequently appointed co-author. Since publication of the history in 1993 it has been the subject of many complimentary

reviews by military historians and has received wide acclaim from within the Regiment and elsewhere as well produced, factual and highly readable account of the Regiment's activities. All members of the Regiment are therefore indebted to John Brereton for his part in recording, for posterity, such an excellent account of the Regiment's service over almost three hundred years.

Born into a farming family in Cumbria, John Brereton joined the Royal Horse Artillery as a boy trumpeter in 1932. Whilst in India he transferred to the Border Regiment and saw service on the North West Frontier. Although recommended for Sandhurst under the "Y" entry scheme from the ranks he did not get a place and left the army in 1938. He joined the Shropshire Yeomanry, was mobilised on the outbreak of war in 1939 and was commissioned into the Indian cavalry in 1940. He joined the 3rd Cavalry, which had recently been mechanised. He led a squadron of his Regiment in the Malayan campaign, becoming a prisoner of the Japanese on the surrender of Singapore. He spent the next three and a half years working on the infamous railway of death in Thailand. On release from the army in 1947 he began his career as a technical editor and writer whilst maintaining his interest in music and horses.

Lieutenant Colonel W. Robins, OBE, represented the Regiment at the funeral.

#### **Captain R. Wilks**

Ralph Wilks died on 6 June 1996, aged 77.

He was commissioned into the Regiment in 1940 and posted to the 8th Battalion. He continued with the Battalion on its conversion to 145 Regiment RAC and served with it in North Africa and Italy until 1945. After the war he spent his working life with Wool Industries Research Association in Leeds.

#### **Major W. Burke**

Bill Burke died on 7 October 1996, aged 68.

Bill was a keen member of the Dukes Army Cadet Force in Halifax during the latter stages of the second world war. At age seventeen he falsified his age in order to enlist as a regular soldier into the Regiment in 1945. Helped by his ACF experience he was soon selected as a recruit instructor. On his promotion to sergeant at the age of nineteen he became one of the youngest sergeants in the army. In 1948 he went as an instructor to Sandhurst and then served briefly with 1 DWR at Strensall before joining 1 Green Howards in Egypt and moving with them to Malaya. On returning to the United Kingdom he had a spell at the depot in Halifax before joining 1 DWR in Gibraltar as colour sergeant. Promoted to company sergeant major in Chisledon in 1956, Bill served with the 1st Battalion in Malta, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Colchester and Kenya. After a period with 1 PWO as RQMS he was promoted in 1963 to become regimental sergeant major of the Hallamshire Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, moving in 1966 to Cyprus as Regimental Sergeant Major of 1 York and Lancaster. Commissioned into the Dukes in 1968 Bill joined 1 DWR in Hong Kong as technical quartermaster, taking over as quartermaster at the end of 1972 in Catterick just prior to the move to Ballykelly in

Northern Ireland on a two year tour. He had previously completed two emergency tours in Ireland with the Battalion in 1971 and 1972. Following a move to Aldershot in 1974 Bill was appointed quartermaster of the depot at Strensall where he remained until his retirement from the army as a major in early 1980 after 35 years loyal and distinguished service.

On leaving the regular army he returned to the Army Cadet Force as an executive officer at Headquarters Yorkshire ACF at Strensall. There his wide experience and knowledge proved a great asset. He retired from this post in 1992 after a further twelve years of highly valued service.

Bill Burke had a lively personality, a shrewd mind and a quick wit. He also had a very good sense of humour and he enjoyed a good party. Indeed he didn't normally need much persuasion to sing one of his party pieces or to tell a funny story.

The funeral service was held at Copmanthorpe Crematorium, York on 11 October. In addition to members of the family many friends, former colleagues and members of the Regiment were present. The service was taken by the Reverend Hayden Jones, RACHD, the address was given by Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) W. Robins and two buglers from the 1st Battalion sounded the Last Post.

#### **Mr C. Western**

Charles Western died on 22 June 1996, aged 81. Charles joined the 2nd Battalion in 1933 and served with the Battalion in India and Burma. He continued his service in the Regiment until 1995, retiring as a colour sergeant.

#### **Mr R. F. Thomson**

Bob Thomson died on 11 September 1996, aged 79.

Bob served in the 1/7th Battalion during the second world war in Iceland and Normandy, finishing as the mortar platoon sergeant. His funeral was attended by two former platoon members, Mr Fred Bean and Mr Ron Ellis.

#### **Mr M. Budden**

Malcolm 'Doc' Budden died on 8 October 1996, aged 50.

Malcolm enlisted into the 1st Battalion in September 1965 and completed 22 years with the Battalion in Germany, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Belize, Northern Ireland and various UK locations. During his career with the Dukes he was employed in the intelligence section and medical section (where he soon became known as the 'Doc'). He was CQMS of Burma Company in South Armagh in 1981, before being appointed Regimental Accountant and WO2 in 1987. In 1988 Malcolm transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps but continued to be attached to the Dukes until 1991. On disbandment of the RAPC he again rebadged this time into the Adjutant General's Corps, by which time he was attached to the Royal Engineers in Ripon. Malcolm finally left the army in April 1992 after a total of over 27 years service.

Malcolm will be remembered as one of the great characters of his time in the Regiment. The funeral service took place in Heckmondwike Parish Church on

23 October 1996. A very large contingent of Dukes both serving and retired attended the funeral.

#### **Mr K. Brookes**

Ken Brookes died on 7 September 1996, aged 62.

Ken undertook his national service with the Dukes between 1952-54 and went with the 1st Battalion to Korea as a member of the signal platoon. Although he left after completing his national service, Ken was always immensely proud of his regiment and proud that he had done his bit in Korea. For the rest of his life Ken remained a loyal supporter of the Regimental Association. He was a member of the Sheffield Branch, and of the Korean Veterans Association.

In December 1995, after confirmation that he was suffering from cancer, Ken still insisted on joining with his friends from the Sheffield Branch on a visit to the 1st Battalion in Weeton, to support the Battalion boxing team in the army championship.

One of Ken's final happy memories was of being taken from the hospice only days before his death, by his comrades from the Sheffield Branch, to spend a few happy hours in the local pub.

A large number of Dukes and Korean Veterans attended the funeral.

#### **Mr E. Sharp**

The funeral of Eddie Sharp, ex corporal, took place in Morcambe on 15 August 1996. He was aged 59 years. Eddie served with the 1st Battalion from 1962 until 1977, mostly as a member of the MT platoon and Tech Quartermaster's department.

#### **Mr K. Summersgill**

Mr Kenneth Summersgill died on 6 August 1996, aged 88 years.

Ken served with the 1/6th Battalion TA between 1926-39 and continued to serve with the 1/6th throughout most of the war, which included service in Iceland and North West Europe, until he was transferred to the 1/7th Battalion in June 1944.

Ken was a member of the Skipton Branch of the Regimental Association and his funeral in Skipton was attended by many members from the Skipton and Keighley Branches.

#### **Major J. L. Streatfeild, MC**

John Streatfeild died on 5 November 1996 aged 74. During World War Two John served with the 1st Battalion in North Africa and Italy, including Anzio and the Gothic Line campaigns. He was severely wounded in North Africa, but came back to fight on the Anzio beachhead where, serving as IO, he won the MC at the battle of Campoleone in February 1944. In January 1945 he left the Battalion to join his old CO, Colonel Brian Webb-Carter, with the British Liaison Unit seconded to the Italian Army. From there he was posted to HQ British Troops Austria, returning to the 1st Battalion in 1948. John then became Adjutant of the 7th Battalion at Huddersfield in 1949. He served in Korea on the staff at HQ British Commonwealth Forces. After Korea he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar, contributing much to mess life as a versatile pianist and as a keen member of the Hindoostan Sailing Club. His

last regimental service was as training major at the Depot in Halifax, after which his appointments involved specialised photographic interpretation in the UK and the Far East. He retired from the army in 1961.

His funeral was held on 13 November at St Mary's Church, Linton where John, being the director of music and organist, was much respected and loved. General Donald Isles represented the Colonel of the Regiment and also gave the address, in which he stressed John's bravery and the high esteem in which he was held by his regiment. Brigadier Tony Firth, Majors Fred Huskisson and Bill Blakey, Captain Michael Goodman-Smith, Messers 'Mac' Dowdy, Ken Walker, Herbert Beckett and Mrs Susie Ellam were also present.

John leaves a widow, Jean, a daughter Anne and a grandson, born only a week before John died.

#### **Captain A. H. Jacobsen, MC**

Anton Jacobsen died on 8 November 1996 aged 82.

After making a hair raising escape from Norway in 1940, Anton was commissioned into the Dukes in 1941. He was posted to the 1st Battalion in the same year at Horncastle, and soon became a great member of the team. He was promoted captain and in North Africa was awarded the MC for his great bravery in the attack on The Bou, when commanding the remnants of A, C and D companies in that bloody battle.

He was second in command of 'C' Company under Major Brainy Benson at Anzio, taking over command of the company when Brainy was rested towards the end of the battle for Campoleone. He was taken prisoner during the withdrawal.

After the war he returned to Norway working for one of the leading Norwegian newspapers and later in the family business. He remained right up to his death a tremendously loyal Duke.

Anton leaves behind a widow, Inger, to whom he became engaged in 1939 and whom he married in 1942 at the Norwegian Embassy in London. Inger herself escaped from Norway, via Sweden to the UK, where she worked as a nurse in a naval hospital in Liverpool for the duration of the war. They had a son, Bjorn, whose arrival was announced to Anton by Brigadier Brian Webb-Carter at the same time as the award of his MC.

His funeral was in Oslo on Friday 15 November where the Regiment was represented by the Defence Attache from the British Embassy in Oslo.

#### **Captain A. D. W. Ross**

Duncan Ross died on 8 November 1996, aged 83. He was commissioned into the 1/7th Battalion in 1941 and served with the Battalion in NW Europe in 1944/45. He was mentioned in despatches for bravery. After the war he was employed in banking.

#### **Mr A. Arundel**

Mrs Ivy Arundel has received many letters of condolences on the death of her husband. She wishes to express her thanks to all those who wrote to her, but regrets, because of the number of letters she received, is unable to do so individually.