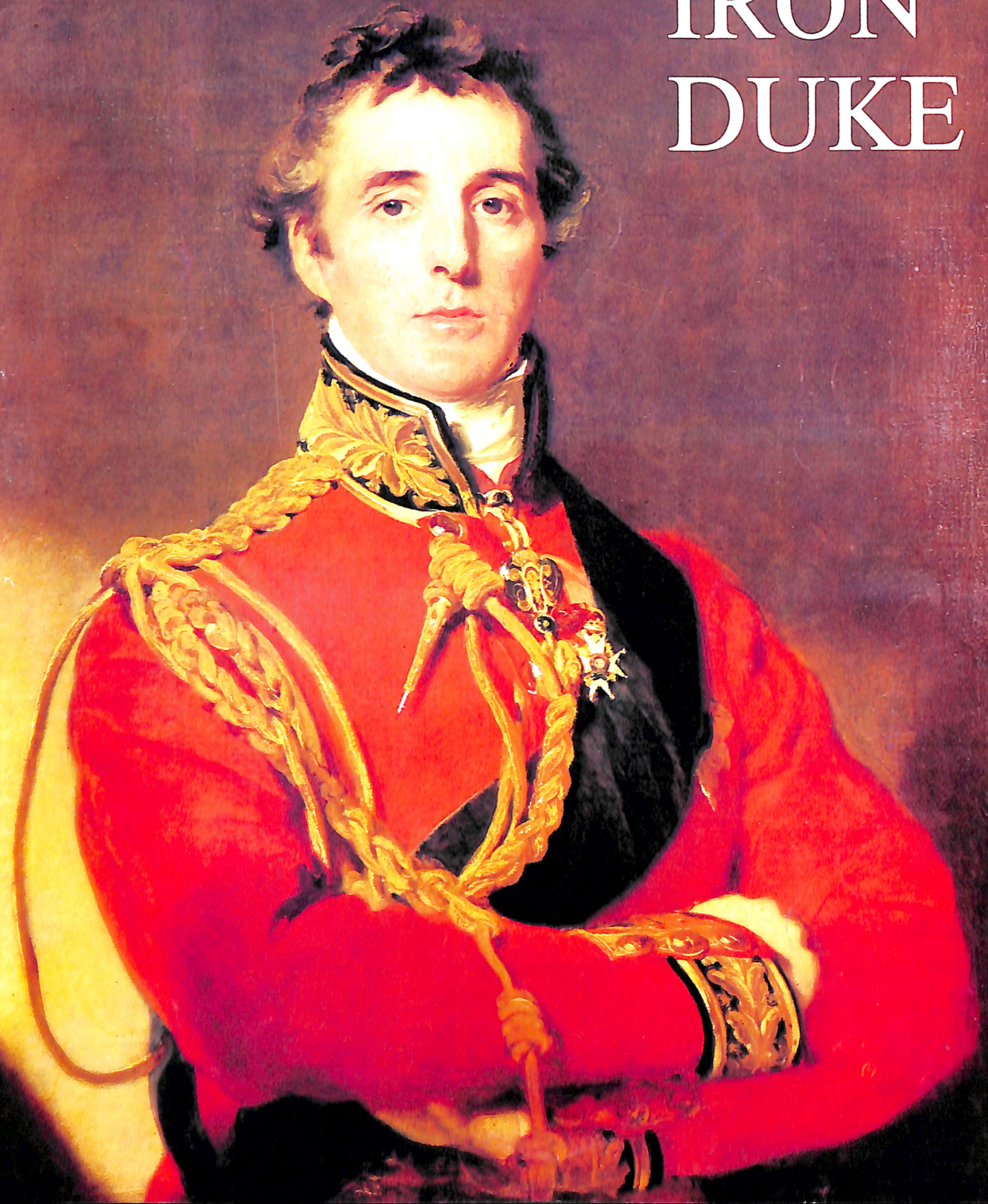


AUTUMN 2001
No. 246

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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No. 246

BUSINESS NOTES

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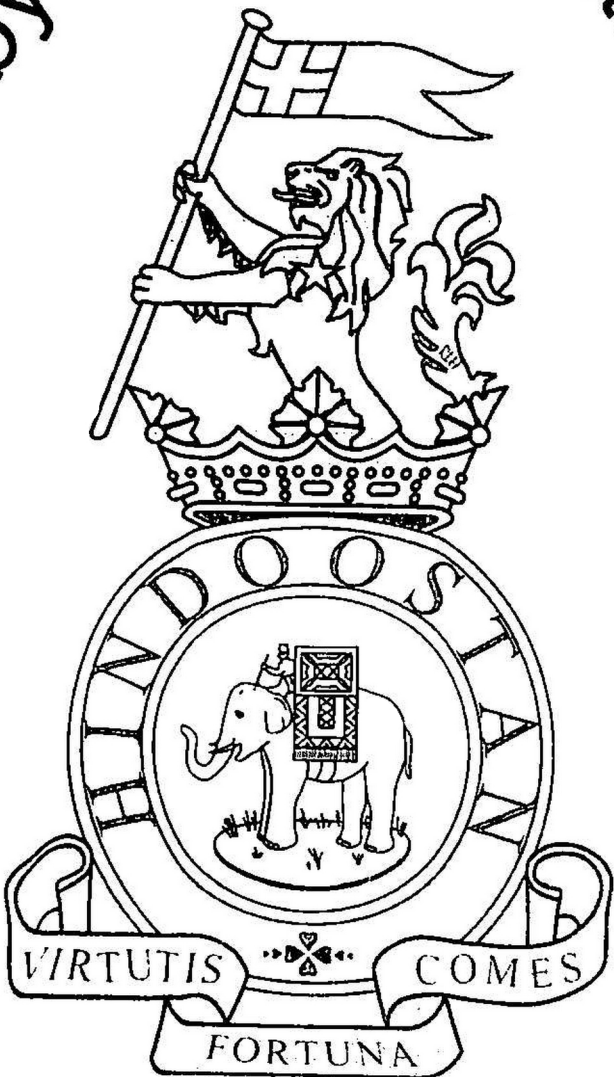
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THE REGIMENT

The Colonel-in-Chief

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

Colonel of the Regiment

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE

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

*Belfast Barracks,
BFPO 36.*

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel N. G. Borwell

Adjutant: Captain J. R. Bryden

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 M. Ness

East and West Riding Regiment

CO: Lieutenant Colonel G. Whitmore, LI

DWR TA Companies:

Ypres Company (West Yorkshire)

Deputy Honorary Colonel: Charles Dent Esq

Officer Commanding: Major J. G. Hughes

Fontenay Company (South Yorkshire)

Deputy Honorary Colonel: Colonel J. Fox, TD, DL

Officer Commanding: Major D. Baird

ARMY CADET FORCE - DWR

Yorkshire (North & West)

D Company Detachments
OC: Major P. Cole

Halifax
Huddersfield

Spennithorne
Keighley

Mirfield
Skipton

Thongsbridge

Humberside and South Yorkshire

C Company Detachments
OC: Major B. Bradford
D Company Detachments
OC: Major A. Hudson

Barnsley
Darfield
Birdwell

Thurcroft
Wath on Dearne
Endcliffe

Wombwell

COMBINED CADET FORCE - DWR

Giggleswick School CCF

CO: Lieut. Col. N. J. Mussett, MBE

Leeds Grammar School CCF

CO: Squadron Leader R. Hill

Wellington College CCF

CO: Major E. J. Heddon

ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

Les Voltigeurs de Québec

*Manège Militaire,
805 Avenue Wilfrid-Laurier,
Québec, Canada. G1R 2L3*

Honorary Colonels:

Colonel Marcel Jobin, CM, CQ

Lieutenant Colonel André Desmarais

Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Hébert, CD

ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE PAKISTAN ARMY

10th Bn The Baloch Regiment

*Peshawar Cantonment,
Pakistan.*

Colonel: Major General Kaizad Maneck Sopariwala

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel Muhammed Siddiq Akbar

AFFILIATED SHIPS OF THE ROYAL NAVY

H.M.S. Iron Duke

BFPO 309

Lieutenant Commander J. Philo, RN

H.M.S. Sheffield

BFPO 383

Commander S. P. Williams, RN



Corporal Rudd, Alma Company, evacuates one of the injured from the immediate vicinity of the blast area, close to the Centre for Peace and Tolerance in Pristina, on 18 April 2001 ... meanwhile, reassurance is provided elsewhere: Privates Nettleton and Greenwood, Corunna Company, with young enthusiasts on their Warrior.



Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

APPOINTMENTS

We congratulate the Colonel of The Regiment on his recent appointment as Honorary Regimental Colonel The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

PROMOTIONS

We send our warm congratulations to the following on their selection for promotion:

Colonel D. M. Santa-Olalla DSO, MC, to Brigadier and to command 2 (SE) Brigade in December 2001.

Lieutenant Colonel T. C. S. Bonas BA, to Colonel in Policy and Concepts Branch, HQ AFNORTH.

Major P. M. Lewis to Lieutenant Colonel on 1 August 2001, as SO1 Comms and Change Management, for the Adjutant General, based at Andover.

OFFICERS' DINNER

On Friday 8 June 2001, after watching the ceremony of Beating Retreat by the King's Division Normandy Band at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the Colonel of the Regiment presided at the annual dinner of the Regimental Officers' Dinner Club, which was held in the Indian Army Memorial Room. Seventy nine officers attended.

1943-45 1 DWR OVERSEAS DINING CLUB

The 56th Dinner of the 1 DWR 1943-45 Overseas Dining Club took place at Armoury House on 9 March 2001. Major Fred Huskisson presided and the Colonel of the Regiment was present, along with the following officers: Geoffrey Bullock, Robbie Burns, Dickie Bristow (RA), Michael Curtiss, Richard Diacon, Michael Goodman-Smith, David Harrap (RHQ), Ronnie Hoyle, Donald Isles, Hugh Le Messurier, Alistair Paterson, "Vic" Oliver and John Wilson. The Colonel mentioned in his speech that his father, who had been the Commanding Officer of the assembled company in many a fierce battle, would have been 100 years old that month.

TERCENTENARY

Regimental Headquarters will in due course provide full details of the plans for the celebration of the Regiment's Tercentenary - 300 years of distinguished history.

Meanwhile, readers may like to note the following outline dates for their diaries:

24 May - 10 June 2002: Havercake March through the Regimental area, from Settle in the north to Sheffield in the south.

7 - 19 June: Sponsored Bicycle Ride from Stratfield Saye to Waterloo.

21 - 24 June: Presentation of Colours and celebrations in Osnabrück.

18 -28 July: Freedom Parades in Yorkshire.

THE IRON DUKE

The three editions of the Iron Duke will be published as usual in 2002, but it is planned that each edition should give prominence to a different century of the Regiment's extensive history. Readers are welcome to trawl their attics and their family albums for material pertinent in particular to 1702 - 1802 and 1802 - 1902. There is no shortage of material from 1902 - 2002, but, of course, first hand stories from this period will be welcomed.

COMMUNICATION

Readers may like to note the following:

The RHQ e-mail address is: dukesrhq@netscape.net

The 1st Battalion e-mail address is:

dukeofwellingtons@hotmail.com

The Regimental web site is accessed through www.dukes.org.uk or through the Army web site.

We will publish private e-mail addresses only when specifically requested to do so. Please inform the Editor, or RHQ, if you want your e-mail address to be published in the Iron Duke.

THE COLONEL VISITS THE BATTALION IN KOSOVO

It was a particular pleasure to go out to Kosovo and visit the Battalion on operations. Having been retired for a few months one of the things I miss most of all is ... No! Not the house staff, the ADC or even the staff car. It is that getting to grips with young officers and soldiers. Although I was familiar with Bosnia I had never been to Kosovo, so any visit to Pristina was an exciting prospect.

The Commanding Officer had arranged a varied programme over three days to reflect his operational responsibilities. My first port of call was the HQ of the Multi-National Brigade which commands British,

Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian units. There are also some Russians incorporated into the Brigade, who have held Pristina airport since the days of the original occupation when Mike Jackson declined "to start World War Three". The Brigade's mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment in order to put Kosovo back on its feet and permit it to return to normality. This is a demanding and pretty hopeful aspiration and I would guess that NATO is there for a long time. But what I was particularly pleased to hear from the Brigadier was how well The Dukes were doing. They have a reputation of being an efficient and wilco organisation that are fun to

have in the Brigade. The warmth with which he spoke about them was spontaneous and genuine so I left the neat and specially constructed Brigade HQ much encouraged - an excellent start!

The Commanding Officer briefed me on his role and that of the Battalion, which was similar to that of the Brigade and all of KFOR (Kosovo Force) and is outlined in his own article which follows. Before Milosovic stirred the pot Albanian and Serbian Kosovans lived more or less happily side by side, but since 1997 events have corrupted those old relationships. There was nothing like the massacres and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in 1992 and the visual damage in the country, if that is what we call it, is considerably less. Nevertheless, with a history of strife between Turks, Byzantines, Serbs and Moslems since the calamitous 14th century, no faction has ever been sure of their ground. Colonel Nick spoke at length about the organised crime which props the economy up in an incomprehensible way. Just about everyone has a connection to the black market or some 'scam' and those that have not will starve to death. When one sees the apparent prosperity (in a Balkan sense) on the streets there can only be few people who are not on the game. In many ways the atmosphere in the region is somewhat artificial, with NATO forces, a UN Police Force (UNMIK) and a non-existent local government. Perhaps we are seeing a honeymoon period beyond which more ominous developments are waiting. As I write the picture in Macedonia is darkening. The Battalion places a very great emphasis on its information campaign. There are few credible local newspapers, although a rash of unofficial radio stations, and Colonel Nick's strategy is to inform the Albanian majority of what is going on and what they can do to help themselves. The beleaguered Serb minority have received most of the attention to date, so this is a timely change of emphasis. Dukes' officers frequently appear on local radio and TV stations in Pristina spreading the word and encouraging self-help and self-confidence. The Battalion also gets involved in development work, called CMO (Civil Military Operations), in conjunction with various NGOs and our own Ministry for International Development.

The next day I sat in on the daily 'O' Group and with a great effort restrained myself from taking charge. Peter Cowell was acting as OC Alma in his capacity as a sort of 'rent a Company Commander', as he fills in when Company Commanders go on their luxurious two weeks' R and R. On this occasion he was covering for Peter Monteith whom I am yet to meet. His day will come soon enough! Alma look after the bulk of the town of Pristina, although it is referred to as a city. Strangely enough I did not see the shanty towns of refugees which exist in Pakistan or Ruanda. However, it would seem that, like Kowloon in Hong Kong, each flat accommodates three families in pretty squalid conditions. Walking around Pristina one could see the black market culture at work, everywhere cheap CDs, cigarettes and electrical goods. Cars are an interesting topic. Practically all have been stolen in Europe proper and still have the international indicator of the respective country with the local plates stuck on top of their old ones. I asked a taxi driver where he got his

Mercedes. "Oh, I bought it here in Pristina, very good price!" I bet it was and as I walked away I glanced back to see the 'A' of Austria on the back of the boot! There is also the story about the German policeman in UNMIK who stopped a car of the same make and colour as his own in Frankfurt. Vaguely curious he continued his inspection of the interior, which was also identical. Finally he opened the boot and there lay his very own golf clubs! The soldiers of Alma Company patrol the streets of the city to afford confidence and security. In particular they have to directly protect the small Serbian community in a number of very small pockets and a partially constructed Serb Orthodox church, which I don't think will ever be completed. It would probably be best just to quietly take it to pieces. Such buildings become a target for ethnic attacks and serve no further possible purpose. At the university I had a long discussion with a group of students and academics (all Albanian). "Yes", they were pleased that NATO came and they looked forward to Kosovo being an independent nation. They were less sure how this would come about and they wanted NATO to stay for a long time! "Oh dear" I said to myself, not in the least bit surprised.

I had a quiet lunch with Somme Company who were in reserve in a typical NATO Balkan camp made of aluminium and plastic. No more 160 lb marquees these days! All the mod cons and lots of hot water from a tap make life very acceptable to soldiers on duty. And then on by helicopter to the Kosovan/Serbian border to visit Burma Company under Nick Wood. They were in fighting form, full of enthusiasm for their task. Burma Company was attached to the Norwegian Battalion which, for this operation, was appropriately called 'Task Force Viking'. A part of the Ground Security Zone



More reassurance



Border watching

(GSZ), that 5km wide neutral area of Serbia which was established when NATO moved into Kosovo, was being handed back to the Yugoslavian Army. However the area, some 50kms long, contained several Albanian terrorist groups who had used the area as a safe haven. The UCPMB (please don't ask me what it stands for - the number of acronyms in Kosovo is mind boggling) as these terrorists are called, had threatened to fight, but with NATO on their back door, and Burma Company to boot, I could not see there being a serious contest and so, much to the disappointment of Burma Company, this proved to be the case. When I saw the boys they were very alert and professional taking the possibility of having to defend themselves against the UCPMB very seriously. Quite apart from their exciting role, the area in which they were located was not dissimilar to the Alpine meadows one sees in France and Switzerland. It was warm, very green and there was a multitude of wild flowers; wild roses and foxgloves abounded. Were it in another age the area would be a delightful place to live. We drove the hour and a quarter back through a pleasant green land but with very few people about, most of the Albanian country folk have moved into the cities and towns to join the unemployed and corrupt. The agriculture industry is clearly suffering as much of the rural area seemed to be under 'set aside'. Yet I could not understand the copious supply of fruit and vegetables that I saw in Pristina. Like so much in the Balkans, little makes sense. As they say ... "the only truth is the lie"!

After a pleasant evening in the joint Mess at Battalion HQ, an old police station, I went up to the rural area

north of Pristina where I was taken around a rolling flat countryside by the OC of Corunna Company, Nigel Rhodes who, being a real countryman, relishes the responsibility of his patch. We spent an hour having a very special brand of slivovitz with a certain Mr Trykovic, the self-appointed headman of Gorny Brnica, a Serbian hamlet. This was an interesting interlude dominated as is so often the case by a history lesson. His commentary rather differed from the details recounted by Rebecca West in her "Black Lamb, Grey Falcon", which incidentally I recommend to any student of the Balkans. He had less to say about the present and nothing significant about the future. His family had lived in the village for 200 years and he showed a certain dogged determination to stay. It is Corunna's job to ensure that he is able to do so. We left having to fend off more hospitality than we could possibly manage. Copious glasses of firewater at ten in the morning is perhaps not the best thing for one's concentration! He did say that he felt very safe under the eye of the Dukes, but I also observed that they had to spend an inordinate time in protecting such families from Albanian revenge and intimidation.

All too soon my visit had come to an end and I was on my way back to London. It had been most cheering to see the Battalion in such good order, full of confidence and highly motivated. All officers and seniors were enthusiastic and interested in their role but I did reflect that when soldiers are not actually being shot at, it is much more difficult for them to retain that air of enthusiasm and devotion when very often you are waiting around for something to happen. Veterans of other conflicts will know exactly what I mean. As for Kosovo, I would not expect many dramatic developments. There are local elections soon and there will be a drive to make the Albanians look after themselves. There will be attempts by UNHCR to return Serbs to their rightful homes but I doubt if they will have any more success than they have had in Bosnia. Once there has been ethnic cleansing on any scale it is very difficult to return to the 'Status Quo Ante'. The Battalion will, of course, be able to see for themselves when they return to the same area in sixteen months' time. By then we will no doubt be worrying about another part of the Balkans, Macedonia probably, Montenegro perhaps. By the time this article is being read the Battalion will have handed over to the 1st Battalion Black Watch and will be back in Osnabrück doing their Annual Personal Weapons Tests and regretting that they did not have a member of the UCPMB in their sights! For me it was, as ever, hugely lifting to see a full Battalion being well commanded and doing a marvellous job on operations.

June 2002, EJW-C



1st Battalion

Commanding Officer's Introduction

A great deal has happened to the Battalion since the last edition of the Iron Duke, although such a comment could fit any time over the past twelve months. The New Year saw a ninety degree change of direction for a Battalion that had worked so hard to become highly proficient armoured infantrymen. With the mud of Bergen-Hohne and Sennelager barely washed from our boots and our Warriors, we embarked on training for operations in Kosovo. We had but little time to achieve readiness for such a complex and demanding theatre. Mindful that our field training in Kenya in 1994 had been the best possible preparation for Bosnia, I was happy that conversion to armoured infantry would be a similarly appropriate springboard. What we needed to achieve in January and February 2001 was training specific to our role in Kosovo. Rules of Engagement (ROE), use of interpreters, weapon handling, background briefs, public order training (a euphemism for riot control) and incident handling were back on the agenda. It was all rather reminiscent of NITAT training, which is hardly surprising because many of the techniques are easily transferable - as events in our tour are now proving. The Operational Training Advisory Group (OPTAG) is an amalgam of UNTAT (UN Training Advisory Team) and NITAT (Northern Ireland Training Advisory Team), and it provided comprehensive training for the Battalion at Sennelager.

The Dukes' battlegroup deployed to Kosovo on Op Agricola V and assumed responsibility for the Pristina Area of Operations (AO), from 45 Commando Royal Marines at 1600 hours on 3 March 2001. We are part of Multi-National Brigade (Centre) (MNB(C)) which also includes 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (2 RTR), 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (3 RHA), and a Battalion each from Sweden, Finland and Norway. Although we are part of 4th Armoured Brigade in Germany, MNB (C) is commanded by Commander 19 (Mechanised) Brigade, and his Headquarters, normally based in Catterick. The Dukes' Battlegroup is responsible for Pristina city and a rural area to the north (the Rural North). This is the most highly populated, and one of the most volatile, areas of operations in Kosovo. Before the war in 1999, Pristina was home to about 140,000 K-Albanians and about 40,000 K-Serbs. Now, there are well over half a million K-Albanians, but only 300 K-Serbs. The reason for this dramatic change is that many K-Albanians fled Serb ethnic cleansing in the rural areas and ended up in Pristina. Most Serbs, on the other hand, chose to quit Pristina rather than risk the vengeance of K-Albanians once the war was over. Pristina is an uncomfortable, high-octane blend of unemployment, the black market, organised crime, political extremism, and many former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighters with unfinished business. There is currently no end-state declared for Kosovo. The majority of K-Albanians want independence, but this has not been signed-up to by the International Community. Against this background

the strands of Kosovo society are inextricably enmeshed. Many people are involved in several activities simultaneously, some of which are legal, many are not. These overlapping areas of interest include organised crime, extremist politics, the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC - former KLA members), and the police.

The Dukes' mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment within boundaries in order to set the conditions for a peaceful and civil society in Kosovo. We achieve this very much in support of the multi-national United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police. The battlegroup has deployed with two framework companies in Pristina city, and two reserve companies based in Peninsula Lines just to the west of the city. The Pristina city companies are Alma in the south and Corunna in the north. The reserve companies are Burma and Somme. On initial deployment to theatre Burma was the Brigade Reserve and Somme was the Battlegroup Reserve.

A number of events in the past three months have unsettled Kosovo. The unhelpful confluence of Albanian terrorist attacks on Serbs, renewed intimidation of minorities, Albanian fears of Serb Army (VJ) re-occupation of the Ground Security Zone (GSZ), and a guerrilla campaign in Macedonia, have all made this a tense place to be. The perception of people here is that there is great instability, and that their "brothers" in Macedonia are oppressed. This interpretation of events was initially fed by exaggerated stories in the local and international media. There is a danger that people here will see the small numbers of Albanian rebels on the borders as representative, and that we could be cast as the enemy. By the beginning of May, the situation in Macedonia had become altogether more serious and this, in turn, is likely to have a knock-on effect in Kosovo. There have already been protests in the city. Many K-Albanians, including large numbers of students, have been demonstrating in support of extremists in Macedonia. They have generally been friendly, but the mood may change should the overall situation continue to worsen. There is no doubt that KFOR (Kosovo Force) could be better at getting our message across to the local K-Albanians. We already do a great deal to reassure the Serb minority, but the K-Albanians need to understand the truth of what is going on in places like the GSZ in Serbia, and in Macedonia. In order to reinforce our message we have established direct links with the community in the city. This has included setting up meetings with community and university leaders, and we have conducted interviews on every major TV and radio station in Kosovo. So far, it seems to be having a positive effect.

The Battalion is gaining a very good reputation wherever it operates. Alma Company has enjoyed a number of successful weapons finds and arrests, particularly during operations to clamp down on serious crime. Alma entered the fray with gusto and achieved

very good results in arresting some particularly dangerous characters within the first fortnight of the tour. The bombing of the Serb Ambassador in the city on 18 April was a shocking attack, with no regard for the safety of ordinary civilians in a crowded street. It was lucky that only half the device detonated, or the carnage would have been much worse. The Company dealt with the ensuing chaos in a cool and determined manner. There is no doubt that at least one life was saved by our soldiers that day.

Burma Company, in a reserve role, was deployed in support of the Swedish Battalion immediately it arrived in theatre. Its task was prevention of intimidation of Serbs in the key town of Gracanica. After three weeks, Burma was withdrawn, having ensured that no attack was launched against the town. Burma's next deployment was as part of Task Force Cambrai on the Macedonian border.

Corunna Company is concentrating on providing security for the Serb minority in the Rural North. They have already established joint Serb/Albanian headmen meetings for the first time in this area since the war, whereas hitherto only Serbs seem to have been spoken to. The conventional wisdom here said it could be done, but to achieve it so early has been quite a coup. We remain concerned about intimidation of the Serbs, both in the city and in the rural north, so we have devised a plan to install panic alarms in Serb villages and isolated Serb houses. These will be linked to our operations rooms to allow instant reaction to a call for help. In this way we hope to catch the intimidators in the act and deter them in future.

Somme was deployed early in the tour for three weeks as part of a Norwegian Battlegroup, Task Force Viking, which was operating under the US-led Multi-National Brigade (East) (MNB(E)). Their task was to intercept Ethnic Armed Albanian Groups (EAAG) operating opposite the GSZ in the Presovo Valley. Their performance was warmly commented upon by the US Brigade Headquarters and there is no doubt that Somme and their Norwegian comrades effectively dominated the area and prevented EAAG movement.

In addition to conducting operations in the city, the Dukes were required to take over command of a 2 RTR-led task force on the Macedonian border. The task force was deployed for three weeks in April - the time being divided roughly equally between the two battlegroups.

Its mission was to prevent EAAGs from operating across the border into Macedonia. This deployment was the setting for two incidents that were widely reported in the media: an RAF Puma crashed on the day the Dukes were conducting a recce before assuming command of the operation. Two of the aircrew were killed and a number of other people were injured. On 13 April, the day after we took command of the task force, a Scimitar armoured vehicle from 9/12th Royal Lancers (attached to the Dukes) was destroyed by an anti-tank mine on a border track. Trooper Slater was killed and two other men were wounded. No Dukes were involved in either of these tragic incidents. Our deepest sympathy was conveyed to Trooper Slater's family and 9/12th Royal Lancers. The task force comprised Burma Company, the Mortar Platoon, a Finnish Company, a battery from 3 RHA, Forward Air Controllers and Sappers. The Mortars fired illumination missions near the border. Significantly, this was the first time that Dukes' Mortars have fired on operations since the Hook! In addition, it is the first time since the Second World War that British artillery and mortars have fired in support of Polish troops.

By St George's Day, both Burma and Somme were back in Peninsula Lines and operations were continuing in the city. Late April and early May were relatively quiet in theatre before the situation south of the border in Macedonia flared up again. The Albanian National Liberation Army (NLA) re-launched its campaign by conducting attacks on the Macedonian Armed Forces on a broad front.. The Macedonians responded and, despite efforts to calm the situation by the International Community, things appear to be getting worse. Burma Company deployed to the provincial boundary with Serbia on 20 May in order to monitor the Serb Army's re-occupation of the most sensitive part of the GSZ. To date they have enjoyed a number of successes in interdicting Kosovo-Albanian insurgents. There are several likely tasks in the near future for our reserve companies and Battalion Tactical Headquarters. These may include reinforcing the Americans in MNB(E) in order to assist them patrolling the Macedonian border, or bolstering the French in Mitrovica in MNB(N). Whatever happens, 2001 is likely to be a long, hot summer in Kosovo and, so far, the Battalion's performance has been magnificent.

VISITS TO THE 1st BATTALION

The build up to Operation Agricola, and the tour itself has seen a large number of influential visitors to the 1st Battalion. We were delighted to welcome the Colonel-in-Chief and the Duchess of Wellington to Osnabrück in January 2001. GOC 1(UK) Armoured Division, Major General Robin Brims CBE, visited the Battalion in February, as did the then CDS Designate, now CDS, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce KCB, OBE, ADC. This was the new CDS's first official visit to any Army unit, and he was reportedly impressed by his time with the Dukes.

Since arriving in theatre the visits have come thick and fast. We have had the pleasure of hosting: Chief of

the General Staff, General Sir Michael Walker; 2nd Permanent Under Secretary of State, Sir Roger Jackling; the Foreign Secretary, the Right Honourable Robin Cook MP; two members of the House of Commons Defence Committee, Mike Gapes MP and Peter Viggers MP; DCOM Ops KFOR, Major General Z. Smith (US Army); Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS), Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall; GOC 1(UK) Armoured Division, Major General Robin Brims; Commander AFNORTH General Sir Jack Deverell, Comd 4 (Armoured) Brigade, Brigadier N. G. Smith and various working visits from LAND, PJHQ and other units.

During the remainder of the tour we look forward to welcoming the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, headed by Vice Admiral Sir Toby Frere; Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Garnett; DCinC Land, Lieutenant General Cedric Delves and a party from the House of Lords Defence Committee.

Whilst the official visits are time-consuming they are a valuable opportunity to show off the good work the Battalion is doing and the quality of the soldiers doing it. The Dukes have, as ever, not been shy in coming forward and expressing their opinions!



CGS and CO on PTK Tower.



OC Alma briefs VCDS and Commander MNB(C) on the CPT bombing. Pristina, April 2001.

THE KOSOVO PROTECTION CORPS LIAISON OFFICER AND TRAINING CELL

The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) was formed from the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in February 2000. Creating the KPC was a unique venture, seeking to turn a guerrilla force into a civilian emergency service. Indeed, the success of that transformation will appreciably determine the future of Kosovo, given the social, political and military roles that the KLA played in Kosovo in the past few years.

The KPC Liaison Officer, assisted by the Training Cell, is responsible for continuing the transformation of the KPC in the Battle Group Area of Operations. The Cell, consisting of Captain A. Garner, WO2 C. Hosty

and Sergeant V. Powell, accomplishes this task by using four forms of engagement: Daily Liaison, Training and Education, Using the KPC on Civil Community Projects, and Compliance.

Training and Education

Our Brigade has produced a KPC training programme in which all Battlegroups are involved, which deals with disaster relief. 1 DWR BG is responsible for five courses, namely: Operations Room Procedures Basic, Operations Room Procedures Middle, Map Reading, Code of Conduct, and Team Building.

Other courses that have been conducted by the BG include Physical Training Instructors' and Advanced Communications Training. The BG also runs regular test exercises, to assess the level of training achieved.

Using the KPC on Civil Community Projects

Employing the KPC for Civil Community projects not only increases their utility at all levels, but also improves their standing in Kosovo and abroad. A number of projects have been successfully completed, such as the construction of basketball courts, footpaths and children's playgrounds. All of the projects have involved members of the BG aiding the KPC where necessary.

Compliance

The KPC is governed by a set of rules, a Code of Conduct, similar to the British Army's Manual of Military Law. If the KPC violate this code they face disciplinary action, or dismissal if the violation is severe enough. If an act of non-compliance occurs, the KPC LO will report the problem through the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC).

KPC Unit Organisation in 1 DWR AO

There are seven KPC Units for which the Battlegroup is responsible in the Pristina area. These represent approximately 600 people out of the 5,000 in the organisation. The KPC Cell is responsible for the following units:

Central Units The leaders in the central organisation were either professional officers in the VJ Army or owe their position to achievements in the KLA.

- a. *Leader Academy* There are approximately sixty people in this organisation. It is responsible for the training of its officer corps and may have up to 120 students at any one time.

- b. *Air Group* There are approximately fifty personnel in the organisation. The KPC possesses no air capability, although members of the air group were either ground maintenance staff or pilots with the VJ Army.

- c. *Logistics Group* This is the largest group with which we deal and has approximately 160 personnel, providing maintenance, transport and supply to the KPC.

- d. *Communications and Signals Group* There are fifty personnel in the group located at Matecane. The group provides communications for all KPC units.

- e. *Medical Group* There are seventy-five personnel in this group who have a lot of experience and are in the process of participating in the medical programmes of the UN and KFOR.

Regional Task Group (RTG) There are six RTGs whose boundaries approximately align with Multi-National Brigade (MNB) boundaries. MNB(C) deals with RTG 5 which is the central group. 1 DWR deals with two of its subordinate units: 351 Detachment and 354 Detachment, each with approximately fifty personnel.

Conclusion

Training the KPC provides all members of the BG with the opportunity to work in the local environment, allowing them a different perspective on the local community. The demilitarisation of the KLA is one of the great success stories of Kosovo. The remilitarisation of the KPC is the greatest threat to the peaceful future of Kosovo.

A. S. Garner, Captain
KPC LO



Sergeant Powell, APTC, overseeing a KPC casualty evacuation exercise.

ALTERING THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVO

Media Operations and Psychological Operations fall under the umbrella term 'Information Operations'. The mission of the Info Ops cell in Kosovo is to influence the perceptions and behaviour of the Kosovar people.

Media Operations

Influence is achieved through local radio and TV interviews. The Commanding Officer addressed the people of Pristina on the three main TV stations within a matter of weeks of arriving. It was necessary to counter much of the sensational news reporting from international and local media about such issues as the handover of the GSZ (Ground Security Zone) and the fighting in the FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Media Ops is also there to provide a facility to local and international media agencies and provides accurate and timely information to these groups. It is important that the media see KFOR as a reliable source of information. The old days which tended towards blanket army secrecy and 'no comment' are long gone.

We have embarked upon a concerted campaign to promote our activities both in Germany and back at home in Yorkshire. This is a very important facet of the job. It maintains the feel good factor, makes the boys feel they are receiving recognition for their hard work, and provides us with invaluable recruiting material.

Generally about seventy percent of everything produced so far has been published in one form or another. This is a good 'hit rate', but also underlines the interest in our activities at home and the importance of our mission to the public.

Media Ops has been a fascinating insight into how journalists view the situation over here and also shows the lengths to which some of them will go to get a story. One thing we have learned is that absolutely nothing is ever 'off the record'.

Psychological Operations

The role of Psychological Operations (PsyOps) in Kosovo has been to influence the attitude and perceptions of the local population in order to support the Mission. During the Battalion's tour this has been achieved by working hand in hand with both Media Ops and Civil Military Operations.

The Battalion's AOR is split into two distinct areas: Pristina city which is the political, social and economic 'capital' of Kosovo, and the Rural North, which is effectively an isolated community to the north of Pristina in which both Serbs and Albanians increasingly tolerate each other. Many of the citizens of Pristina are well educated, well dressed and forward thinking. In contrast the Rural North citizens are generally backward, simple and unsophisticated. The PsyOps Campaign has therefore had to be tailored to suit the target audience in each community.

Pristina City Before the war there was a lack of Albanian media under the Serb regime and therefore speculation and rumour was rife among the Albanian community. Since the end of the conflict, a number of newspapers, TV and radio stations have developed and the Albanians of Pristina are now better informed than

many of their rural counterparts; however the culture of rumour still exists and it is this rumour, along with inaccurate reporting, that the Battalion PsyOps Campaign has had to counter. The most effective method to achieve this has been through Media Ops. Through the local media, we have been able to accurately report what KFOR are doing, promote the primacy of rule of law, encourage progression towards a peaceful society through democratic means and emphasise that a democratic society has responsibilities as well as rights.

However, in order to carry out an effective PsyOps Campaign, it is also important to have links with the community in order to understand what is influencing them and why. Captain Keith Foster has therefore been employed in the city as a Community Liaison Officer. He has been responsible for establishing valuable links with the university and local Albanian community leaders as another means to promote the KFOR message. He has also gained valuable feedback on the attitudes and perceptions of the local community. The few Serbs who remain in the city are prisoners in their own homes and rely on KFOR troops and aid organisations for their continued existence. Here, PsyOps supports the CMO effort where required and is responsible for delivering the Serb Telegraph, a Brigade PsyOps product produced weekly. This is the only real link the Serbs living in Pristina have with what is going on in the rest of the Serb community in Kosovo.

Rural North As already mentioned, the isolated villages to the north of Pristina contain both Serbs and Albanians. The majority of this community lived in harmony for many years before the conflict and despite the recent circumstances, the majority still tolerate each other now. Intimidation from inside the community is relatively low, however the Albanians fear intimidation from outside extremist groups if they are seen to be getting on too well with the Serbs.

The future for the Serb community in this area relies on freedom of movement and opportunity for economic growth. CMO projects are therefore critical and information and perceptions have played a key role in their success. The role of PsyOps has therefore been to develop links on both sides of the community and gain the support and reassurance of all. This has been achieved through a Rural North community newsletter called 'The Voice' to which local people contribute through a community youth group who meet once a week. The newsletter also includes information from KFOR and the local community police, this has greatly improved the local perception of both organisations. The project is run for each side of the community at present, however it is hoped that in the future it will develop into one newsletter produced by both sides of the community. The aim is to bring the villages closer together and slowly show both sides that a lot of the day to day problems they face, are not about ethnic issues, but about common issues which could be tackled a lot more easily if they all communicated more as one community.

Captain K. Hughes and Captain Rich Hall

CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS

Civil Military Operations, or CMO, does not really have defined parameters, but encompasses any job that involves the military working with civilians or civilian organisations. The background behind this department of the Battalion comes from the early days of Kosovo. It quickly became apparent that there were a lot of aid agencies or non government organisations, as well as the UN, operating out here, in fact 650 at the last count. Some of these agencies do sterling work providing aid, meeting education needs and helping trace missing people or returning people to their homes. Others are not so effective and do spend a large part of their time “swanning” around in white four wheel drive vehicles looking important. Nevertheless, they are a fact of life in Kosovo and we have to work with them and in some cases chivvy them along to do their job.

The Cell consists of myself and a reservist Sergeant Thomas from the E&WR Regiment (Colour Sergeant Bramwell was doing the job until he was whisked off to Sierra Leone for twelve months) who run the Battalion level cell. Staff Sergeant Samuels and Sergeant Bevan (Kings, attached) run Alma’s team with Lance Corporal Gibson and Herft who act as an escort pair to protect Serbs in transit. Corunna’s team is run by Sergeant Morrison. Alma have the larger team due to the size of the population in their area.

The work is different to almost anything that I’ve done before. We have all, at some point, ended up settling housing disputes, negotiating with water and electricity companies for minority families to be reconnected, and in some cases giving advice to farmers on how to plant crops! The work is all designed to promote the stability of the area and hence security, for if people have a stable environment they are less likely to cause trouble.

The Corunna team has been heavily involved in providing agricultural aid to Serb farmers in the north of Pristina in order to try and get them to become self-sufficient in food for next year. They have also been instrumental in helping deliver food aid to Serb communities. These people do not have freedom to buy food, as they cannot shop in Albanian areas due to the continued hatred between the two sides. Alma’s team, on the other hand, has spent most of its time just keeping alive the Serbs left in the city. There are about 300 Serbs left in Pristina who are mainly elderly. They cannot leave their houses or flats without an escort, as there is a very real threat of them being beaten by their Albanian neighbours. Some people have not left their homes for nearly two years since NATO first moved in. Staff Sergeant Samuels and Sergeant Bevan have been visiting these people, making sure that the aid agencies are still delivering food. Where possible they provide security to allow them to leave their homes to visit Serb villages around Pristina.

At Battalion level most of our work has been with agencies such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. We have been working to try and get Serbs who fled their homes in fear after the NATO bombing to return. Many fled to Serbia and some are in refugee camps just outside Serb villages in Kosovo. It is our aim to provide facilities and security to allow these people to return to their homes. This is often an uphill struggle against hatred and distrust from both sides. Much of this stems from that all too human trait of taking one person’s deeds to be the responsibility of a whole ethnic group. We often hear comments such as “the Serbs did this” or “the Albanians did that”, and as a result families that have lived next door to each other, for perhaps generations, now hate each other for purely



Corunna Company delivers potatoes to Serb farmers as part of a CMO project with the Irish transport company. Corporal Hill (Corunna) left, Corporal Sheehan (Somme) right.

ethnic reasons. Thus, a great deal of our effort is geared towards just building trust and confidence in communities.

Examples of some of the work carried out include, delivering seed to Serb farmers, starting youth and community projects that encourage people to talk and communicate, school refurbishment and installing panic alarms that are linked to our operations rooms in vulnerable houses and villages. All of this work is done in co-ordination with civilian agencies. We are often just the intermediaries; having identified a need, we get the aid agencies involved to do their job. All in all it has been a fascinating experience and we have been fortunate enough to make a real difference for people here through our work.

Captain Jim Townhill
CMO



The G5 team hard at work.
Captains Karen Hughes (PsyOps), Jim Townhill (CMO), and Richard Hall (Media).

ALMA COMPANY

OC - Major D. P. Monteith

Coy Ops Officer - Captain J. Hinchcliffe/Captain M. Palmer
Asst Ops Officer - 2 Lieutenant M. Cataldo

CSM - WO2 (CSM) Craddock

CQMS - Colour Sergeant Cole

Camp Comdt Stn 4 - Drum Major Johnson

CMO(E) - Sergeant Bevan KINGS

CMO(W) - Staff Sergeant Samuels REME

CLO - Captain K. Foster PARA

Int SNCO - Sergeant Samson REME

OC 1 Pl - Lieutenant G. Williams
Pl Sgt - Sergeant Conley

OC 2 Pl - 2 Lieutenant S. Dick
Pl Sgt - Sergeant Bennett

OC 3 Pl - Lieutenant P. Lee
Pl Sgt - Colour Sergeant Foster

Wednesday 18 April 2001, 1450hrs, Police Station 2, all quiet in Alma Company Ops Room. Five minutes later, on a previously quiet Pristina side street just around the corner from the centre for Peace and Tolerance (CPT), the de facto Serbian Embassy and passport office, chaos ruled. A command wire improvised explosive device (CWIED) had been detonated as the car containing Alexandre Petrovic, the head of the CPT, drove past a burned out house. 15kg of military explosive with a further 5kg of dockyard confetti had destroyed the car, killing Mr Petrovic instantly and seriously injuring four members of his staff and two bystanders. Corporal Rudd, the commander of our static protection detail at the CPT was the first on the scene, followed closely by the Quick Reaction Force, the Company Medic (Corporal Chrystie RAMC). Working quickly, and with the assistance of two RUC officers from the UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo) Police and Private Thompson (West Midlands Regiment (TA) attached), Corporal Rudd's party attempted to save Mr Petrovic, stabilized the injuries of his secretary who had lost half her face in the blast and evacuated the less seriously wounded into the expert medical care of the Immediate Reaction Team. Thereafter Company Tac HQ and several more

Alma Company teams arrived to clear and cordon the scene, no easy task given the number of shocked bystanders, confused UNMIK policemen and ghoulish media teams in the area.

The 18 April CPT bombing was a watershed for Alma Company and for the Battalion as a whole and reminded us that, although there was no direct threat to KFOR soldiers, Pristina was a far from benign environment. There was a positive postscript to this incident as, on 20 April, the UNMIK police, acting on the evidence gained by Weapon Intelligence and some sharp work by the Company in locating the individual, arrested a German mercenary whose fingerprints had been found on the remaining fragments of the device - we await his trial with more than academic interest.

Alma's second Balkan odyssey in six years had begun seven weeks before, when we left Belfast Barracks in the heart of the north German winter. After many little transport hiccups (including all the officers and NCOs unexpectedly visiting Bulgaria and spending a night in Greece) the Company took over from the Marines of 45 Commando on the evening of 28 February 2001. We became responsible for two thirds of the city of Pristina, including the city centre, the cramped southern estate blocks of Dardania and

Ulpiana (imagine Divis or Rossville flats) the communist high rise warrens of the Sunny Hills complexes and Dragodan, the exclusive 'Beverly Hills of Pristina' which, altogether house about 600,000 people living in housing designed for 400,000. As you can imagine this makes for considerable overcrowding, an enormous amount of rubbish all over the place and a multitude of problems between Kosovan people of a variety of ethnic backgrounds arguing over who has the right to live where. In the most overcrowded parts of the city you can find up to twenty people living in two bedroom flats designed for a family of four!

The company is split between two police stations; Station 2 houses Company HQ and two platoons while the third platoon operates out of Station 4 in the south of the city. Our accommodation is pretty basic with four soldiers to each (cramped) room but at least we have hot water (most of the time), a soft bed and access to TV, satellite phones and the Internet. We have been reinforced by a multiple from the Drums Platoon and Drum Major Johnson relishes his new role as Camp Commandant at Station 4. There are also some twenty reservists, many of them DWR-capbadged members of the East and West Riding Regiment. Each Platoon has at least seven four man teams, which, in Northern Ireland fashion, are the basic building block for operations. The platoon at Station 4 is responsible for patrolling the city centre, Dragodan, Dardania and Ulpiana and some of the rural areas adjoining our boundary with the Norwegian battlegroup to our south. One of the platoons

at Station 2 is the patrols platoon for the east of the city and shares boundaries with the Swedes in the east and Corunna Company in the north. The second Station 2 platoon takes care of our five 'static' locations; the Kosovo telecom tower, the CPT, an unconsecrated Serbian church, the YU Programme, home to the majority of the few remaining Serbs in the city, and the White Flats, home to several Serb families. The Station 2 platoons swap jobs every two weeks and the entire Company rotates duties every six to eight weeks.

The type and pattern of operations will be very familiar to NI veterans. Constant day and night patrolling forms the basis of our activities, with patrols being tasked by the Intelligence Cell to conduct vehicle checkpoints, bar and café checks and Op Doorknock (in effect a mini census designed to establish exactly who lives where - a necessary task in the absence of municipal records). We also aim to protect and reassure both the minority population and the Albanian majority that KFOR is able and willing to deter or combat aggressive or terrorist acts by any side, while sending a clear message to the rulers of Serbia that they will not be permitted to reoccupy Kosovo while KFOR is in place. Our mission, formally stated, is to maintain a safe and secure environment for all the citizens of Kosovo and in doing so we work alongside the UN agencies, particularly the UNMIK police and the fledgling Kosovo Police Service (KPS) who are striving to return normality to Kosovo. Many of our patrols are joint ones with KPS or UNMIK police. In addition to routine



Alma Company soldiers patrol in Pristina ... yet more reassurance.

patrolling we have conducted a large number of successful house, area and route searches under the guidance of WO2 (CSM) Craddock, the Unit Search Adviser. These searches have recovered a large number of weapons, ammunition, explosives and documentation and have materially contributed to the maintenance of peace in Pristina.

As well as being responsible for the security of Pristina we are doing our bit to help the locals in other ways. Our CMO teams are doing an excellent and varied job. They combine escorting Serbs around our area with establishing meaningful links with the local community and student leaders (Pristina University lies within our patch and the students are very keen on demonstrating about a variety of issues). In addition, they conduct the more familiar 'hearts and minds' tasks

of providing computers and playground equipment to local schools.

So far Alma Company has been extremely successful, participating in a high profile arrest operation to snatch the suspects in the bombing of the Nis Express (a bus service for Serbs from Serbia proper into Kosovo). We have recovered over twenty weapons including two AK 47s, more than fifteen grenades and a very large amount of ammunition. We have also peacefully policed some twelve marches and demonstrations in the city. Despite the tensions caused by the situation in Macedonia and along the eastern boundary with Serbia, Pristina remains safe and secure.

Major D. P. Monteith
OC Alma

LIFE IN A PRISTINA OUTSTATION

As part of Alma Company's mission to bring peace and stability to the Kosovan capital of Pristina, 3 Platoon has been tasked with manning a small self-contained outpost in the south west of the city. From this patrol base the platoon keeps a constant vigil on some of the most notoriously dangerous areas of Pristina.

Total strength of the station is 42 + 1. Drum Major Johnson is employed under the auspices of "Camp Commandant". Despite sounding like the oppressive leader of a concentration camp, he ensures the smooth running of the site, welfare matters and enjoys managing the working lives of several pretty Albanian interpreters! A charismatic section from the Drum Major's platoon has bolstered the unit's strength, bringing with them their own unique Somme Company wit. Reveille has become an altogether more traumatic experience since Lance Corporal Walker insists on bugling in the rising sun!

The platoon had been in theatre four weeks before I returned from a short attachment. During this time Colour Sergeant Foster and Corporal Walkenshaw ran the show very successfully. I have been struck by the impression this operational tour has had on many of the platoon, particularly the younger members. Unit cohesion and the overall confidence of the soldiers have increased immeasurably since leaving Osnabrück. Every day they are required to converse with the locals through interpreters and deal with difficult and testing situations whilst on patrol.

The patrol matrix we employ is by necessity demanding. We constantly have a team on the ground in our area of responsibility, with four-man patrols often out for two or four hours. In addition we regularly patrol into the rural area and other parts of the city. The main

effort is to converse with the local populous, winning their trust and collating intelligence. We also help the local police force by conducting joint patrolling tasks and regularly search vehicles and people for evidence of criminal activity. In a country with such a turbulent past and rising organised crime, it is no wonder that a huge gun culture exists. The platoon regularly conducts surge operations, house searches and targets particular individuals on the instruction of intelligence gathering agencies. To date these have proved very successful with the platoon holding the Battalion record for finds, Lance Corporal Brown and his team showing the way.

Morale at the outpost has been buoyant, helped along by a merciless humour; I pity the man who makes a mistake - especially if it happens to be the platoon commander! With typical ingenuity, the lads have utilized the space inside our compound to great effect. Within days of arriving a volleyball court, table tennis and barbecue stand had been constructed. Typically this proved the envy of the rest of the company and has been the subject of much banter. Unfortunately its use has been limited, the weather seems as unpredictable as the politics of the region and while we bathed in sunshine last week, patrols are deploying in six inches of snow as I write!

Being based here has been a fantastic command, the platoon has moulded into a close and effective unit that would not have been possible in many other environments. The NCOs and soldiers have been typical in their hard-working attitude, bringing the Battalion closer to achieving its aim in this region of the Balkans.

Lieutenant Peter Lee
3 Platoon Alma Company

LIFE IN A STATIC LOCATION

This is my second tour of Kosovo and how things have changed. Last time Serbia was the enemy in the aftermath of the NATO airstrikes. Tension still exists between Serbs and Albanians but you could argue that the power shift is almost complete. Now instead of finding and arresting Serbs I am guarding them to give them reassurance and maintain a peaceful environment.

The YU (Yugoslavia) Project is the largest collection of Serbs in one building within Pristina. There are approximately 250 Serbs who live within Alma's AO, 160 of them live in the YU Project. To some extent the Serbian community are prisoners in their own homes, owing to fear of reprisals against their old regime. Our overall mission here is to provide a safe and secure

environment, at the YU this remains very important. We have taken an active lead in maintaining the conditions for that environment and much of this is based on guarding and reassuring the Serbian and other ethnic minorities who live amongst an overwhelming Albanian population. The Dukes provide a 24 hour guard, escort people to school, bus stops and the World Food Programme. We also have to arbitrate in housing disputes where families are illegally occupying a flat. Housing issues persist across the rest of the patch but are more aggravated in the area of the YU Project.

Amid an atmosphere of deeply-rooted differences, soldiers are required to work diligently often under difficult circumstances. Different ethnic factions try to accuse KFOR of taking sides and such like. The soldiers always act impartially and in support of our overall mission. Getting a fine balance between gaining the trust of both sides is not easy and disputes are common. Despite these problems the locals seem to be very much in favour of British troops. They respect our

professional approach (a bit different to other nations) and the locals enjoy the morale of the Dukes. It is a big situation for a young Yorkshire lad to deal with, but with their easy-going banter, potential problems often dissolve.

The manning of this location varies between twelve and fourteen soldiers depending on other concurrent operations and R&R. The installation of CCTV has increased the effectiveness of the security and raised the level of deterrence to would-be troublemakers. In the past there have been grenade and RPG attacks on the building. Overall the lads seem to enjoy the prospect of a fortnight in a static location after a hectic fortnight as a patrols platoon. The lads still work hard, albeit they enjoy the opportunity to be away from the scrutiny of the Company hierarchy! The tour so far has thrown up a few surprises and we are all looking forward to getting back to our families and Yorkshire.

Lance Corporal 'Mouse' Claydon
2 Platoon, Alma Company

SIX MONTHS IN KOSOVO WITH THE DUKES

To start with let me tell you a little bit about myself; I am Sam Emery in civvy street, Lance Corporal Emery (Dick) for the next six months. As a civvy I have an excellent job as a freelance fitness instructor, I have two teenage children, a house, a car and an action-packed social life. In my spare time I play an active role in my local TA centre, my passion, 1 Platoon based in Barnsley and 2 Platoon in Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield. Formerly 3 DWR and still sporting the Dukes' cap badge we are now called the East and West Riding Regiment.

So why volunteer for a six month tour? Well, mainly because that's what I consider the TA to be for; to train me to be able to support my mother regiment. Also I wanted to know if I could hack the army full time, instead of just being a weekend warrior. Arranging to be attached to the Dukes was a drama in itself: 'A female infanteer, I think not!', but with help from the Regular PSIs at my unit and their connections, the old boys' network, my acceptance letter finally landed on my doorstep.

What have I done? The first step was Chilwell, the TA/Reserve mobilisation centre in Nottingham. Despite the wealth of paperwork prior to arriving, I did not really know what to expect, so I packed for every possible contingency, task, mission and all that, even for the last night in civvy street ... disco gear!

We all gathered together, lambs to the slaughter, TA, reservist and all ranks together (mind you we all looked the same in the swim test, well nearly all). There followed mountains of paperwork, days of death by vvf, every medical examination imaginable, a visit to the QM's which was a kit monster's dream (brand spanking new *Gucci* kit). Finally, D-day, and time to sign on the dotted line - no turning back now! We all expected it to turn into a beating session at this point, now that we were formally soldiers about to go on operations, but the instructors turned out to be human after all!

At this point, the staff were still trying to persuade me to attach to another unit - perhaps one with more job opportunities for a female Lance Corporal, but I dug my heels in firmly, applying the saying "better the devil you know" and I was right. On 5 March I landed in Kosovo and, despite the fact that the 1st Battalion was not entirely sure what to do with me, I was given my tasking, working as part of a community liaison team in Pristina.

Initially my arrival was met with some scepticism, not only was I a TA soldier with no previous regular experience but also having a female infanteer in the Dukes was unheard of. I am glad to say that I was quickly accepted by Alma Company. I found them to be (from my fairly limited experience of the Army) an excellent bunch of soldiers (don't get big-headed lads). Although many of them were fresh from training, they approached all challenges and tasks with the professionalism of a Duke, which makes me proud to be a Duke and to have worked with them even for such a short time. Their hard work and keenness went hand in hand with the compulsory whinging and moaning which I think is an important element of morale.

The fitness training instituted by CSM Craddock was hard, varied and sometimes fun, especially when we had finished! I joined in any sport the lads would let me, although touch rugby eluded me! Being a fitness fanatic, morning PT soon became my baby and my revenge came during the aerobics classes, what can I say lads? Thirty soldiers with no co-ordination or rhythm, but, as with everything they do, maximum effort was applied, even by those physically challenged by having to move more than one part of their body at a time (Pearsman and Colour Sergeant Foster spring to mind!)

One of the highlights of the tour was being employed as a female searcher with Pearshaped - the Alma Company search team. This merry band of men (and one woman) were called upon many times to go out

and find stuff, and find stuff we did! I think the final score was three AK47s, about half a dozen other long barrelled weapons, loads of pistols, knives, ammunition and grenades and just over half a million illegally imported cigarettes the removal and destruction of which caused tears for the hardened smokers in Alma.

All in all, I have had an excellent tour, it has been an enormous learning curve for me and I must give many thanks to 1 DWR and Alma Company in particular for all the excellent experiences we have shared. Finally, I am afraid you will be seeing me in December 2002 for the next operational tour.

W Lance Corporal S. Emery
E&WRR



Left to right: Privates Tomlinson, Pears, Bagnall, Lance Corporal Emery E&WRR and WO2 Craddock with their most bittersweet find.

BURMA COMPANY

OC - Major N. M. B. Wood

2ICs - A/Captain R. J. Palfrey and A/Captain J. Kennedy

CSM - WO2 McCabe

WSM - WO2 Elcoate

CQMS - Colour Sergeant Childs

4 Platoon

2 Lieutenant E. Colver
Sergeant Hollis

5 Platoon

2 Lieutenant D. Ogilvie
L/Sergeant Harris

6 Platoon

Lieutenant D. Pawson
A/Sergeant Yeadon

Burma Company was complete as a company in Peninsula Lines, Pristina, by 3 March 2001, and by nightfall on 4 March the majority of the Company was deployed on the ground around the Serbian enclave of Gracanica, south of Pristina.

As Brigade Reserve 1, Burma Company was under a remit to provide a platoon and Company Tac HQ at two hours' notice to move (NTM) and the remainder of the Company at four hours' NTM for operations not only in the Brigade area, but across Kosovo as a whole, including such hotspots as Pristina city centre, Kosovo Poljie, Obilic (both mixed Serb/Albanian communities) and Gracanica. Across Kosovo there was potential to be deployed around the provincial boundary, the border with Macedonia, Mitrovica and any number of provincial hotspots in support of the other brigades.

The deployment to Gracanica was a great way to start the tour, from an operational perspective anyway. The CQMS, Colour Sergeant Childs, would have you believe otherwise, as there were checks a-plenty that needed doing, and kit that all needed accounting for, which was all due to take many soldiers a lot of time - time which had just been robbed by Brigade - a theme that he was to become familiar with throughout the tour. Needless to say Kosovo is no different from any other theatre - NTM times are an ideal we aspire to, but seldom ever adhere to, the comment "how long will it take you to get going?" or simply "move now" being more common.

The threat in Gracanica was significant. Following the blowing up of the Nis Express, and the killing and maiming of a number of Serbs, KFOR's ability to protect the remaining Serbs in Kosovo was again being called into question. With talks ongoing regarding the reduction of the GSZ the situation was delicately poised. Another successful attack against the Serb population could result in the Serbs invoking a clause in the Military Technical Agreement allowing them to re-enter Kosovo in order to protect the Serb population. Reliable intelligence had been received that just such an attack was planned. Gracanica lies in the Swedish battle group area (SWEBAT) and the Swedes have limited experience in countering this very Northern Ireland style threat. The Brigade Commander saw it necessary to add a bit of 'backbone' to the defence of the town and thus within hours of being in Kosovo, Burma Company was deployed in OPs, patrolling and checking vehicles around the town. This deployment was to last three and a half weeks, during which time we developed a good working relationship with SWEBAT (including a liking for fish!), we seized a number of weapons and more cutlery (assorted knives) than the Battalion held on account in the cookhouse! In addition the 2IC at the time, Captain Rob Palfrey, proved his worth as a chaperone, managing to get the Brigade Commander lost in a one street town en route to an OP for a visit. A visit that actually ended up inspecting some old dear's undergarments in her back yard, instead of a Warrior Op on top of a hill! Needless to say, the

expected attack did not materialise, thanks to our combined efforts, and by the end of the month we were back in camp for the CQMS to complete his checks!

The following couple of weeks allowed us time to 'bed in', and we deployed platoons to work with the Finns and Norwegians and of course our two city companies, Alma and Corunna. It wasn't long before Brigade was on the phone again with next operation looming: Op Trafalgar. Burma was to deploy as part of Task Force Cambrai, along with a Finnish Company and subsequently 1 DWR Tac HQ, to the Macedonian border. We relieved Badger Sqn, 2 RTR in place and took over their company location on the top of a hill overlooking part of the border. This had proved to be suitable for them in favourable weather, however the arrival of Burma brought what was to become known as 'Burma weather'. High winds, storms and driving snow battered the hill top location for the best part of two weeks, ensuring everyone's survival skills were tested to the fullest, especially 4 Platoon who were deployed to "Ice Station Zebra", at an altitude of approximately 1500m. Despite the weather we managed to execute a demanding mission including the first operational firing of 1 DWR mortars since Korea, and many of the team commanders got to call in an operational fire mission from the AS 90s of D Battery, 3 RHA, to illuminate their arcs at night. In addition, the 51mm mortar, which for many years has just been a lump of metal that the youngest 'red rumped' individual had to lug around the battlefield, was used regularly by the OPs to add to the illumination provided by guns and mortars. We were relieved on the Macedonian border by the Polish Ukrainian Battalion in mid April.

A month in camp served to allow the Company to assume the role of Brigade Reserve 2 for a while (much like Brigade Reserve 1, except with more duties and longer NTM). Probably the most significant achievement of this period was to construct a volleyball court in camp and more importantly get the rugby squad in training for next season. This included a match against 2 RTR which was a convincing victory at 56-6.

Our current position, at the time of writing is Camp Asgard, deployed forward on the provincial border between Kosovo and Serbia on Op Salisbury. We have been deployed in the field for just over a week, in a company defended location, with two Warrior platoons dug in forward, including tank scrapes for the Warriors and a light role platoon as reserve. We are dug in against the threat of stray artillery rounds from the Joint Security Forces (combined VJ and MUP forces) as they re-enter 'Sector B' of the GSZ, the last remaining stronghold of the EAAG UCPMB. The soldiers are deployed forward in Ops observing UCPMB defensive positions and the border with Serbia, we have snipers out in covert belly hides reporting on activity in the UCPMB HQ town of Dobrasin, and patrols lurking in vulnerable areas. We are working under command of a Norwegian CO as part of task Force Viking, which has proved to be a rewarding experience. As with the other Scandinavian armies we have worked with, they have proved to be robust, well-equipped and motivated, and have a military ethos similar to ours, and they all speak excellent English, which certainly helps! This deployment has served as an excellent forge for our JNCOs and senior privates to hone their skills and learn about leadership and responsibility, the side effect of many of the SNCOs and corporals being away on R&R at this point in the tour.

Burma Company has clearly risen to the many challenges that this tour has presented; everyone has bonded well, and the collective ability of the Company has improved significantly. With just over a month to go, and the probability of more deployments into the field to come, the Company is eager to keep busy and ensure mission success and a safe return for all members of Burma. As commander it has been my privilege to work with so many committed, hard working professionals, Dukes to a man!

Major N. M. B. Wood
OC Burma Company

CORUNNA COMPANY

OC - Major N. P. Rhodes
CSM - WO2 Scott

2IC - Captain Smith
WSM - Colour Sergeant Hollinshead

CQMS - Colour Sergeant Lumber
Tech CQMS - Sergeant McDonald

Ops Sgt - Sergeant Baines
IO - Sergeant Wareing (RA)(attached)

Art Veh - S Sergeant Orr
VM Sgt - Sergeant Wiles

7 Platoon
2 Lieutenant Scothern
Sergeant Carter

8 Platoon
2 Lieutenant Pearce
Sergeant Smith

9 Platoon
2 Lieutenant Adair
Sergeant Hallsworth

Corunna Company is deployed in the northern half of the Battalion TAOR. The Company AO roughly equates to the police boundaries of Station 3, where we run a joint HQ with UNMIK police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS). This AO comprises the northern half of Pristina city, which is made up of mainly residential areas and small shops, and 100 km² of rural area directly north of Pristina, which contains a number of villages with an agricultural based economy. The urban/

rural split means the Company has to deal with a wide range of situations and problems. The majority Kosovo Albanian population in the city are very much getting on with their lives and making a living by whatever means. This inevitably leads to a large amount of crime. In the rural area within the predominantly K/Albanian population there are a small number of either K/Serb or K/Serb and K/Albanian mixed villages. Though in the main the K/Albanians are fairly indifferent to their

K/Serb neighbours, there is still intimidation and this has developed into terrorist attacks in the past. Intertwined with this volatile mix is the Balkans' weapon culture where most people hold weapons and have no qualms over using them.

The Company mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment for the whole community. Unfortunately this means different things according to your ethnic origin. The main issue for K/Albanians is preventing any incursion by forces from the former Republic of Yugoslavia. As we are here to prevent that, they are usually quite happy with our presence, unless it interferes with their criminal activities. However the K/Serb population demand round the clock protection from intimidation and K/Albanian extremists. They in the main are happy with our efforts, but we could never provide enough troops to satisfy them fully. Our view is that a safe and secure environment means supporting UNMIK police and KPS restore the rule of law, whilst having the ability to revert to a war fighting role should there be an incursion over the Kosovo borders.

As already mentioned, we run a joint HQ with the majority of operations being joint police/KFOR. The Company has a three platoon orbit with each platoon on a two week rotation of three separate tasks. The Urban Platoon patrols from Station 3 and provides the QRF as well as the joint patrols. This is the most exciting task as there is always plenty going on and we have had a lot of success supporting the police in facing organised crime, whether it be arms running, counterfeit money, drugs or prostitution. The Rural Platoon operates from a patrol base in one of the mixed villages. The base is a small house with the troops sleeping in tentage in the garden. From here they patrol throughout the whole of the rural area conducting the full range of patrol activities including OPs, route checks and lurks. This

Platoon concentrates on dominating our opponents (anyone opposing the rule of law and the multi ethnic society) whilst providing reassurance to the local Serb community. The Escort Platoon provides escorts to the Serb convoys, which we regularly run up to Serbia or to other Serb villages/towns. This is usually done in armoured Landrovers, however Warriors are also used to provide extra protection and unpredictability when necessary. For the majority of the tour the Escort Platoon has worked out of a tented patrol base providing extra reassurance to the rural community, but they also have tasks in Pristina guarding a K/Serb church and the small K/Serb enclave around it. In addition the Escort Platoon is used to surge into areas where increased presence is necessary and are usually at the forefront of any company level operations. We also have the ability to revert to a war fighting role and our Warriors are maintained at a suitably high state of readiness.

To support our security objectives the Company also runs a basic 'hearts and minds' campaign throughout the AO. The Company has a Civil and Military Ops Sergeant (CMO), Sergeant Morrison, whose role is to act as a link between the Company and either the municipality (local government) or aid agencies. He identifies the problems affecting the community then advises (well, mostly bullies!) the agencies into providing the support required, thereby keeping the locals 'on side' with the Company. The Battalion Psy Ops Officer, Captain Karen Hughes, is also very much part of the hearts and minds campaign. She has engaged both sides of the community with various projects, breaking down barriers and changing attitudes. A parallel Serb/Albanian newsletter has been a success, as have the youth groups who help run this paper. The Company uses CMO and Psy Ops together, finding



Rt Hon Robin Cook MP, Major Rhodes, Sergeant Smith.

OC Corunna expresses his delight at government foreign policy; Mr Cook replies: "Tell you what, Major, there'll be no leave until morale improves".



The Corunna Command Team at Station 3.

Left to right, back row: Sergeant Smith, 2 Lieutenant Pearce, Staff Sergeant Orr, Colour Sergeant Hollinshead, CSM Scott, Captain Smith, Major Rhodes, 2 Lieutenant Scothern, Sergeant Morrison, Colour Sergeant Lumber, Sergeant Carter.

Front row: 2 Lieutenant Adair, Sergeant Holdsworth, Sergeant Baines, Sergeant McDonald.

issues that affect both sides of the community and then bringing them together to find a solution. Finding issues is not difficult as most Kosovans suffer poverty, unemployment, and lack of health care and utilities. Finally, OC Corunna has parallel K/Serb and K/Albanian meetings where the ethnic communities can sit down and voice their opinions to KFOR and the gathered aid agencies. This is another excellent way of engaging the local community and changing attitudes. The aspiration before we leave is to have a community headmen meeting involving both sides of the ethnic divide.

The pace of life here, though not always hectic, invariably requires long hours. There is no let up with patrolling and much of the spare time is taken up with maintenance of the vehicles. The platoons' distinct and diverse tasks mean that the platoon commanders have a lot of freedom of action leaving the OC with very much a directing role. Similarly, patrolling is done at team level and the team commander is not just the eyes and ears on the ground but very much the interface with the local community. This means that team commanders are the ones dealing with the day to day issues and problems. Indeed shortage of manpower requires teams to deal with most incidents, with multiple commanders intervening only where necessary. There is no doubt

that this responsibility is beneficial in not only providing experience in independent action but also for morale. The teams and platoons have real cohesion and enjoy the opportunity to put into practise Mission Command.

Though few days are really exciting, most would agree that the effort we put into the local community is rewarding. Our main success during the tour is being seen to provide firm, fair and impartial security and policing across the community. This has been achieved by conducting ourselves in an extremely professional manner whilst engaging both sides of the ethnic divide and developing an understanding about how we work and why we are here. We have also gained the trust of the KPS and UNMIK police and demonstrated that by working together, to each other's strengths, we can produce quantifiably better results. Our strengths lie in the ability to manage incidents and provide specialist back up, and we are respected for this. So, although most of us found it frustrating that we have had to change role so soon after AI Conversion, we have found the tour worthwhile and it shows that good soldiers are flexible enough to adapt to anything.

Major N. P. Rhodes
OC Corunna Company

Z45 - THE CORUNNA COMPANY SHOWCASE PLATOON LOCATION

Z45 is a palatial platoon location situated in the company rural Area of Operations (AO) north of Pristina. Its magnificent facilities include three 12 x 12 tents with thermal lining for those chilly nights (they prove an added bonus when the temperature tops forty degrees on the blistering hot days). These tents accommodate the troops during their valuable down time. The nerve centre of the location is a one-story house that is the hub of all platoon activities. Within this rural utopia lies an Ops room, which doubles up as an Intelligence Cell, a kitchen and TV room. Private Nettleton very quickly made the Int Cell his own, producing magnificent flow diagrams and complicated family trees. Unfortunately, to understand even half of the Int cell's contents one must first see through the cleverly produced 'Bluff Screen' which surrounds it. Additional facilities include a gymnasium to supplement all the bodybuilding supplements that are being taken by the soldiers to create the perfect fighting machine. More importantly to the soldiers, perhaps, is the creation of a perfect body for the beach during R&R.

Z45 lies in the picturesque but ethnically divided village that is Devet Jugovica, or DJ for ease. The local amenities include a football pitch/HLS, for those friendly (?) matches against the locals, as well as ... no that's it, there is nothing else there. The village is home to approximately 160 Serbs and 200 Albanians and us divided by a railway track. DJ is the second largest of

the four Serbian villages that lie within our Company AO. The majority of our work and indeed our Main Effort is centred in and around these villages.

The three rifle platoons rotate through Z45 on a fortnightly basis, spending the other four weeks on urban and Escorts/Surge taskings. The "Rural" Platoon is responsible for maintaining a safe and secure environment within the eighty square kilometres that is the Corunna Company Rural AO. A typical day would involve providing an overt presence at Z45 and at a nearby French fuel station. The Platoon also provides a school escort and a school guard five days a week in the village of Gornja Brinica. It also provides framework patrols throughout the AO, specific taskings of which are left up to Platoon Commanders. These tasks include vehicle checkpoints, route checks, foot-patrols, house searches, Ops and lurks. The Int Cell provides us with details of key individuals and vulnerable persons that we are required to keep a closer watch on.

The Platoon's day is also interspersed with numerous requests for escorts of differing natures. Whilst it would be great if we could provide an escort as and when requested, we must not let them detract from our framework patrols. It is also hard to believe that every member of the local population has a sick baby and/or a pregnant wife who needs to get to hospital immediately. Whilst this may sound cynical we have to be firm but fair, or else the locals would attempt to take advantage of us. Rest assured the Dukes have no problem with the fair part and some of the boys seem to positively enjoy being firm.

At this stage I must mention one qualification to this typical day. On any week Z45 can expect up to three VIP parties. In the month of March Z45 welcomed Robin Cook, the National Employment Liaison Committee, the House of Commons Defence Committee, a massive Press Pack, CGS and seemingly every officer of three star rank and above left in the British Army. Whilst it provides a good opportunity for people at home to see what we're doing here and why, it can be a bit of a pain for the platoon based at Z45!

Kosovo continues to be a weapons-orientated society. This was highlighted recently by a search conducted by 9 Platoon with Corporal Sykes leading the search team. An old Soviet SKS and over 1,000 rounds of ammunition were recovered on this search alone. 8 Platoon also recovered an AK47, with ammunition that had been used in recent intimidation. This prevented a potentially serious situation escalating still further. Well done 2 Lieutenant Pearce, Sergeant Smith and Corporal Graham. Although 7 Platoon's major weapons finds have been in the city, they too have been busy in the rural north and have recently launched Op Daisy in an attempt to catch some local cattle rustlers. This provided the platoon the opportunity to practise reactive operations.

Special mention should at this stage go to Corporal Hill, now 7 Platoon Sergeant. Whilst working in 8 Platoon he diligently pursued an incident involving a missing person. His determination resulted in the



Private West provides yet more reassurance.



Corporal 'H' Graham (standing fifth from left) and Corporal Connell (far right) together with other 8 Platoon members at Z45 in the rural north.

successful recovery of the elderly Serb's body. His handling of the incident and subsequent dealings with the family have earned him the most coveted accolade, a United Nations Mission in Kosovo Commendation.

Z45 is, as you can probably see, a fun place to be as a platoon. We're away from the hierarchy and it is like a little platoon empire in the truest sense of the

word. We are told what to do, not how to do it and provided that the 'Rural Platoon' fulfills its mission it is largely left to its own devices.

Second Lieutenants: Adair, 9 Platoon
Pearce, 8 Platoon
Scothern, 7 Platoon

SOMME COMPANY

OC - Major A. J. I. Wilson QRH
2IC - Captain M. Stear
CSM - WO2 (CSM) Brewer
CQMS - Colour Sergeant Denton
Int SNCO - Sergeant Burton

Mortar Platoon

Comd - Captain M. Tetley
2IC - Colour Sergeant Williams

Milan Platoon

Comd - WO2 Davidson
2IC - Sergeant Smith

On return from Christmas leave, Somme Company did some basic infantry firing and the Kosovo training week in Sennelager, while trying to pack our boxes, deal with an admin inspection, prepare our vehicles and host a number of visits. Twelve members of Drums Platoon had been sent to bolster Alma Company for the tour, and Recce Platoon went complete on the four week COP course in Warminster, receiving excellent reviews from their instructors for their hard work and good results. We said goodbye to WO2 Summersgill who did

an excellent job as 2IC of the Mortar Platoon and welcomed Colour Sergeant Williams who replaced him. Sergeant Rutter and Corporal Seviour also left the Mortar Platoon to become regimental recruiters in Yorkshire.

This frenzy of activity in January enabled us to take a fortnight of pre-tour leave in early February. On 23 February we had yet another Company social in the Corporal's Mess, to which we invited all Somme Company wives and girlfriends, with a good spread of

food, a disco with karaoke, and enough free drinks to intoxicate a small country. It was a great night, and thanks must go to the Company Sergeant Major and Sue Brewer for organising another excellent event.

Somme Company then deployed in dribs and drabs to Kosovo, and is based in the TFA (Temporary Field Accommodation) at Peninsula Lines just on the hill outside Pristina town centre. We work in Pristina itself for periods in between deploying as part of the KFOR reserve forces. On 10 March we set off for our first operation to the Zegra valley.

The Zegra valley, always referred to as the Presevo valley by the press, is in the south east of Kosovo where the borders of Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia all meet. We were part of Task Force Viking, the Norwegian battlegroup, sent to help in probably the most unstable part of Kosovo. The Zegra valley was surrounded on all sides by different armed groups. To our east was the UCPMB, an Albanian extremist organisation who were using the de-militarised Ground Security Zone just inside the Serbian border to train from and launch attacks on the Serb army and police. Somme Company had a number of good vantage points overlooking these UCPMB training camps. To the south was the Macedonian border and the regular sound of artillery and mortar fire as the Macedonian army fought the NLA (National Liberation Army) who were Muslim Albanians fighting for more say in the running of their mostly Christian country. To the south east, between the UCPMB and NLA, was the Serb army who had been allowed in one small part of the Ground Security Zone to push right up to the border with us, the KFOR soldiers in Kosovo. Everything in the Balkans is complicated, and this particular fight even more so. And of course the jam in the middle of the military sandwich, between all these armed groups, was Somme Company and Task Force Viking.

Somme Company was mostly perched on the steep hills of the Zegra valley 60 kms from Pristina and the rest of 1 DWR. Company Headquarters moved into a deserted and ruined farmhouse only accessible by a 4 x 4 or a tracked vehicle. It was great being in NATO, as we shared the resources of many nations involved in the same operation. We 'borrowed' on a long term basis our flooring (US), wooden boards and tables (US), heater (Norwegian), lighting (Norwegian) and in return gave away some of our delicious British rations!

Mortar Platoon sat on top of a big hill just to the south of us, patrolling the mountains east and west, and maintained a constant watch from the border onto the largest UCPMB training camp in our region. Any thoughts about dieting went straight out of the window as Corporal Leen soon found that someone in the local village baked bread and would sell it to Mortars at 50 pfennigs a loaf at 6 o'clock in the morning straight from the oven. To compensate for the extra fresh rations, Mortars played the local village at football on probably the hilliest pitch in Europe. Mortars lost 4-3 despite heroic attempts by Lance Corporal Roe to kick the ball all the way down the hill in order to get a breather. The local children have been given a worrying amount of British boiled sweets and fruit pudding in custard dessert from our ration packs.

Milan Platoon lay at the bottom of the valley, on the main road, guarding the entrance to the tricky area we controlled. Their position, and the fact that the field kitchen was located with them, earned their location the nickname of Café Milan. Milan looked after one very high observation position which saw most of our border area with Serbia, and where some previous British units had had some good success catching UCPMB members coming and going from the camps. They also had troops right in the north of the region, looking into two small UCPMB sites in the Ground Safety Zone, and patrolled to stop weapons, ammo and supplies from crossing to the extremists. Sergeant Blake with three Milan Platoon teams, had some excellent results arresting five suspected UCPMB members crossing into the GSZ with bags of uniforms, food supplies and ammunition.

In order to keep clean, all the platoons rigged up portable showers, hanging them in the branches of trees, to which were attached a small silver bag which had been left to heat up in the sun during the day. Add a kettle of hot water and a perfectly good shower could be had, although the biting mountain wind could quickly introduce a very unwelcome wind chill factor into daily washing. On the plus side, the views from the hillside showers were unbeatable. A big morale booster was our satellite phone for calling loved ones back in UK or Germany, with our phone booths for the satellite phone being the back of our armoured vehicle or the corner of a tent.

Possibly our biggest success in the three weeks we were down in the Zegra valley, apart from the arrest of the five UCPMB members, was a major find of terrorist ammunition. The search team of Corporal Leen and Privates Geddes, Wibberley, Wallhead and Newby, all working for the CSM, spent a day searching HGVs coming from Serbia into Kosovo. In the second truck they searched, they found 9240 small arms rounds, 100 rifle rocket grenades and a light machine gun. This is almost a tonne of ammunition and is still the largest arms find of the tour to date.

In the meantime Recce Platoon have been based in Pristina and work for the Brigade. They are kept very busy by their masters which keeps them out of trouble and out of sight. I would like to be able to say more but I do not know any more myself. Drums Platoon are working with Alma Company in Pristina.

On 11 April Mortar Platoon went down to an area called the Elephant's Foot on the Macedonian border. They were there to fire some illumination missions over the border to help friendly troops at night see more clearly what was happening on the border. Mortars fired a total of 256 bombs on three nights, providing illumination for patrols in the border area. This was an excellent opportunity for the platoon which had not expected to fire the mortars while we were here. Normally 256 bombs of illum is five year's worth of training supply. The Elephant's Foot was a bleak place, and the weather while Mortars and Milan were down there, was appalling.

Mortars returned to Peninsula Lines on 17 April. On 19 April we took over the Brigade Reserve task poised to be sent to any trouble spot throughout theatre at short notice.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON



Lance Corporal Newton (Corunna) on Warrior, the rural north's changeable climate.



Mortar Platoon firing on the Serb border into the



Heliborne Ops Matecane village, Front to rear: Sergeant [unclear], Privates Heptonstall, [unclear], Hayste [unclear]

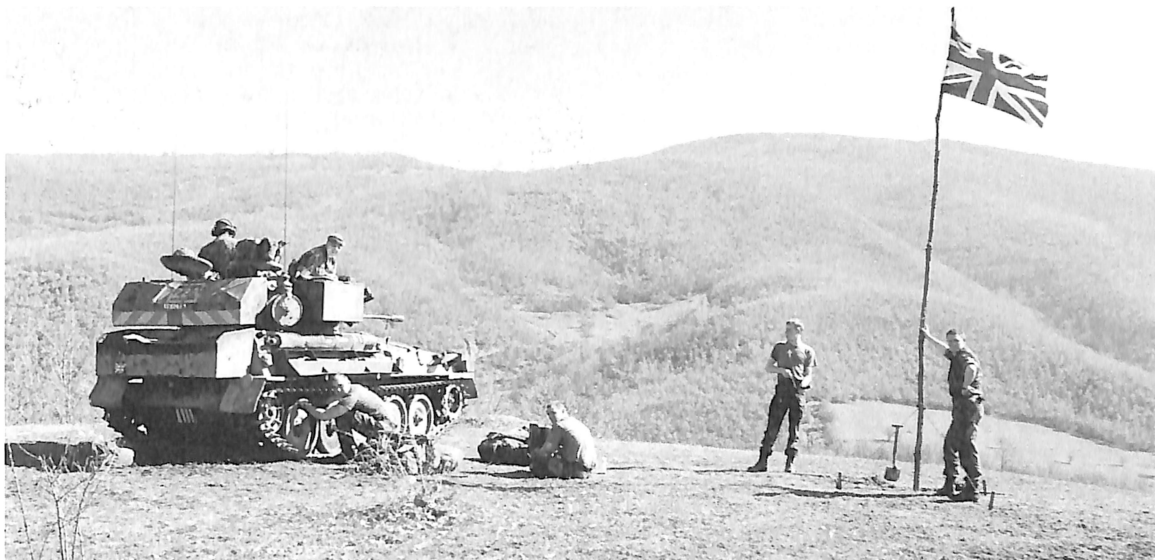
The Mortar Line Macedonian Border



The CPT Bombing, 18 April 2001.
Private Thompson (WFR) administers life-saving first aid on injured female passenger at the scene, who subsequently survived.

REGIMENT IN KOSOVO, 2001

the flag
moved
valley.



2001.
WO
and
vey.



OC Corunna displays some long-forgotten skills.



'Cross Training' - Private Lawton samples a US HMMV.

We have also been responsible for the security of the Nis Express. A helicopter full of Somme soldiers checks the route in front of the bus and lands the soldiers if there is anything suspicious on the route in front of the bus. This is also the new Airborne Reaction Force (ARF) on fifteen minutes' notice to move night and day to respond immediately to any serious incident in the whole of the Brigade area. The last ten days of May were busy, with elements of Milan Platoon deployed with Burma Company to the area of Kosovo opposite the GSZ Sector B, to make sure that there were no problems when Sector B was re-occupied by the Serb army. They manned two observation posts looking once

again into the UCPMB training camps and defensive positions. Although the UCPMB decided not to fight in this area, Milan and Burma Company provided a significant deterrent to the extremists who abandoned some equipment in their area and had some of their number arrested by the Company trying to sneak into Kosovo. Meanwhile the sun has come out and our white Yorkshire bodies are going brown slowly. The volleyball court is being well used, but Somme are preparing for another potential Company deployment in the near future.

Major A. J. I. Wilson, OC

SNIPERS ON OPERATION SALISBURY

Due to the preparation process for our tour of Kosovo, we have had little time to carry on the skill which separates a sniper from a good shot, following last year's successful sniper cadre (see last issue).

With two major operations under our belt as a company, a deployment on Op Salisbury was most welcome, as the periods between in Temporary Field Accommodation have become mundane and changes are always welcome.

Deployment into Sector 'Bravo' was a different challenge as it was so close to the provincial boundary with Serbia. In some places a few steps too far left and you were in "enemy territory". With all of our assets we had our AOR pretty much sewn up with the use of Milan, Artillery, MSTAR and FOOs. However, to my delight a sniper tasking was deemed necessary. This was the first deployment of snipers since our last Balkans tour in 1994. Although our environment was different, you can imagine my enthusiasm at being able to put to the test for the first time what our snipers had learnt only a few months prior.

This was a task that demanded professionalism and the highest standard of field craft and soldiering. A sniper pair would be deployed for a period of 24 hours. After a rapid but thorough set of orders we were ready to deploy the first pair, Privates Cooper and Jennings. Their task was to watch a track junction coming from Dobrosin in Serbia across into Kosovo. At the time Dobrosin was a major establishment with a large fraction of UCPMB believed to be there. The observation post would be only 1,100 metres from Dobrosin and only feet from the border. Privates Cooper and Jennings were slightly nervous but eager to deploy operationally. We deployed as one eight-man patrol, leaving the pair and myself to site and construct the observation post, with a five man team providing over-watch and rear security, spearheaded by 6 Platoon and Lieutenant Pawson. It took approximately six hours to get down and eyes on both the track junction and Dobrosin, at which time I was happy and left the pair to crack on with their task. Only those who have lived in an OP with a real threat will understand the sort of isolation that is felt. Your senses sharpen to every twig snapping and even a tortoise (of which there are plenty in Kosovo) coming through the scrub sounds like an elephant, especially when you're subsurface.

Over the first 24 hour period a great deal was gleaned and good sketches of barbed wired and entrenched positions helped build up the Int picture. The town itself was at first alive with sporadic gunfire and busy-bodies preparing defences. Privates Cooper and Jennings were extracted in the early hours after nearly being trampled to death by a herd of goats and cows. The second pair, Privates Brennan 62 and Pacey, were inserted and settled well. Again they sampled the same herd of cattle of which some were eating camouflage off the position, with two old herders stood oblivious only 4ft from the concealed pair. A few hours later they thought two locals had compromised them, they sat tight and after consideration it was thought that they were alright. However, time had passed and movement to the rear was heard. The pair, now hearts racing, expected an active compromise. They withdrew from the OP to face the oncoming noise, after scanning the area Private Pacey noticed a figure kneeling on the forward edge of the wood line only 15-20 metres away. Privates Pacey and Brennan stood in an aggressive stance shouted "Stani! KFOR" (Serbian for Stop KFOR) as the unidentified man, who blended in very well with his background, stood up with a look of total surprise at the two men hiding in the undergrowth with full cam cream and ghille. The pair must have looked a menacing force to be reckoned with. In what was only a split second but probably felt like a lifetime, the other figure, equipped with a Russian sniper rifle, matching light green DPM and day sack and covert ear-piece, turned and fled shouting something as he ran away. Initial chase was given, but on orders given previously the pair returned to secure their position. Not knowing the size or strength of the force they may encounter they tasked the QRF. The pair was promptly extracted. The reaction of the lone figure points towards coincidence more than a compromise. On route to the incident the QRF encountered three armed men (as it turned out unconnected to the lone gunmen) of which one was arrested, the others made it off on their toes. To this day the lone figure has not been identified; however a follow up search of the area 24 hours later found a fresh prepared lie up position with the imprint of two bodies and the camouflage still fresh, with an aperture looking on to Dobrosin. Ever since the resignation of the Dobrosin faction leader, Shefqet Musliu and the

voluntary turning in of 90% of his soldiers this lone figure has not been seen, although a man known as "Snaperista" (Albanian for sniper) turned himself in to the US forces two days after the incident. Coincidence?

Credit should be given to both pairs for the work and professionalism they showed, especially Privates Pacey and Brennan, where the "Mexican stand off" could have

gone either way. The information gleaned was very useful and all efforts in the future should be made in maximising the use of snipers. Sometimes the well-trained people who enjoy this lonely work aren't used enough.

Sergeant Harris
5 Platoon, B Company

OFFICERS' MESS

In January, the Officers' Mess Manager, Colour Sergeant Antony 'Dog' Ward had served in that appointment since midway through the Hounslow tour and was in the process of handing over to Colour Sergeant Mason. Imagine his surprise when, on the night of 29 January, instead of running a regimental dinner night for a fictional Major General Ward, the Colour Sergeant found himself guest of honour sitting next to his wife, Julie, who had flown over from the UK for the occasion. The Mess had decided that, to thank him for his extraordinary service to the Mess over almost three years, it was appropriate to break with tradition and dine out a non-member. Dog was almost, but not quite, speechless as the Commanding Officer sang his praises and presented him with a crystal decanter set. The Mess owes a huge debt of gratitude to Colour Sergeant Ward and I know that every serving and retired Mess member who has been in the Mess under his regime will join me in offering our sincere thanks and our very best wishes to him and Julie for whatever the future holds.

With Colour Sergeant Mason now safely installed the Mess welcomed the Colonel-in-Chief and the Duchess of Wellington back to the Battalion on 30 January. The Colonel-in-Chief was clearly in good form, despite a long day travelling, and managed to keep both the Commanding Officer and the brand-new PMC hopping

about with some tricky questions on the Mess silver and Regimental history.

As ever there have been a number of comings and goings since the last edition. John Hinchcliffe has departed for Brecon and we wish him and Emma all the best at Sniper Division.

It seems that every Dukes' Officer at extra regimental duty has managed to appear in Kosovo in some capacity or other and it has been good to see Peter Cowell, Richard Payne, Matt Palmer, Sam Humphris, Will Peters and Mick (The Fish) Cataldo among others. On the horizon after Kosovo looms the Autumn Ball which will be held on 15 September at Schloss Schelenburg near Osnabrück.

As my final word, can I express my thanks and those of the Mess to my predecessor Alex Wilson who has been PMC since the Battalion arrived in Osnabrück. Alex, despite the extreme handicap of being a cavalryman, has run the Mess wonderfully well and has made the Officers' Mess in Osnabrück the centerpiece of most officers' social lives in Germany. We all wish him well at Staff College in the autumn and look forward to destroying his Challenger at the next available TESEX/BATUS etc.

Major Peter Monteith
PMC

ECHELON 1 DWR PENINSULA LINES

by the Camp Commandant Hauptman Gruppenfuhrer Tony Sutcliffe

Having flown into Thessaloniki with the "drivers' flight" we spent the night in an old army camp (and I mean old) and waited until the next day for the ship carrying our vehicles to arrive. On arrival we unloaded both our A and B vehicle fleet and proceeded to drive through Greece and Macedonia in packets over a period of several days before finally crossing the border into Kosovo. We were directed to Peninsula Lines more commonly known as the Temporary Field Accommodation (TFA). It is located on the western outskirts of Pristina about two miles from the city centre.

The TFA is the base allocated to 1 DWR Echelon for the whole of the operational period. The Echelon is broken down into the Quartermaster's Department, headed by Major Brian (Brilliant) Thomas with both RQMS Maint and Tech in support. The MT Platoon, commanded by myself but controlled day to day by WO2 Reggie (isn't milk brilliant) Perrin. The Regimental Admin Office, run by Captain Sara

Crowther, the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) by Captain Dave (Drive Line) Worrell and the bulk of the catering platoon commanded by WO2 Pete Evans. Each department has a full complement of staff to support Battalion Main and the companies allocated control of the city.

The term "Temporary Field Accommodation" is quite misleading, as the bolt together 'Portakabin' type units which make up the TFA are securely cemented into the ground. They all have excellent heating, lighting and plumbing facilities, all constructed to British Building Standards (hence the need for British plug sockets on all our electrical items). The only down side is the temperamental smoke alarms, which have a tendency to go off if they detect anything other than normal breathing. The TFA is home (when not deployed) to the Recce Platoon, and both Burma and Somme Company groups who are part of the Brigade Reserve.

The soldiers' personal accommodation is in many ways superior to any I have experienced in 25 years of

soldiering. All Officers, Warrant Officers and most senior ranks enjoy single bunks, that are double-glazed, adequately heated and, best of all, air conditioned to combat the discomfort of the Balkans summer. The junior ranks enjoy exactly the same type of accommodation but are billeted two men per room. In addition the soldiers enjoy a very well appointed Junior Ranks Club (NAAFI XL) equipped with Sky TV, pool table, etc. All ranks have access to a modern well-equipped gymnasium which is surprisingly (for Echelon troops) well patronised.

Also within TFA sits Brigade Headquarters and its accompanying assets, a NAAFI shop, laundry facilities and several civilian "contract" companies which support the TFA. We also employ well over a hundred local civilians; these people work in the kitchens, laundry and as interpreters. They are controlled and tasked by the Quartermaster. All personnel also have the

added privilege of three e-mail terminals which they can book for thirty minutes at a time per day and Paradigm Homelink Telephone Service, where every person gets twenty minutes free phone calls to the United Kingdom every week.

Finally, tribute must be paid to the unsung heroes who accompany the Battalion on all our operational tours, they go forward with the Rifle Companies to the sharp end and stay in the rear with the Echelon troops, and they are of course the military chefs. The TFA has two large dining rooms; both are bright, airy and spotlessly clean. The chefs as ever work long hot hours with very little praise, in order to ensure our stomachs are full of well-cooked, immaculately presented meats, fish, vegetables, pasta, rice, salads and puds ... ain't war hell!

Captain Tony Sutcliffe, MTO

FAMILIES' UPDATE

At time of writing we find ourselves two thirds of the way through the Kosovo tour and its associated disruption for families. The pre-tour preparation, which included briefing, development of facilities and anticipation of welfare problems has really paid off. If anyone had told me before the tour began that there would be so few welfare problems during it, then I would have referred them to specialists for fantasizing. At the risk of speaking too soon, things have run remarkably smoothly and I must commend our wives for the support they have given their husbands and the resolve they have shown in carrying on regardless. Of course it has still been very busy and the Families' Office Staff have done a tremendous job in looking after our ladies, no matter what the problem. Our 'Bob the Builder' service has been heavily in demand, acting as surrogate husbands (within reason) doing anything from shopping for Pampers nappies to moving heavy things (big items of furniture always seem to be sold by a wife in a ground floor flat to a wife in a top floor flat!). Our programme of events has been highly successful and has assisted in keeping people active. Sunday lunches and barbecues, using Families' Office secret recipes, which included uncooked chicken, have been very popular, as have the numerous day trips to Osnabrück. One notable trip recently was to a large indoor fun factory in Bielefeld which, on arrival, seemed fantastic for the kids, but which, aside from sitting watchfully in the restaurant, was a bit dull for parents. That is until more German families arrived and unashamedly took

their shoes off to join their offspring on the maze of slides/tunnels/climbs/swings/ballparks. Amazingly this was allowed, so without any further prompting, twenty Dukes' wives and the Families' Officer were soon clambering over what must be the ultimate in adventure play items. Of course this was just to interact with the children and it isn't true that, after the kids had tired out and all disappeared for an ice cream, twenty wives and the Families' Officer were still aboard the apparatus having the time of their lives.

We have made best use of the facilities offered by BFBS television and radio. As well as radio dedications, we have a planned live radio link up with Kosovo and have televised many wives sending messages to their loved ones on BFBS television. This means that on the evening you could be sat at home watching Curly Watts trying to become Councillor for Weatherfield on Coronation Street one minute; next minute, where in England we would have a commercial break, we have instead Dukes' families appearing with their messages, then back to see what's happening in the Rovers. Doesn't seem real at times.

By the time you read this update the tour will be well and truly over and all the families will be able to look back and smile at the fact that time soon passes. Our wives have coped with much and they are thanked for their support. When's the next Kosovo tour?...

Captain J. Frear

The East and West Riding Regiment

Commanding Officer's Introduction

Once again it is my pleasure to write a short introduction on the activities of the two Dukes' companies belonging to the East and West Riding Regiment. My initial favourable impressions have been confirmed as the officers, NCOs and soldiers have risen above the restrictions placed on training by the foot and mouth crisis and everywhere I have seen enthusiasm and a determination to train come what may. Naturally Ypres Company were bitterly disappointed to lose the exchange exercise to the USA, and Longmoor is a poor substitute, but most of the Company have stuck together and are training near Aldershot as I write.

Nevertheless, Fontenay and Ypres Companies are in good health and recruiting is picking up after a slow winter. The Hallamshire Platoon has particularly benefited from the move of SF guns to Sheffield and their numbers and attendance go from strength to strength. Despite the restrictions, both companies have played a full part in Regimental events, including a mini sports day and a rearranged SAAM, where Corporal Wall and Fontenay Company gave Impfal Company a run for their money right up to the end. In May soldiers from both companies contributed to a Guard of Honour at the Master Cutler's Feast, which was attended by the great and good in Sheffield. Mr Digby Jones, the Chairman of CBI, was the principal guest and he was joined on the top table by the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Master Cutler complimented the Guard on their turnout and subsequently provided some beer and a donation to company funds. On an individual note, two events stand out: first Simon Routh passed his JOTES 1 examination and has now been promoted to Captain and, second, Colour Sergeant Simpson (QPSI Ypres Company) leaves the Army after 42 years' service.

Looking ahead, I expect Fontenay Company to relish the Field Firing Camp at Sennybridge, although it will not be until September when we train again as a Regiment. Further off but approaching rapidly are the celebrations for the Tercentenary, including the presentation of Colours and the 'Havercake March'. Plans are in hand for both and it is our intention that the TA members of the Regiment play as full a part as possible and help to represent the Dukes in West and South Yorkshire in this memorable year.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Private Butterfield, a recruit with the Keighley Platoon, who was tragically killed in a traffic accident whilst off duty. His funeral service was very well attended by friends and family and, in addition to myself, Ypres Company were represented by Major Hughes and Sergeant Mallas who laid a wreath. After the service Private Butterfield's father asked for a copy of the Dukes' cap-badge to put on the cover of a book of condolence, which we have provided.

EAST AND WEST RIDING REGIMENTAL SAAM 2001

Both Dukes' Companies with the East and West Riding Regiment have had training severely curtailed since the foot and mouth outbreak occurred. Most of the training weekends since the outbreak have had to take place within the confines of company TACs, which at the beginning was a novelty. As time and more weekends went by this soon wore off and imaginations were stretched as to what training we could carry out next. It soon brought home how much infantry training has to be carried out on training areas and cannot be achieved within the confines of the drill halls.

After a number of false starts the Regimental SAAM finally took place at Altcar Ranges on the weekend of 19/20 May 2001. Arriving at Altcar on the Friday evening it was immediately obvious that everyone was glad to be back in the open air on what was the first 'proper' weekend training since the foot and mouth outbreak began.

All the various companies' personnel arrived and were broken down into teams or range parties. The plan was for each company team to fire the Roupell Cup, Graham Trophy, Para Cup, Whitehead Trophy, Roberts Cup and the LWS match. Prizes would be awarded for the best team or individual in each match with an overall prize being awarded to the team with the best overall score.

Saturday's weather was ideal for the shooting competition. All teams present proceeded on a Round Robin of the various competition ranges. Some of the

scores achieved were quite high despite the long lay off and lack of range work. The Saturday culminated in a Regimental barbecue, which was enjoyed by all those who attended. Some of the more adventurous moved to sample the delights of sunny Southport, a night not for the faint hearted.

On the Sunday morning the Round Robin continued until all the shoots were completed. The results for the Dukes' companies were mixed, certainly Ypres Company appeared to suffer the ill effects of a night in Southport. Fontenay did markedly better, achieving first place in three of the competition shoots, second place in two others and were only prevented from winning the competition following a poor result on the LSW shoot. The aim of the SAAM was certainly achieved during the weekend and it was a nice change to finally get out of the cycle training within TACs.

As a footnote, Colour Sergeant Alan Simpson, the NRPS at Ypres Company, retired on 31 May after 42 years of service with both the 1st Battalion and Dukes' TA. Alan was one of the first people I came across when I joined the TA and when I was a young CQMS he was always there to offer the right advice when required. On behalf of the Regiment I would like to wish Alan all the best in his retirement and thank him for putting us on the right track when necessary.

Captain Simon Routh
Second-in-Command, Ypres Company

FONTENAY COMPANY

The southern-most end of the Dukes' empire continues to flourish with Fontenay Company active in the Barnsley and Sheffield areas. Limitations brought about by the foot and mouth epidemic have had a considerable impact on training, with all our activities being confined to barracks or the TA centres. This effectively ruined the company commander's excuses for not catching up with his paperwork. It has however given us an opportunity to raise our profile in the local areas and spend more time looking for new recruits, under the welcome guidance of Sergeant Watson DWR, a recent addition to the Company's permanent staff. The pause in training has also given us the opportunity to move things around with the machine gun platoon moving back to Sheffield and now being placed under the watchful eyes of WO2 Yates and Sergeant Johnson. Assisted by Colour Sergeant Brennan, recently returned from a period of foot and mouth duty, they are rapidly building up a highly skilled platoon who I am sure will do themselves credit in the forthcoming Match 9 Competition.

As is usual, the end of March saw the annual TA open day at all our locations. This was the opportunity for the local population to see that the TA is alive and well in their area. During the day about 300 people visited the TA centre and the attendance would have been better had it not been for Barnsley Football Club staging a home match at the same time. Anyway the queue to fire on the .22 range was shorter than usual, allowing visitors more time to look at the equipment and weapons under the watchful eye of CSM WO2 Goddard

and his band of helpers. Fortunately the weather stayed fine and after a sterling effort from the company recruiting team a number of eligible young persons decided that becoming a member of the TA was an opportunity not to be missed. Although recruiting was not the main aim of the day this proved to be a valuable spin off, resulting in twelve new soldiers attesting.

The last few months have seen several visitors to the Company, with both the Mayor of Barnsley and the Mayor designate of Sheffield visiting their respective locations. Each was keen to have a look round and even keener to ask some very searching questions of both the OC and the CSM. In particular Councillor Baker from Sheffield was so keen that he brought his wife with him as a wedding anniversary treat.

One of the main aims of the TA is to provide individuals to support the regular army. In March four members of the Company, Corporals Evans, Whitehead, Irwin and Emery left us to spend six months with the 1st Battalion in Kosovo. From the couple of letters we have had they seem to be enjoying themselves and the 1st Battalion appears to have got over the shock of a female cap-badged Duke. We look forward to their return, but don't look forward quite so much to their war stories.

The Company is now getting itchy feet and the prospect of getting out into the field again is hopefully getting closer. Certain members of the Company have even been heard to say that they are missing Catterick training area.

Major David Baird
Officer Commanding Fontenay Company



Lieutenant Huddart and Private Ward (recruit) manning the SF Stand. Open Day 31 March 2001.



WO2 Goddard (Fontenay Company) instructing the Mayor and Chief Executive of Barnsley on the finer points of the SA80. 6 March 2001.

TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR

We gave notice in our last edition that we would be publishing extracts from Major Peter Knight's personal account of his military service and the first extract is printed below.

However, readers may like to be aware that Peter Knight has also written an account of his visit to the graves of members of his company of 2/6th DWR, accompanied by Phil Tolson and members of their respective families. This is published in the correspondence section of this edition on page 92.

* * * * *

The War Years - 1939-1945

On 26 October 1938 I was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment along with several others; John Taylor (now Lord Ingrow), Bill Proom, Martin Hewitt, John Ingram and Donald Horsfall.

I was attached to the 6th Battalion with headquarters at Skipton. It was a Territorial unit and its activities were confined to evenings and weekends. The CO, a First World War veteran, was called Lieutenant Colonel J. S. Spencer OBE, MC, TD, whose service with the Battalion had dated from 1914 and who had the unique distinction of having served in every rank in the army

from private to brevet colonel. During the day he ran the post office at Crosshills and at night he held his officers on a loose rein, especially on mess nights when, after a simple but substantial dinner, large quantities of ale were consumed and youthful good spirits were not tempered by discretion.

The Drill Hall provided an excellent arena for bicycle polo amongst other things. Training nights largely consisted of instruction from senior non-commissioned officers. Certainly nothing I learned prepared me for the actuality of warfare in the 'forties. Of tactics I received no instruction, save from what I read in old military manuals entrenched in the past. Of modern mobile warfare as interpreted by the Germans we knew nothing. But we were a happy band of brothers, all in our early twenties, who had joined out of a sense of duty, realising, before most, that our country might soon need us.

I cannot, truthfully, recall my exact motives in accepting the King's shilling, but I was certainly convinced from my own observations in Germany; from reading the newspapers and, in particular, from watching the newsreels, that a war with Germany was very likely. As all my experience of war was conjured out of my own imagination, based on the little hearsay gathered from my father and his friends - he was remarkably reticent about his experiences - and from

war films, such as 'All Quiet on the Western Front', I had not formed any clear idea of what would be involved. However quixotic my intentions, they were tempered with the thought that it would be better to be an officer than any other rank. To this extent I must confess to being opportunist. Had I waited for the inevitable war which followed I would have been conscripted, drilled, forced into company not of my own choosing and generally messed about. As it turned out I kept my independence, to an extent, and my pride - and the pay was better. But was I a better soldier? I doubt it. Was I a soldier at all - or just a lawyer dressed up in uniform? I am certain these thoughts did not weigh heavily on my mind at the time. The whole thing was a bit of a lark and I enjoyed a degree of prestige particularly when I donned my dress uniform to go dancing with Gwen, the girl who was to become my wife.

Meanwhile the shadows gathered all over Europe. In 1938 Hitler had annexed Austria; taken command of the German Army and marched into the Sudeten land of Czechoslovakia. Neville Chamberlain had succeeded Stanley Baldwin as Prime Minister and Lord Halifax had replaced Anthony Eden as Foreign Secretary, the latter disenchanted with the government's policy of appeasement which eventually led the Prime Minister to Munich, where he had an ignominious meeting with the Reich Chancellor, seemingly legitimising the German annexations to our great national shame. I remember seeing him on film at the cinema descending from the aeroplane that brought him back from Germany, waving a historic 'piece of paper' which, he said, "ensured peace in our time". Few believed him. I certainly did not. But all breathed a sigh of relief; some to resume their carefree lives, others to prepare themselves for the conflict which seemed inevitable.

to be continued ...

'D' COMPANY YORKSHIRE (N&W) ARMY CADET FORCE

Adult Training Weekend and Dinner

This event was held over the weekend of 3-4 February. The Commandant, Colonel Stephen Ashby, attended, together with Major Tim Pennett who is the OC of 269 Battery Royal Artillery, which now sponsors our three RA Detachments. Our annual OS Trophy was awarded, again to Lieutenant J. Potts of Allerton Detachment RA who was setting off on our arranged visit to the 1st Battalion in Germany. All Cadets and staff attending the visit assembled at Huddersfield at midnight on Friday 20 October for final checks of travel documents, passports etc., and who had forgotten to bring his passport with him? - You guessed: Lieutenant John Potts. This is the second time John has won the OS Trophy and rumours that if he wins it for a third time he keeps it, are false!

Company Weekend 16-18 February

We were not sure if this weekend was going ahead until the last minute due to the foot and mouth outbreak restrictions. In view of the late confirmation that the weekend was going ahead we had a very good turnout, even though we had to do all training inside the wire at Strensall.

Exercise Iron Duke 2001

This exercise took place between 7-8 April at Strensall. A report by Captain Andy Pigg MBE, Officer i/c the Dukes' Regimental Recruiting Team, follows. The final result was: 1st, Huddersfield Detachment, 2nd, Halifax Detachment, and 3rd Birdwell Detachment from Humberside and South Yorkshire ACF.



The winning Huddersfield team, left to right: Captain Ian Lomas CO, Lance Corporals Weedon, Haikings, Kirkbright, Firth, Barrett, Colonel Charles Dent, Deputy Honorary Colonel Ypres Company, W/S Sergeant Instructor Kris Willsdon and Lance Corporal Askham.

County Athletics 28 April, Rydale Stadium York

Having competed in the County Athletics, we came away with nine golds, seven silvers and nine bronze medals. As a result we now have sixteen gold and silver winners going forward to the Regional Finals which are to be held in Middlesborough.

New Adults

Since the last edition we have welcomed two new adults into the Company. They are Sergeant Graham Grange at Halifax Detachment and Sergeant Glyn Chapman at Spen Valley Detachment. Going through the selection process we have another eight or nine new prospects, so the Company is staffed pretty well at the moment.

Company Weekend 11-13 May

Again due to the foot and mouth restrictions this weekend was moved from Beckingham to CTC Strensall and we also changed it into a testing weekend. We also held a first aid course run with fifteen Cadets on it - all passed.

The following Cadets received promotion on the weekend: Female Sergeant Bobbie Williams of Allerton Detachment to Staff Sergeant, and Corporal Broderick also of Allerton Detachment to Sergeant. The OC of 269 Battery Royal Artillery, Major Tim Pennett came along and presented flashes to RA Cadets and staff who are now affiliated to 269 Battery RA (V) at Leeds. Major Pennett joined us for Saturday and we held a formal parade in the evening. He then stayed over to be entertained by us. This affiliation is now opening up opportunities for RA and Dukes Cadets to go away with 269 RA for training weekends. Our own training is resuming slowly as the foot and mouth restrictions begin to be lifted.

TA Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting, Altcar 19-20 May

Eighteen Cadets and two staff attended this weekend for Butt Duties. They also got hands-on training in Small Arms Trainer, thermal imaging equipment and the assault course. Overall a good weekend.

Captain S. A. Marren
Staff Officer Admin

Exercise Iron Duke 2001

During the weekend 7-8 April the Regimental Recruiting Team assisted by Dukes' soldiers from 124 Army Youth Team, the King's Division Recruiting Team, the Infantry Recruiting Team and 9 Cadet Training Team ran Exercise Iron Duke, the annual Dukes-badged Cadet Force competition. This was run at the height of the foot and mouth crisis when most training areas and facilities were out of bounds. Due to the determination and imagination of WO2 Glen Cracknell, 2i/c of the Regimental Recruiting Team, the competition was planned and executed within the confines of Strensall Camp.

When most other units cancelled their cadet competitions it was with true Dukes' style that ours not only went ahead but ran successfully producing a high

standard of competitiveness and enthusiasm from all involved. Twelve teams participated in a two-day competition that saw cadets competing in activities such as assault course, first aid, observation and command tasks along with a number of interest stands. The competition culminated with a march and shoot which revealed a high standard of physical fitness and accurate shooting, showing the preparation each detachment had to put into their training evenings and weekends prior to the event.



Thongsbridge Detachment on a command task.

The overall winners were the Huddersfield Detachment whose performance throughout the competition was the most consistent.

The Deputy Honorary Colonel of Ypres Company, the East and West Riding Regiment, Colonel Charles Dent, presented the prizes to the winners and runners up.

All of the cadets should be congratulated on their high standard of turnout, bearing and behaviour throughout the weekend.

Captain A. Pigg

Cadet Trust Dinner

The Colonel of the Regiment was the guest speaker at the Yorkshire and Humberside Cadet Trust Dinner. The fundraising event took place at the Royal Armouries in Leeds with some 100 guests attending including a number of senior business people.

The Cadet Trust is a local initiative set up to raise funds to provide financial support to deserving cadets from all service cadet forces. The grants range from £20 to assist with attendance at camp, to £500 in support of older cadets participating in overseas expeditions. Some £100,000 has so far been raised in its five year history with over 300 individual cadets having benefited. Such has been its success that similar trusts have now been set up in other parts of the country.

General Webb-Carter, who was accompanied by his wife, spoke on 'the Cadets in Society'.

Lieutenant Commander D. Dennis MBE, RD

EXERCISE VIRGIN CADET

It was with great enthusiasm that the ten of us decided to go sailing around the British Virgin Islands for our expedition. The thoughts of Sennybridge still fresh in our minds, we decided early on that we needed sun and sea. After months of planning we boarded the plane excitedly, the Caribbean here we come.

The aim was to circumnavigate the BVIs with some arduous sailing and a night phase, as well as to improve the varying levels of skill on board the boat. With many of the crew boasting minimal experience it was to prove a fun week. Arriving on the main island of Tortola we moved to the harbour and were pleased to discover that the boat far exceeded our expectations. After a quick lesson about the boat we knew the stern and bow, and set sail, the crew were soon pulling in like seasoned veterans. However, the Caribbean gave us a taste of what conditions could be like when a sudden torrential downpour caught us off guard. Thankfully the sun reappeared and all was well again.

Our first leg was to Norman Island, rumoured to be the island Robert Louis Stevenson based the novel *Treasure Island* on; it was easy to imagine these islands inhabited by pirates. With our boat moored, the group went off to have a snorkel. Any desires to find sunken treasure were quickly removed when we heard the cannon go off at 'Billy Bone's Bar' for happy hour. After a rocky night's sleep, the group was up and ready for the next leg of the journey. We sailed from Norman Island amongst islands to the other side of Tortola to Cane Garden Bay. The weather was excellent as we stopped at some very real desert islands. The tranquility was soon shattered with the production of a rugby ball, as the little islands and Americans witnessed some of the most amazing tries ever seen! We eventually arrived at Cane Garden Bay, having used the afternoon's sailing to practise man overboard drills and tacking.

Our stay in the Bay was to be short-lived as we prepared for our night sailing. The aim was to sail around the whole island of Tortola and arrive back at Cane Garden the next morning. For the first time in the expedition the life jackets came out and the rum punch went away. With no sun, some of the crew were at a loss as to what they should do. This phase was exciting, as we could no longer rely on being able to work out our position from looking at the islands. Running into a reef became a very real possibility, as the boat's GPS

flickered on and off and we heard the cries of 'can anyone remember how to do a back bearing?' We sailed past Tortola up round to Virgin Gorda, taking in most of the BVIs, eventually arriving back at Cane Garden Bay that afternoon having sailed about 100km.

The next day we sailed back to Virgin Gorda, so named because sailors decided that it looked like a large naked lady lying on her back. We eventually arrived at the exclusive Bitter End yacht club, here we moored for the night. It is easy to see why Branson's Necker island is so close, however we decided against an illegal landing to see if he was in. From here we sailed to Spanish Town, stopping on route to swim in what are called the 'baths'. They are fantastic rock pools that provided some excellent snorkelling. Unfortunately the unavailability of return flights meant that the group was forced to return home a week earlier than we had intended. Overall the expedition had proved successful, with all of our aims achieved and the entire group having had an excellent time 'playing amongst the Virgins'.

Officer Cadet Adam Brown



Officer Cadet Adam Brown in the Caribbean.

MY FIRST FEW DAYS AS A NATIONAL SERVICEMAN

Having departed from Britain for South Africa aged four and returned 18 years later, I found to my horror that I was liable for National Service in two years' time.

Much lobbying was undertaken by my firm, my MP and others to try to extricate me from this commitment, particularly as conscription was due to end in 1960. The thought of this raw-boned South African having to do his duty was too horrible to contemplate.

During the intervening two years I played rugby for Blackheath and met a number of Dukes' officers who also occasionally played for The Club, as it was known,

in particular Dennis Shuttleworth and Mike Hardy. I also met Jim Shenton, who played for Birkenhead Park and has since become a lifelong friend.

One day, after the two years was up, a bowler-hatted gentleman called at my flat to present me with my Call-Up papers. So much for the lobbying on my behalf! Up to that moment I had never seriously thought I would have to succumb to Her Majesty's pleasure at the ripe old age of 24. Needless to say it completely devastated me, as, apart from London, I knew nothing about England, let alone matters military.

The very evening I had been given my Call-Up papers I happened to be at the rugby club, where I was bewailing my misfortune to anyone who would listen, when an elderly gentleman shot to his feet and said: "I am Colonel Dalrymple, late of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and secretary of army rugby and, if I have anything to do with it, you will join the Dukes forthwith".

I plaintively replied that I would prefer to see the world via the Navy, upon which he retorted that no rugger player joins anything other than the Dukes!

It was not surprising therefore that in a very short period I found myself sitting in a filthy steam train chugging towards Halifax. To match my innermost feelings, the town turned out to be a dank, dark and seemingly dismal place.

On reaching the Depot, I had hardly got through the gates when I was accosted by a callow youth (Second Lieutenant Simon Berry) who told me to go at once to Holywood. On seeing my reaction, he quickly pointed out that Holywood was not in the USA, but in Northern Ireland, adding, with an audible sniff, that I was to report for rugby training - not the normally prescribed basic training for raw recruits.

How I moved myself to Northern Ireland I cannot now recall, except I remember wondering whether I could board a ship in Liverpool bound for South Africa, as I was not enjoying the prospect of the next two years.

Filled with foreboding, I arrived in Belfast to be greeted by the very same Jim Shenton - now a Second Lieutenant. Apparently Dennis Shuttleworth had suggested that, as he knew me from Blackheath, he should collect me from the boat - lest I do a bit of AWOL. Jim dropped me off short of the Guardroom, more, I understand, to protect my street cred as a private soldier, than anything to do with his own standing.

During the search for my billet, I happened to meet none other than Dennis Shuttleworth, accompanied by another soldier. Dennis and I greeted each other like old friends, whilst the other soldier, with a great big stick under his arm, looked stolidly on. I was curious that Dennis didn't seem to want to introduce the other man, but I presumed he was in a hurry.

I located my billet and was slowly getting my bearings, when the door flew off its hinges and the soldier who had been with Dennis stood in the doorway puce in the face. He was apoplectic with rage and shouted how dare I address an officer by his first name.

I innocently replied that he was a friend of mine. This apparently put me in imminent danger of being thrown in jail! However, rugby came to my rescue, as I said I couldn't hang around, as I was due for rugby training, leaving the man staring at me open-mouthed.

When I saw Dennis a while later, he looked at me with those twinkling, smiling eyes and asked me had I settled in? I recounted the confrontation and asked him what on earth he had said to make the man so angry.

He replied that the Sergeant Major had asked him if I was a new officer, whereupon Dennis (bless him!) said: "Oh no, this is his first day in the Army". Apparently the Sergeant Major excused himself and I received the explosion.

As Dennis explained later, this was his way of making me realise I was in the Army. I have never forgotten being "dropped in it", but it was a salutary introduction for a greenhorn. As for the Sergeant Major, who was I think WO2 Nichols, he turned out to be of the greatest help and encouragement all through my two years and we certainly had a few laughs - at my expense!

Simon Arnold

THE RIGOURS OF SERVICE OVERSEAS

We are most grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Baynes, Bt, for his permission to publish extracts from his family history.

The tale which follows, necessarily abbreviated from the original draft provided by Sir John, will strike a chord both with readers who have served in the tropics - and with fond parents of anyone who has served in far-flung places.

In these days of instant e-mail communication, one can only reflect upon the effect of having to wait many weeks for handwritten letters to be delivered to distant destinations and many more weeks for any reply.

* * * * *

In 1834 John Stuart had received a commission as Ensign in the 33rd Regiment. His Ensigny was given, without purchase, as the reward of merit, at the Military College, Sandhurst.

John, the eldest son of six children, was particularly close to his father, Daniel Stuart, who had prospered in the newspaper business to the extent that he had been able to purchase both a country estate in Oxfordshire

and a London house in Upper Harley Street. His father was, very naturally, particularly solicitous over John's health and well-being.

After some years stationed in England and Ireland, John arrived with the 33rd at Gibraltar (now more usually spelt Gibraltar). Here in 1840 he had a foretaste, fortunately at this point without serious consequences, of the most destructive enemy faced by soldiers throughout the Empire's history. Disease in its many forms was always a more dangerous killer than any human foe. Though rare, one of the most feared forms of it was rabies or hydrophobia, widely found among the ill-cared-for dogs that roamed uncontrolled in towns and villages all over the world, especially in poor areas. When Daniel Stuart and his wife heard that John had been bitten by a dog in May 1840 they were so alarmed that Daniel wrote to the surgeon of the 33rd, from whom came this reply:

Gibraltar 22 June 1840

Sir

In answer to your note of the eleventh instant, I beg to acquaint you, that your son, Lieutenant Stuart was bitten in the hand by a dog on the night of the 14th of

May, when he was returning home to his quarters in the barracks from the Mess House. But unfortunately I am unable to satisfy your enquiries, regarding the exact state of the brute at the time, as it died in the course of the night, either from the chastisement it received or from the disease it laboured under. The following day about noon, your son came to my quarters, and as some cases of canine madness had previously recurred on the garrison, I thought it prudent to extirpate and cauterize the bitten parts. The wounds are all healed up now, and as he is in good health and spirits, I sincerely hope no unpleasant symptoms will ensue.

I cannot however conceal from you, although I have not mentioned it to your son, for fear of creating a doubt in his mind, that the dog was opened by the Assistant Surgeon of the 48th Regiment, to an Officer of which Corps it belonged, and its stomach found filled with horse dung, pieces of old rope, leather and other substances, not generally swallowed by dogs when in health.

The dog was in the habit of running about the Barrack Square, and as it had never shown any disposition to bite before the day on which it attacked your son, perhaps it may not have laboured under any confirmed disease.

Your son is a young man of strong nerve and good sense, and the operation appears to have set his mind quite at rest, which is a favourable circumstance; and as a period of nearly six weeks has now elapsed since he was bitten, we can only hope for the best. I felt a good deal of anxiety about him at first as you may naturally suppose, but each day now gives me more confidence of his safety. I have the honour to be Sir. Your most obedient humble servant.

John Hall
Surgeon 33rd Regiment

On receiving this information from John Hall, Daniel wrote to two leading surgeons in London, Sir Benjamin Brodie and Sir Astley Cooper. He had heard that there had recently been discovered a cure for hydrophobia, though knowledge of this was confined to the medical profession, and he hoped that these two might let him know if this was true. Requesting the need for confidentiality he suggested that information about the cure might be sent in a sealed letter to Hall in Gibraltar.

Though Brodie wrote at some length to reassure Daniel that there was little likelihood of any 'bad consequences' from the bite, since 'the bitten parts were carefully excised and cauterized', he was not helpful in respect of the new cure. At the end of his letter he showed that he regarded it as being in the experimental stage, and not suitable for use in this case:

'I am not acquainted with any other means of preventing hydrophobia, than those which have been resorted to. There is one great objection to using remedies as a mere experiment viz:- that by making the patient believe he is still liable to the disease, they not only render him miserable, but may occasion serious illness.

B. C. Brodie'

The letter is annotated:

Mr Stuart adds 'I sent Sir B. Brodie's opinion, of which the above is a copy, to Mr Hall, the surgeon at Gibraltar; with a letter desiring no expense be spared, if necessary, for John.

I saw Sir A. Cooper, who did not write. I did not tell him of Sir B. Brodie's opinion, which I then had in my pocket. He agreed generally in the same opinion.'

Taking up her brother's story, Mary (the eldest of John's sisters) in her *Memorials* comes to the departure of the 33rd from Gibraltar the following year:

'Fortunately no ill consequences followed, but though this danger passed away, my brother's health appears to have been in some degree shaken, and on the 33rd being ordered to the West Indies, it became a question of whether or no, it would be safe for him to proceed thither. He himself was unwilling to leave the regiment, of which he was proud, and where he had made warm friends, and he looked forward also to the sea voyage as likely to restore him to health and strength; and my father was reassured on the subject by a letter from the surgeon Mr Hall.'

Boyne Transport. Gibraltar Bay 17 Feb: 1841

Sir

In answer to your letter, I am happy to have it in my power to assure you, that there is nothing to apprehend from your son's state of health. Since he embarked on the 4th inst. he has regained his appetite and spirits, and in a short time I feel convinced he will be quite well. He has no apprehension of the West Indies, and as his health is so much improved since he came on shipboard, I think it would be better to allow him to proceed to his destination, in which opinion Colonel Knight coincides. There is every prospect of the 33rd being quartered at Barbadoes, on its arrival in the West Indies; and as that island is generally considered a healthy one, your son will run as little risk as anyone proceeding to that part of the world can possibly do. But you must be aware, all Europeans proceeding to the West Indies for the first time, incur more or less risk from the diseases incident to that climate. We must however hope for the best. For my own part, I have little apprehension on your son's account, as I think his constitution well adapted for service in a warm climate; and my opinion is founded on a service of upwards of twelve years in the West Indies. I have the honour to be Sir. Your most obedient humble servant.

John Hall
Surgeon 33rd Regiment

On the same day John also wrote to his father. In an earlier letter he had told of the unfavourable north-west wind which kept their ship stuck in harbour while awaiting a favourable easterly. The only thing to be thankful for during the tedious wait was a 'comfortable ship'. 'Indeed she is not a regular transport, but an East Indiaman, hired by government to convey troops. I have a cabin to myself, a thing almost unheard of for a subaltern.' Now on 17 February it looked as though the wind might come right.

Gibraltar 17 February 1841

My dear Father

I have to thank you and my mother for your letters which I received this morning. There is not, I am happy to say, any necessity of taking so serious a step, as coming home, as I am now perfectly recovered. I am afraid from your letter to Dr Hall, that I unnecessarily alarmed you. -- I therefore hope I may face Barbadoes, particularly after a three weeks, or month's voyage, as well as my neighbours. We have now been fourteen days embarked, but from appearances expect a favourable wind either tonight or tomorrow morning. -- Give my love to my mother and tell her, that I employed my leisure diligently reading while on shore, but that it is quite impossible to do so on board, as my

cabin is too dark, and the main cabin is too noisy for such a proceeding. The weather too is excessively cold, from which I suffer much, as a servant I had in the autumn robbed me of all my warm clothing and deserted into Spain; and I, anticipating the West Indies, never got any more. Pray excuse my bad writing. This is probably the last letter you will receive from me till my arrival in Barbadoes. Give my love to my mother, sisters and all at home, and believe me my dear father, ever to remain your affectionate son.

John Stuart

Dr Hall has I believe written to you more minutely my state of health, and fitness for going to the West Indies.

continued on page 102

COLONEL A. R. DUNN VC

We were delighted to receive recently from Honor F. Jones, of Victoria, British Columbia, some additional information on the redoubtable Canadian, Colonel A. R. Dunn VC.

The Brereton/Savory Regimental History tells us (page 182) that Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Dunn won his VC in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, whilst serving with the 11th Hussars. Later, in 1855, he sold his commission (the purchase and sale of commissions being normal practice at the time) and returned to his native Canada, taking with him (perhaps less normally) the wife of his Commanding Officer. Three years later he joined the newly-raised 100th Foot and, in 1861, purchased the lieutenant colonelcy.

However, after three years, under some pressure - there were rumours of excessive gambling - he exchanged into the 33rd, which was then serving in India. Despite the judgement of a young Ensign, W. A. Wynter, that: "He was a handsome man, six feet two inches tall and thirty years of age, a kind, good natured dandy, a bad commanding officer and not a good example to young officers ... he was very popular but nearly destroyed the Regiment", he was promoted Colonel shortly after joining the Regiment, thereby becoming the youngest colonel in the army.

In 1867 the 33rd found itself committed to the Abyssinian Campaign. On 12 January 1868 the 33rd arrived at an advanced base camp at Senafe, some sixty miles from the Red Sea coast and were soon ordered forward to clear the route to Magdala. According to the

Service Digest, Colonel Dunn died on 25 January; a Regimental Court of Inquiry found:

"The Court, having considered all the evidence before it, is of the opinion that the death of Colonel Dunn was purely accidental, caused by his own rifle (sic) (he had apparently been shot by both barrels of a shot gun) exploding while he was in the act of using his brandy flask, when sitting on a stone, out shooting."

Mrs Jones sends us information that Colonel Dunn's long-neglected grave at Senafe, Somalia, was recently uncovered by a party of Canadian troops on a peace-keeping mission there. Sidney Allinson, a Military Historian of Victoria, British Columbia, had heard tell of the grave in 1974 from Captain Reg Rimmer GC, ex-British Army, who described how, while leading a patrol of Eritrean Mounted Police, he came across a tiny long-abandoned cemetery outside Senafe. One burial was marked with a weathered stone cross engraved: "In memory of A. R. Dunn VC, Colonel, 33rd Foot, who died at Senafe, January 25, 1868, aged 34 years 7 months". The grave had at that time been well tended, possibly by the Italians, but, by the time the Canadians re-found it, piles of refuse had to be removed to reveal the grave.

Mrs Jones may like to reassure Sidney Allinson that, despite the neglect of Colonel Dunn's grave in Africa, the Colonel's name is still honoured by the 33rd Foot in our Regimental Chapel in York Minster. (See article below).

MONUMENTS IN YORK MINSTER

We are grateful to Dom Alberic Stacpoole for alerting us to two monuments in York Minster.

The first, which was erected in 1859, was moved to its present location in St George's Chapel when it became the Regimental Chapel in 1923. A white marble inscribed slab incorporates seven brass strips, consisting of the Regimental title and six Battle Honours. It honours the men of the Regiment who fell between 1854 and 1856 and is inscribed:

"To the Memory of the Following Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, also of Five-Hundred and Thirty-Five Men of Her Majesty's Thirty-Third Regiment who fell on the Field of Battle, or Died from the Effect of Wounds Received, or of Sickness Contracted in the Service of their Country During the War with Russia from 1854 to 1856."

Colonel F. R. Blake CB, and Lieutenant Colonel T. B. Gouch are named, as are one captain, eight lieutenants,

a paymaster, a pay sergeant, an orderly room clerk, two colour sergeants, 15 sergeants and 20 corporals.

The Memorial has as its subscription: "This Tablet is Erected by the Surviving Officers of the Regiment, as a Token of their Esteem and Regret".

The second memorial was erected in St George's Chapel in 1871 in memory of ten (named) officers, thirteen sergeants and 191 men, who died whilst the Regiment was serving in India from 1857 to 1867. It then adds:

"Also of Colonel A. R. Dunn VC, Captain J. C. Smythe, Quartermaster Vyse and five men who

died during the Abyssinian Campaign from 1867 to 1868.

This Tablet is Erected by the Officers Now Serving and who Have Served in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment."

The names inscribed can be read in the Regimental Chapel and they will be provided to anyone who wishes to know them. It is one of those happy coincidences that, just as we planned to publish the above information, we should receive, quite separately, the aforementioned tale from Mrs Jones, in Canada.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Restalls
Gawthorpe Lane
Bingley
West Yorkshire BD16 4DF
25 July 2001

Dear Sir,

Venables, France re-visited 17 June

I had the honour to command 'A' Company, 2/6th Battalion in June 1940. The Battalion was in action on 9 and 10 June in defence of a front from St Pierre de Vouvray to Les Andelys on the River Seine. 'A' Company was charged with the defence of a small village called Venables, Departement L'Eure.

Prompted by Phil Tolson's interesting and pertinent letter of 24 July last year (Spring 2001) regarding the role played by the 2/6th DWR in France 1940 and the picture of the graves of a number of men of my company, I got in touch with Phil.

As a result I learned that the French citizens of this small village have, since 1950, been in the habit, each year, of commemorating the events of those two days by a formal ceremony of homage at the gravesides of these men. With Phil's encouragement and help I wrote to the Maire and received a warm letter of acknowledgement and an invitation to meet him at the Mairie and to attend the *Cérémonie Commémorative* on Sunday 17 June this year.

Accompanied by my son Nicholas, and grandson Adam, I duly presented myself and was most warmly greeted by the Maire and members of the Village Council. The Maire made a welcoming speech referring to the part played by the Regiment which was warmly received. I was then prompted to respond and read a well-rehearsed reply in French reflecting the Regiment's appreciation of the care taken of the graves. There followed a videoed interview by a local journalist with the help of a French Canadian lady who did the translation. We were then asked to sign a citation which I was unable to understand, but the Maire kindly supplied a copy which I had translated on my return home. It is with some embarrassment that I replicate it, but do so as an indication of the local feeling for the Regiment, later reflected by many of the villagers to whom I spoke:

It is not without some emotion that I, Jean-Marie Drouet, Mayor of Venables, have the honour to welcome among us Mr J. P. Knight, Second World War Veteran and Commander of Company A of the 2/6th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who has come to pay his respects with us at the graves of his brothers-in-arms killed in action during the violent battles of 9 and 10 June 1940. The members of the Municipal Council, former combatants and myself are greatly honoured by your presence and proud to stand alongside this British citizen who fought for liberty and against Despotism. Thank you Mr Knight.

Signatures of the Mayor and Council

We then moved to the cemetery where we were joined by a number of villagers and the Maire then made another speech and I was called upon again to read my speech which, I am glad to say, was well received. I concluded, somewhat dramatically:

*Vive le Maire
Vive les bonnes gens de Venables
Vive La France
Vive La belle France
Vive l'entente cordiale*

We then assembled round the graves and the Maire placed a wreath in the centre of the row of six gravestones and I laid a regimental wreath alongside. The names of the dead were read by Phil Tolson: L/Sgt Marsh, Privates Roper, Underwood, Smith, Turner and one unknown soldier. A bugler sounded the Last Post and eight flag-bearers lowered their flags as silence was observed. A similar ceremony followed at a roadside cross on the road leading to Les Andeleys to commemorate, I believe, some dismounted French Cavalry who were killed in the same action. Lastly, we assembled again in the village's 13th century church where there was an imposing monument to the dead of WWI. Wreaths were laid and the names read - the list was lengthy.

In such a manner do the villagers of this small community honour their dead - certainly since 1950 and I heard it said, more than once, it would continue for all time!



Major Peter Knight pays his respects at the graves of L/Sergeant Marsh, Privates Roper, Underwood, Turner and Smith.



Entente Cordiale

At lunch with the Maire - Phil Tolson (on right), having presented his Dukes' tie to the Frenchman opposite.

My son, grandson and I, along with Phil, his wife Jane and son Matthew then went to a family luncheon at the Maire's house where we were entertained by his family and friends. After a splendid meal, with many toasts and much lively chatter and laughter - we rose four hours later to say au revoir to the Maire's family and were then taken by him to see the local war museum, an impressive building, the cost of which and the considerable collection of military memorabilia displayed, had been donated by one very patriotic French man who showed us round.

Thus concluded a long and memorable day the recollection of which will not be diminished by time.

I was very proud to represent the Regiment in the circumstances I have described, but I must acknowledge my great obligation to Phil Tolson, who has many times in the past visited Venables and taken part in the ceremony. Without his help and encouragement before and, most especially, at the ceremony, I could not have accomplished what little I did.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Knight

From: 17 Sandhurst Avenue
St Annes
Lancashire
FY8 2DB
25 June 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Having just received Iron Duke, No 245, Spring 2001 edition, I have read with interest the concluding story by Anthony Mitchell on the 'Escape' tale. I traced back to issue 242, Spring 2000 edition, when it commenced and on reading through the story in issue 244, Winter 2000 edition, I see the name John de Bendern comes into the story and gives his family background as well as his sporting achievements at golf in 1930.

The reason for my letter to you is as follows. I would first like to mention that I served with the Regiment during National Service 1945-48, 14069769 Sergeant on demob.

During 1952 the British Open was being held at Royal Lytham Golf Club and was won by Bobby Locke of South Africa. As I was available during that week I managed to get a week caddying on the course for the first four days, two days' practice and two days' competition. I was with the same gentleman from a West Surrey club who had qualified but did not make the cut for the final two days.

On the Friday, the first of the two final days, I was available again and I was placed with a gentleman of fine appearance, obviously of military presence and I was soon to learn a bit reggy, we all know what that means! Guess who he was introduced to us as, 'Count John de Bendern' from Switzerland, small world hey! I had a good day, although not having much knowledge of the course and had a few sharp reminders from John "come on move it". Therefore you can imagine how I felt after 49 years and remembering his name.

It rang a loud bell, especially after realising he was the 1930 UK Champion and I was delighted to find it was the same John.

Yours sincerely,
Gordon Harvey

From: Ampleforth Abbey
York
YO6 4EN
19 March 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

We notice that Sebastian Faulks has written/spoken the narrative of the four-part Channel 4 programme, *Science and the Swastika* (from 19 March), about 'Hitler's biological soldiers'; and that in the Sunday Telegraph of 18 March he tells us that he is to present a BBC2 documentary about the people and places behind his fiction. He confesses that the turn of the century has 'put an end to his compelling connection with the experience of war'.

The Sunday article is backed by two military photos portraits - of his grandfather, Philip Lawless; and of his father, Peter about whom he writes: 'He once went to the local hospital to have some schrapnel removed from his arm. Although he had been demobilised in 1946, his best friends and our godfathers were fellow company commanders from the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. We (brothers born in 1950 and 1953) had tin helmets in the loft ... (then) fear of the defeated Nazis had already been superseded by our terror of the Russians (and) we assumed that it would be our lot to fight in a third war.'

Sebastian wrote *Birdsong* on the Great War, and *Charlotte Gray* on Auschwitz survivors. He has two thoughts: 'that is the way the 20th century was, that I wrote'; and 'Farewell to arms; it is over - I no longer feel the urgency to connect, for the century has turned'.

Yours faithfully,
John Stacpoole

PS I say 'not so easy': *Humanus sum, nihil humani alienum a me puto*. I am a man, nothing that is of humanity can I judge irrelevant.

From: 77 Francis Marion Circle
Beaufort
South Carolina
29902
30 May 2001

Dear Sir,

Seeing the correspondence about the Revolutionary War, prompted me to send you a few photographs of my recent visit to the battlefield at Yorktown. The battlefield tour is quite excellent and well worth a visit.

On my next visit to North Carolina I hope to make contact with Mr Plyler.

Yours faithfully,
Alan Westcob



Major Alan Westcob at Yorktown.

From: Ampleforth Abbey
York
YO6 4EN
18 June 2001
Waterloo Day

From: 7 Chichester Close
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 2JU
Tel: 01395 273613
28 June 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Whilst in Dublin in mid June (for a Maynooth College conference), I found myself on an early Sunday morning visit to the Dail or Parliament. Turning round, I confronted a plaque on the wall, which read: 'Birthplace of the 1st Duke of Wellington, son of the Earl of Mornington, 1769'. I believe his father was Viceroy at the time...

I was reminded of an attributed remark, recently rerun by The Times - Madam: 'so then you must be Irish?' Duke: 'just because you are born in a stable, that does not make you a horse!' [Writing to his nephew, Henry Wellesley in May 1814, he added a postscript: 'I believe I forgot to tell you I was made a Duke.']

Wellington died in 1852, aged 83, asleep in his chair in Walmer Castle, principal of the Cinque Ports defences in Kent. That same sabbath I read the Daily Mail, which told us that today the Lord Warden is the Queen Mother, who for twenty years has made an annual visit and has her own garden much used by her corgis. At present the place is controlled by 'a one-woman Gallic invasion', a prickly head gardener known as the French Dragon. Who may next be the Lord Warden, our last Field Marshal?

Respectueusement (as the Dragon might write),
John Stacpoole

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I have recently made contact with many good buddies who served in the Battalion with me, 1952-55. Unfortunately I have been unable to locate two special mates from those days, their names, Raymond (Bob) Lockwood from Bradford and Jesse Beadle who was in the Regimental Signals platoon. I would dearly like to make contact after all these years and would really appreciate hearing from anyone else who remembers me from that time.

Yours faithfully,
John Goodman

Regimental Association

Patron: Brigadier His Grace The Duke of Wellington, KG, LVO, OBE, MC, BA, DL
 President: Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE
 General Secretary: Major R. Heron, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA.

BRANCHES

Halifax/Bradford: 8.00pm second Tuesday of each month at the Calderdale NALGO Social and Recreation Club, Northgate House, Halifax.

Secretary: Mr P. R. Taylor, 7 Amy Street, Ovenden, Halifax, HX3 5QB.

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

Secretary: Mr J. Armitage, 23 Glenside Close, Edgerton, Huddersfield, HD3 3AP.

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

Secretary: Mr T. Gibson, 27 Braithwaite Avenue, Braithwaite, Keighley, BD22 9SS.

London: Meetings at 12 noon at the Union Jack Club on Sundays 16 Sept (AGM) 2001 and 20 Jan 2002.

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

Mossley: 8.30pm first Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at The Conservative Club, Mountain Street, Mossley.

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

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

Secretary: Mr P. Elwell, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

Skipton: 8.00pm second Thursday of each month at The White Rose 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 F. R. Parkinson, The Cottage, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent, East Yorks, YO41 4BN.

TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE BATTALIONS' OCA

5th Battalion. *Secretary:* Mr J. T. Payne, Flat 2, 24 Cambridge Road, Huddersfield, HD1 5BU.

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

8th Battalion (145 Regiment) RAC. *Secretary:* Major F. B. Murgatroyd, 15A Hatlex Hill, Hest Bank, Lancaster, LA2 6ET.

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

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REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AGM AND REUNION DINNER

The AGM, followed by the reunion dinner and dance will again be held in the Hilton Hotel, Bradford. The date of this year's dinner is Saturday 6 October. The AGM will start at 6.00pm, followed by dinner at 8.00pm. The cost of the dinner, which has been heavily subsidised from Regimental funds, is £10.50 per person.

The annual raffle, which helps to subsidise the cost of the dinner, will be held at RHQ on Friday 5 October. Tickets are on sale at £1.00 each. Winning tickets and prizes will be displayed in the foyer of the hotel throughout the dinner.

LONDON DINNER

The London Dinner of the Regimental Association was held on Saturday 21 April at the Victory Services Club. Although only thirty or so attended and there was no dancing, Keith and Evie Jagger organised a very pleasant, intimate evening. It was a particular pleasure to welcome as our guests Nicki and Maurice Lock. Maurice had been a colleague of Rodney Owers in the prison service and for a number of years Nicki, having drummed up extravagant prizes from her business contacts, organised very successful raffles for the London dinner. One highlight of the evening was

the meeting, for the first time since they parted in the jungles of Burma in 1942, of Bill Norman and William Matthews, who had been in Boys' Service together.



William Matthews (left) and Bill Norman (right) meet for the first time since 1942.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...**Queen's Birthday Honours**

We are pleased to report that Mr Sydney Webb, who served in the 1/7th Battalion from June 1944 to June 1945, and subsequently served in Korea with the Gloucestershire Regiment, has been awarded the MBE for his work on behalf of the Korean Veterans' Association. Syd now lives in Basildon, Essex, and we send him our congratulations.

Respect for the Iron Duke

Major General Sir William Napier dedicated the History of the war in the Peninsula thus:

"To Field Marshal The Duke of Wellington: This History I dedicate to your Grace, because I have served long enough under your command to know why the Soldiers of the Tenth Legion were attached to Caesar."

W. F. P. Napier

Boost for the Army Benevolent Fund

A unique military event took place on 27 March 2001, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, when all ten living British Field Marshals attended a commemorative chapel service and dinner on behalf of the army's national charity, the Army Benevolent Fund. A total of 111 "stars" dined together and £40,000 was raised for the fund.

For the record, the Field Marshals were; HRH Prince Philip, HRH the Duke of Kent, Lord Carver, Sir Roland Gibbs, Lord Bramall, Sir John Stanier, Sir Nigel Bagnall, Lord Vincent, Sir John Chapple and Lord Inge.

Hirst Scholarship

In our Autumn 2000 edition, No 243, on page 89, we published an obituary of Major Ivan Hirst. Mr R. L. Bates of Huddersfield has written to let us know that Volkswagen has set up an Ivan Hirst Scholarship to be awarded annually to research students, in order to mark Ivan Hirst's role in the firm's history and his visionary work.

The British Empire in Colour

The makers of the documentary series *The Second World War in Colour* and *Britain at War in Colour* are preparing for their next series: *The British Empire in Colour*, which will explore the demise of colonialism in the 20th century from the point of view of those who lived and worked within the former colonies. They are seeking diaries, letters and any colour film footage/home movies from the 1920s to 1970.

The researcher is: Dan Parry
4th Floor McCormack House
Burlington Lane
London W4 2TH
Tel: 020 8233 6485
Fax: 020 8233 5301
E-mail: dparry@imgworld.com

PS. Your Editor wouldn't mind being offered first refusal of any such material!

Odyssey Timeship

The Royal Star and Garter Home is creating a time capsule called the Odyssey Timeship. This capsule will contain the service experiences and photographs of serving and ex-service men, women and war-widows. Once full, it will be sealed and stored in the Imperial War Museum for 100 years. The aim is to provide a unique view of life in the Armed Services for future generations.

For a £10 donation to the Royal Star and Garter Home you can add your experiences to go into the capsule. The Home is a charity that provides essential residential and nursing care to disabled and incapacitated ex-servicemen and women. If you wish to take your place in the Timeship you should log on to www.odysseytimeship.com

Think Positive

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I'd not be able to go out on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is this, as the tale unfolds,
That for me, as for you, who are growing old,
It's better to say: "I'm fine", with a grin,
Than let folks know the shape I'm in.
How do I know my youth is all spent?
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.
But I really don't mind, as I think with a grin
Of all the places my get up has bin.
Old age is golden, so I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed.
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on a table until I wake up.
'ere sleep comes to me, I say to myself,
Is there anything else I should put on the shelf?
I get up each morning and dust up my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the "Obits".
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead,
So I get a good breakfast and go back to bed.
When I trip on the carpet, or stumble on stairs,
Then I'm in the right posture for saying my prayers!

Anon.

Conscience

King David and King Solomon
Led very merry lives
With many, many lady friends
And many, many wives.
But when old age crept over them,
With many many qualms,
King Solomon wrote Proverbs
and King David wrote the Psalms.

Also Anon

1st Battalion Digest of Service

"October 1892. Letter A Company, consisting of Captain W. J. Anderson, two sergeants and 48 rank and file proceeded to Strensall on the 17th instant, for work in connection with the construction of Butts." Note to self: must remember to check when Strensall golf course was founded...

Major Glynne Lewis, late 10H

DEI writes: Those of us who served in British Honduras with Alma and Burma Companies in 1962-64 will be sad to read of the death in Canada in his 88th year of Glynne Lewis. Glynne was MIO during our tour and was a great friend of the Regiment. He was a man of vast military experience. Commissioned initially in the Royal Canadian Dragoons in 1940, he transferred to the Indian Army and served with the Corps of Guides until partition when he joined the Tenth Hussars in BAOR. He then became a MIO and saw service in Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles, Cyprus, Oman, British Honduras, Sarawak, Bermuda and Northern Ireland. he retired to live in Canada in 1973. His wife of sixty years, Lyndsie, died in 2000.

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MAKING YOUR WILL?
Please don't forget the Regiment

The Friends of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund was started in 1998. The fund has been and is an invaluable resource in helping to sustain and build the Regiment we are all so proud of and to foster the regimental spirit it relies upon. There is much more we could and should be doing in the future and so ensure the Regiment retains its character and place in the Army as a living testimony to all those who have served in our ranks. If you are able to help the fund through a bequest, or in any other way, please do. The Friends of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund is a registered charity and any bequests made to it are not subject to inheritance tax.

If you would like any legal help or guidance from the Regimental Solicitor in making a bequest please call RHQ on 01422 361671.

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Obituaries

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

Major General G. F. Upjohn CB, CBE

Major General Gordon Upjohn died on 19 March at the age of 89. General Gordon served almost three years in the ranks as a 'Y' cadet before going to Sandhurst in 1934 and being commissioned into the Regiment in August 1935, joining the 1st Battalion in Malta shortly before Henry Valerian George Wellesley, Earl of Mornington, later 6th Duke of Wellington, where they both served as platoon commanders. In 1939 he was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force as Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion the Nigerian Rifles. In 1942 he attended the Middle East Staff College before going on to be Brigade Major of 3 West African Brigade. From 1944-46 he commanded the 6th Battalion Nigerian Regiment with the Chindits in Burma. He returned to the Regiment in 1946 as Second in Command of the 2nd Battalion in Meerut. From there he went to be DAA QMG of Southern Command, India, before returning as a Company Commander with the 1st Battalion in Strensall, the last time he served with the Regiment. His service after this was as GSOII MO2 in the War Office, and GSO1 at RMAS, before going on to command the 1st Battalion Sierra Leone Regiment and then 2nd Federal Infantry Brigade as a Brigadier. He was Provost Marshal in the War Office in 1960-62 and ended his Army career as GOC Yorkshire District, when the 1st Battalion, stationed at Catterick, was under his command. General Gordon was three times mentioned in despatches, made OBE in 1955, CBE in 1959 and CB in 1965. He left the Army in 1965.

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

I first met Gordon Upjohn in 1950 at Strensall when we represented the Regiment at a cricket match. He was then a Major working at the War Office, London. He quickly impressed me by his strong personality and easy manner. Though we never served together we met occasionally and I got to know him better. He was ambitious, sociable and made friends easily. He never seemed to be in a hurry; he appeared unflappable, and the expression 'laid back' fitted his temperament very well. He was not lacking in kindness when the opportunity arose and was always approachable even when he reached senior rank. I valued his friendship and I am sure many of his friends did too.

As a sportsman, he was an accomplished cricketer who could very quickly stamp his authority on a match by his powerful hitting. He played for the MCC, Free Foresters and the Stragglers of Asia. He was also a talented rugby player and represented the Regiment in the 1930s.

When he retired from the Army he joined the Board of Directors of the Automobile Association in London, but he became increasingly concerned about the health of his wife, Rita, and gradually withdrew from all major functions, including regimental events. In his later years he and his wife suffered from major disabilities, which he faced with uncomplaining courage.

Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth OBE

Dennis Shuttleworth, who died on 2 April 2001, aged 72, found distinction not only in the Army but also on the rugby field, both as a player and an administrator. His contribution to the development of youth rugby was significant. Essentially a very private person, his ability, shrewdness, sincerity and great common sense were well recognised by all who came in contact with him.

Born in 1928 in Leeds the elder of two brothers, he was educated at Roundhay School. Very much an all round sportsman, he was Captain of the School 1st XV in 1945/6 and 1946/7 and Head of School in 1947. A scrum half, he represented Yorkshire Schoolboys v Wales in 1947. He went on to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, that year where he and Michael Hardy began a long association as rugby half-backs. There they came under the influence of Major Charles Grieve, an instructor and an officer in the Dukes and both Shuttleworth and Michael Hardy were commissioned into the Dukes. Thereafter this rugby partnership continued in the Army and at club and county level. Dennis played for his Regiment, the Army (22 caps), and Combined Services and with Old Roundhegians, Halifax, Headingley, Blackheath, and the Barbarians and for Yorkshire on 33 occasions. Both were capped for England in the early 1950s and in 1951 played together in the Calcutta Cup match. This was an Army first - the half backs in an International coming from the same Regiment. Sadly their international careers were curtailed by the operational tour in Korea. Dennis Shuttleworth's last significant games for the Dukes were against an Ulster XV in 1959 and against the Welsh Guards in an Army cup final in 1962. His skills, coaching ability and captaincy had a great impact upon all who played with him, including several distinguished rugby league players on National Service.

As a regimental officer, Dennis saw service in the Korean War, the Cyprus emergency in 1956/7, where he was mentioned in despatches, and Northern Ireland. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed to command the 1st Battalion, initially in Germany in 1967 and subsequently in Hong Kong in 1968 until 1970. He had a reputation as a hard trainer with high professional standards, not afraid of 'getting his own boots dirty' and yet as a caring and thoughtful leader. His quiet and genuine manner, his strong faith and, at times, wicked sense of humour earned respect and friendship from his soldiers and fellow officers. As on the sports field, he was very much a team player. As a Grade I staff officer at Northern Army Group he was awarded the OBE. Later, further service in NATO at SHAPE as Colonel led to promotion as Brigadier, Kings Division in York. His standing and service were recognised by his appointment as ADC to HM the Queen in 1979. This was followed by an appointment as the Inspector of Physical and Adventurous Training throughout the Army. He was a long standing Regimental Trustee and member of the Regimental Council.



Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth OBE

On retirement in 1982 he took up the appointment as Schools' Liaison Officer in Yorkshire and Humberside where his understanding of young people and his wisdom gained the trust and respect of headmasters across the county and of the boys who expressed an interest in applying for a commission. With his military and sporting ability, it came as no surprise that he became a Governor of Woodhouse Grove School for fifteen years. He was a member of the Yorkshire Rugby Union Committee for forty years, and became one of the army representatives to the Rugby Football Union Committee. In 1985 he was elected President of the Rugby Football Union. His interest in youth rugby saw him as Chairman of the Yorkshire Schools Committee, where he was responsible for widening the appeal of the game to the state schools in the county, and eventually led to him becoming President of the English Rugby Schools Union from 1990 to 1995.

As a caring member of the community, he was a SSAFA/Forces Help case worker for several years, a trustee for the National Heart Research Fund in Leeds, a trustee and treasurer of Ryedale Carers Support, and a financial steward for the North York Circuit of Methodist Churches.

Dennis Shuttleworth is survived by his wife, Jean, whom he married in 1952, his daughter, Penny, and two sons, Guy and Peter.

Following a private family funeral, a moving service of thanksgiving and celebration for his life was held at St Wilfrid's Garrison Church, Strensall, on Monday 23 April. It was a fitting tribute that this was attended not only by the Colonel of the Regiment and his three immediate predecessors as Colonel, but also by a very large number of regimental friends and representatives

of the many areas of activity with which Dennis was associated over the years. Many people were therefore glad to have the opportunity to meet in the Officers' Mess at Queen Elizabeth Barracks after the service.

Albert Haines

Albert Edward Haines died on 29 May 2001, aged 101 years. He was born on 5 October 1899 when Queen Victoria was still on the throne and world conflicts were unheard of; though not for many years more. It was while he was still a boy that the First World War broke out. He enlisted on 24 September 1917, aged 17, at Putney in London. On completion of his training he was drafted to the 1/4th Battalion of the Regiment in France, embarking from Dover on 27 April 1918.

He landed in France at Boulogne and the next three days were spent on inspections, drawing kit and a gas familiarisation course at Etaples Base Depot. From there he moved to the divisional reinforcement camp at Rubrouck where he could see the front line artillery fire but was ordered to complete a signals course, before proceeding to the front on 2 June. After a few days of carrying party duties, he was posted to A Company, reaching their front line trenches in the Ypres salient on 10 June. Trench routine was enlivened by patrols, a large gas attack in July and the guidance of the arriving American troops into the front line.

The Division moved in August to Beauvois, and took part in tank/infantry tactics exercises in preparation for an attack near Cambrai, in which Albert went over the top at 9.00am on 11 October, 1918. In the counter attack by the Germans he was hit in the right thigh by a bullet from a tank. He walked ten kilometres to a dressing station before being put on to transport to take him on from there and eventually to a military hospital in Canterbury from where he was discharged from the Army in February 1919, still with the bullet embedded in his leg, as it was to remain for the rest of his life.

He was married shortly after the First World War to Kate, and thereafter had two children, Alfie and Irene. He is survived by Irene, his daughter, as well as two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. In October 1999 he celebrated his 100th birthday by having a party at which all of these, and many others attended. It was probably one of the happiest moments of his life, to have all of his family and friends around him, an occasion that filled him with great pride. Not only did he receive a congratulatory telegram from the Queen but a representative of the Regiment also attended to show that he had not been forgotten.

In more recent times he was invited to Buckingham Palace to attend a garden party in honour of the survivors of the First World War, where he was thrilled to be introduced to the Princess Royal. The French Government had also honoured him with the Legion of Honour for his time in France, an award that he was very proud to wear.

Albert was a fiercely independent man, choosing to remain in his own home and generally taking care of himself with outside assistance only being required towards the end of his time.

Major P. F. Connolly

Major Pat Connolly died on 21 March 2001, just two days short of his 90th birthday.

Pat enlisted into the Regiment in April 1932 and, after his recruit training at the Regimental Depot in Halifax, he was posted to the 1st Battalion with which he saw service in Aldershot, Malta, Bordon and France where, as a sergeant, he was a platoon commander in 'A' Company. He returned to England in June 1940, via Dunkirk, and was posted to 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (TA). During his time with the 1st Battalion pre-war, his sporting prowess came to the fore and he represented the Regiment at boxing, soccer, cricket and athletics.

In June 1941 he attended No 166 Officer Cadet Training Unit and was commissioned into the Regiment in October of that year and rejoined the 1st Battalion before being seconded to the Indian Army. He was posted to the 4th/10th Gurkha Rifles, then part of the 20th Indian Division. With this battalion, he saw service in Ceylon, India and Burma and in 1945 Pat was Mentioned in Despatches.

On his return to the United Kingdom in 1945, Pat returned to the Regiment and for two years commanded a number of prisoner of war camps in Scotland. In 1947, he was posted to No 2 War Office Selection Board as Adjutant and he remained in this post until 1952. He then became a personnel selection officer and filled this post with various units until his retirement in 1959 in the rank of major.

On his retirement, Pat worked in the London area and at one time was the steward of a golf club in Middlesex. He was a keen supporter of the London branch of the Regimental Association and all other regimental activities, being a regular attender at re-union dinners. In the 1980s he moved back to his native Durham. Pat will always be remembered as a most kind, courteous and loyal person. He is survived by his wife, Carmel.

Captain D. Carey JP

Denis Carey joined the Dukes as a National Serviceman in April 1952. Following his basic training he was posted to Hong Kong in August of that year and then to the 1st Battalion in Korea in November 1952. He was with the Battalion throughout its operational tour in Korea and moved with the Battalion from Korea to Gibraltar in December 1954, before his discharge in March 1954.

In 1956 Denis enlisted into the Territorial Army, initially with the 5/7th Battalion, then the West Riding Battalion and finally the Yorkshire Volunteers. In 1983 as a WO2 serving with 3 Yorks, Denis was commissioned as a Captain Quartermaster based in Huddersfield where he served until his eventual retirement in 1989.

Denis, who died on 23 March this year, at the age of 68, was very proud of both of his Regiments. He and his wife Margaret were staunch supporters of both associations until shortly before Denis died.

Mr J. Ripken

John Ripken who served in the 7th Battalion between 1944-47, died on 8 September 2000, at the age of 75.

WO2 K. H. Leachman

Ken Leachman joined the Dukes in March 1960, initially as a National Serviceman, but very quickly converted to regular service. He joined the 1st Battalion in July 1960 in Colchester and 22 years later he was discharged as WO2 (CSM) in March 1982, from Catterick Garrison. Ken's service included overseas tours in Kenya (twice) in 1960 and 1961, British Honduras 1963, Cyprus (UN) 1967, and Hong Kong/Singapore 1968-70. His Germany tours included Osnabrück 1964-67 and Minden 1976-80, where he was promoted to WO2. He was CSM of both Corunna and then Hook Companies. He was with the Battalion during four operational tours in Northern Ireland.

Ken will be remembered by those who knew and served with him as a tough, no nonsense soldier, but with a big heart. As a CSM he placed great importance on the welfare of his soldiers. It was well known by the soldiers in his company that Ken was a 'soft touch' for a sub before payday.

The funeral service for Ken, who died on 3 June at the age of 62, was held at St John's Parish Church, in his home town of Knaresborough, on 11 June 2001. Many of his friends from the Regiment attended.

WO2 (RQMS) T. M. Conley

Terry Conley died on 27 June 2001, at the age of 59.

Terry joined the army in 1958. The first eleven years of his service was in the York and Lancaster Regiment, which included tours in Germany, Kenya and Cyprus. After the disbandment of his Regiment, Terry was rebadged and joined the 1st Battalion of the Dukes in Hong Kong in May 1969, by which time he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was Company Sergeant Major of Corunna Company in 1973, in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, and his final appointment with the Dukes was as RQMS in Minden and Catterick in 1979-80. Following his 22 years' regular service, Terry was appointed to the Long Service list in 1981 as RQMS. His subsequent service included postings in the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, the School of Ordnance at Blackdown, where he instructed on QM and RQMS courses, and, finally, Germany. He retired after 33 years' service in September 1991.

Terry will be remembered by his many friends and contemporaries as a good soldier, highly intelligent and with a sharp wit. No one, least of all Terry, would argue that he enjoyed a pint of beer. He was also one of the founders of the "Rupert of the Year" award in 1974/75, for which annually, before Christmas, the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are invited to the Officers' Mess, where they lay on a presentation of the award to the officer who, in their opinion, dropped the most outrageous clanger of the year. This continues as an annual event in the 1st Battalion calendar.

Terry's funeral service, which was attended by many of his friends from the Regiment, took place in his home town of Rotherham on 6 July 2001.

Mrs Jean Conley has written on behalf of herself and their son, Sergeant T. M. Conley, to thank everyone for their cards and letters and send special thanks to those who were able to attend his funeral and pay their last respects to Terry.

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Arriving in Barbadoes, now more usually spelt without the 'e', in late March, John straight away wrote to his mother, as he explained in a letter to his father some time afterwards:

Barbadoes 14 April 1841

My dear Father

Immediately on my arrival here, about three weeks ago, I wrote to my mother in answer to a letter from her, which I received on landing. I sent it by a merchant vessel which carried a bag of letters, as this is the first packet that sails for England. I was at that time suffering from a rather severe attack of rheumatism, from which and all other sickness I am now perfectly recovered, and am enjoying as good health as I ever did in my life. I cannot say much in favour of the island. As far as I have seen, it is far from pretty in itself, and produces no fruits, and but few vegetables which are generally brought from the other islands, and are in consequence, very dear. There is a small library here belonging to the garrison; but it is not at all a good one, and I have not subscribed as I have many books of my own. There is no society here between us and the civilians, and indeed I am not anxious for it, as it would only run me into unnecessary expense. This island is, and has been for some time, very healthy; but the 82nd are suffering very severely at Jamaica, having lost two officers and many men. We are fortunate in not having gone there. Give my love to my mother, sisters and all at home, and believe me, my dear father, ever to remain your affectionate son

John Stuart

Two months later John wrote with more information about his doings on the island:

Barbadoes 30 June 1841

About the end of April I was sent in command of twenty seven men, to a station called Gun Hill, about the centre of the island. It is one of the most elevated spots on Barbadoes, with a splendid view, fine air and a cool wind blowing all day and night. It is about seven miles from the garrison, to which I frequently walk early in the morning, and return in the evening. I have very good quarters and am living very cheaply, consuming little more than my rations, which are very good and only cost me a penny halfpenny a day. I employ myself chiefly in gardening, and rubbing up my mathematics and fortification. I hope and expect to remain where I am, as long as the regiment stays in Barbadoes, which will according to the present arrangement, be till November, when we proceed to Demerara, giving a detachment at Berbice. Some are pleased with the prospect, others not; I am quite indifferent to it. If I could remain where I am, during my West India service, I should be very glad to do so; but as I cannot do that, I rather like the novelty of seeing the other islands and settlements. One comfort is, we shall not go to Jamaica, where the troops are suffering dreadfully from fever; the 82nd alone having lost four or five officers and a great many men during the last year ...

There were several moves for the 33rd during 1841, but early the following year John was able to write home with the prospect of a less frenetic period ahead:

St Vincents 20 January 1842

My dear Father

We have been so often moving, and in such a state of uncertainty and confusion since I last wrote to you, that, until now I have not been able to say, with certainty, where I shall be. We are however now settled for, I think, the next twelve months. After remaining a month encamped on Gun Hill, we were brought by the-Cleopatra frigate to this island, which is ninety miles west of Barbadoes. On our arrival we found that the 92nd [Gordon Highlanders] whom we came to relieve, had been encamped, owing to the fever having broken out with great virulence among them, and we in consequence relieved them in tents, the barracks being white-washed and fumigated under the direction of our old surgeon Dr Hall, who has been promoted to be Principal Medical Officer at this place. We have been upwards of a fortnight here in great discomfort.

I received your and my mother's letters about a week ago, and am much obliged to you for procuring me the instruments etc. I want. I am unable to do anything but botanize in this place; but for that, there are ample opportunities. The island is very mountainous, and the valleys as well as hills covered with wood, and the most curious and beautiful vegetation. There is also a Botanic Garden, which though much neglected, is still a resource, and I hope to make a collection of seeds and dried flowers against I come home. Tell my mother, Mary and all at home, that I will write to them, when I get at all settled, but at present I can scarcely find either place or paper to send this. I however thought you might be alarmed if I did not write. I am perfectly well and do not feel any apprehension of the climate, but am considerably annoyed by our uncomfortable position. I have not yet received Pike's parcel; and it if does not speedily arrive, shall have to enlist into the 92nd as they go without trowsers! Ask him the ship he sent it in, and the date of departure. Give my love to all at home, and excuse this ill written letter; and believe me my dear Father, ever to remain your affectionate son

John Stuart

Far from being settled in St Vincent, John was on the move again a month after writing this letter, as explained in one that followed it in March.

St Lucia 18 March 1842

My dear Father

It is now a long time since I have heard from any of you, but that is I suppose caused by all my letters going to St Vincent, instead of this place. I hope however soon to get them. I wrote to my mother from St Vincent, shortly before I left that place, which I think she would have received by this time. I arrived here on 24 February, after a thirty hour passage from St Vincent, and I immediately proceeded to take command of my company at Pigeon Island, where I now am. It is a small island on the north west side of St Lucia, about half a mile long and one eighth broad. It has large barracks

and was formerly occupied by a strong force. I have however now, only thirty men and an assistant surgeon here. The island is very healthy, the barracks very good and living very cheap. There is little or no Society, there being no one on the island but the garrison; and the inhabitants on the opposite shore, about half a mile off, not being very fond of the English (they are all French). We are about eighteen miles from Martinique, which is seen plainly from this place. I shall make a trip over there when I can get leave. We just left Barbadoes in time, fever having broken out with great virulence. There have been several deaths, and the barracks have been obliged to be evacuated. At this place we are perfectly healthy. The hospital being shut up on the mainland, they are the same, having only two or three sick now, at all seriously. St Lucia is a very pretty island, but very much uncultivated, the greater part of the interior being covered with impenetrable woods. It is also infested with great numbers of very venomous serpents, from which I am happy to say my command is exempt. I am anxious to hear from you all again, as it is now upwards of a month since I had a letter. Give my love to my mother, sisters and all at home, and tell them I will write to them as soon as I have something to tell them - and believe me to remain, my dear Father, your affectionate son

John Stuart

A letter in June told of the gruesome deaths of two young surgeons, probably eaten by sharks.

St Lucia 3 June 1842

My dear Father

We have just had a most shocking accident here, and for fear any account of it might reach you, without your hearing from me, I write to tell you that I am quite well.

On the 25th of last month Dr Greer and Dr McIntosh (two assistant surgeons, the first having been stationed for two years at Pigeon Island, and the other recently appointed to the 33rd just come down to relieve him) went up from Castries (the capital here) in a government sailing boat. The day was very squally with heavy rain, the boat did not return that day, and on the next, on making enquiries, we found that it had never reached Pigeon Island. Hopes were at first entertained that it had blown off the coast and run into Martinique; but about three days ago she was found sunk in about twenty feet of water, about a quarter of a mile from the shore of St Lucia, and three miles from Pigeon Island. I was all yesterday with a strong party of men, endeavouring to raise her; but, although we succeeded in getting her masts, sails, etc we could not get up the hull; but, the water being perfectly clear, could see that there were no bodies, nor anything in her. Indeed every body agrees, that the sharks which are numerous there, must have devoured them, or else they could easily have got on shore, the whole party being excellent swimmers. I had a narrow escape, having gone up to Pigeon Island in the same boat a week before.

There is no other news here. We are all healthy, and the rains have just set in, which makes the weather much more pleasant than before. Give my love to all at

home - and believe me my dear Father, ever to remain your affectionate son

John Stuart

Two months after this letter one was written which must have caused great excitement among the family at home.

St Lucia 18 August 1842

My dear Father

I arrived at this place about ten days ago from Dominica, and was attached to the troops at St Lucia instead of returning to my old quarters at Pigeon Island. On Saturday last the 13th Captain Erskine who was en route for Dominica from St Vincent, called here and gave me a letter from Major Whannell, to the effect that, on Colonel Westmore's recommendation, I had been appointed Depôt Paymaster; and that the order had come out from the Horse Guards for my proceeding home immediately, to fill the situation, should I wish it, as it has been quite unsolicited on my part. Although it is not an appointment for which I am anxious, yet as it takes me home at once, paying the greater part of my passage money - ... I have not thought it right to refuse it, more especially as by doing so, I might offend Colonel Westmore, who has recommended me for an appointment usually considered the best in the gift of a Commanding Officer. I expect the order to come from Barbadoes by the first (September) Packet; and I shall embark in the second, and consequently be in England by the middle of October, when I hope I shall find you all well. I shall go to Harley Street, where you had better send instructions where to find you, as it would be useless writing an answer to this, as I shall probably be embarked before it arrives. I am very well and am busy reducing my baggage, and getting rid of superfluities in order not to be encumbered on the passage.

I have no other news. The rainy season has just set in, which makes me very glad of the prospect of a return to England. Give my love to my mother and all at home, and believe me, my dear Father ever to remain your affectionate son

John Stuart

Then came:

St Lucia 5 September 1842

My dear Father

In my last letter I think I told you, that I had been appointed Depôt Paymaster, and should in consequence proceed home as soon as the order came from Barbadoes. I expect that the Steamer which takes this on to England will bring it for me, but I shall not know till too late. If therefore it comes, I shall come instead of a letter, by the next Packet, and shall go directly to Harley Street, where, if you are not, you can send me word where to find you. I do not know what leave, or if any, will be granted to me on my arrival. I do not think it will be much - ... I think I told you that I had been ordered up to Morne (the barracks at St Lucia), from Pigeon Island. I do not at all like the change. It does

not agree with me, and if I were not coming home immediately, I would make a tour round the islands. I am not ill, but I am not well, but if I can get over the next fortnight I shall hope be safe - ...

Give my love to my mother and tell her I am getting limes, citron and ginger preserved for her. I had a beautiful collection of peppers, but they were all lost on the passage to St Vincent in January. I wrote a hint for some more, but it has not yet taken effect. Give my love to Mary, Catherine and Margaret, and tell them the sun has burnt me very nearly black, but I hope the winter may recover me. I hope not to be under the necessity of writing to you again, and believe me ever to remain your affectionate son

John Stuart

It was from a fellow officer that his parents next had news of John.

St Lucia 7 October 1842

My dear Sir

As I am sure you will be anxious about your son's non-arrival in England, I write these few lines to inform you of the circumstances. The last Packet for home, arrived here a day before its time, and in the middle of the night; and consequently we knew nothing of its arrival here till the next morning; and as it only remained here a few minutes to deliver mails, he missed it. Unfortunately since, he has got a slight touch of cold and fever, and I do not think it would be prudent of him to go on board, particularly as the Steamer is expected here in the middle of the night. However by next Packet, I hope he will answer by arriving himself in England.

I am dear Sir yours truly
Warren Maude

Captain 33rd Regiment, Commanding Detachment

As Mary noted in her *Memorials* 'It may easily be conceived the anxiety caused by this letter. The family immediately returned to London, where the next communication was awaited in the most painful suspense. Alas! It contained the fatal news which crushed my poor father to the ground.'

St Lucia 14 October 1842

My dear Sir

It is with heartfelt regret that I have to communicate to you the death of your son, which took place on Sunday morning, the 9th instant. He died of Yellow Fever. All that medical assistance and skill could do was done; but the fever proved too violent. At his approaching end, his thoughts were bent on home and he appeared to wish to have some message delivered; but before it could be imparted to me, he was unable to speak. I was taken ill of the same disease on the afternoon of the tenth, and have only risen from my bed today. Lieutenant Winnington has likewise had it but is recovering. Lieutenant Parker RA died here yesterday. He and poor Stuart were both taken ill at the same time. We have lost a good number of men of the 33rd Regiment in this island, from this dreadful disease.

Deeply regretting his loss, and likewise of being the communicator of this melancholy intelligence believe me dear Sir, most truly yours

Warren Maude
Captain 33rd Regiment

Mary continued: "Further particulars from St Lucia shortly after arrived from the medical man Dr Robinson, and from an acquaintance in the island, Mr Hanley, with whom my brother had been on terms of friendship.

The letters from Dr Robinson and Mr Hanley gave more detailed accounts of how John was struck down by the fever, and of his last days before his death. Hanley, writing on 31 January 1843, asked for instructions for the handling of John's personal possessions, some of which were in his keeping and some with Captain Mundy of the 33rd Regiment. He also mentioned the care taken of John during his fatal illness by 'an old coloured woman, by name Betsy Parker, and her daughter', in whose house John had found lodgings close to the harbour, in order to avoid missing the steamer again. Daniel sent £10 to Betsy and her daughter via Mr Hanley, and a similar sum to Dr Robinson, through the latter, in thanking him, begged to assure him that 'it was in no respect necessary'."

In due course a notice appeared in the *Oxford Journal*:

Died

On 9 October in the island of St Lucia in the West Indies of the African fever, aged twenty six years, Lieutenant John Stuart of the 33rd Regiment, eldest son of Daniel Stuart Esq of Wykham Park in this County. His Ensigny was given without purchase, as the reward of merit, at the Military College, Sandhurst. He had served eight years in Lancashire, Ireland and Gibraltar; and lastly nearly two years in the West Indies, in different islands; and had gradually risen to the top of the list of Lieutenants expecting every day to have an opportunity of purchasing a Captain's commission, when the favour was shown him of appointing him Paymaster of the Depôt at Waterford. He had prepared everything for returning home by the Mail Post Office Steamer on the first of October; but by a new arrangement, it arrived a day before its time, in the middle of the night; changed mail bags and departed before Mr Stuart, up at the barracks a mile and a half off, knew of it. Twenty men were in the hospital the end of September. About the fourth of October, Mr Stuart caught the fever, and in five days he was dead! It is thought this dreadful scourge, which had disappeared for twenty years has been brought from some French settlement, into which it suspected, negro slaves are still smuggled from the coast of Africa, and bring with them the punishment of the crimes committed against them.

Daniel Stuart died on 25 August 1846. Towards the end he became as disconsolate as ever, mourning the death of his much loved son John to the last.