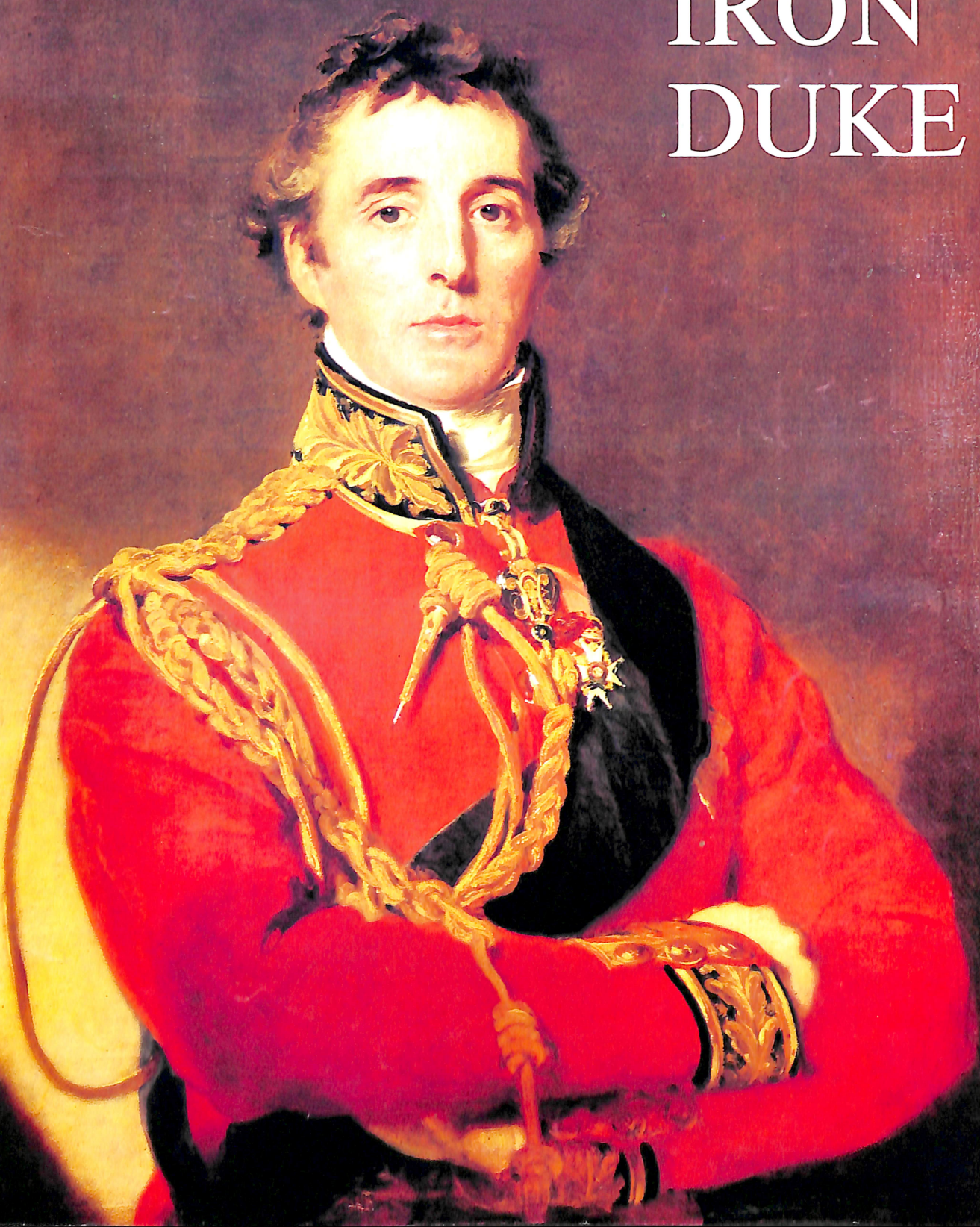


WINTER 2001
No. 247

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

Vol. LXXVI

Winter 2001

No. 247

BUSINESS NOTES

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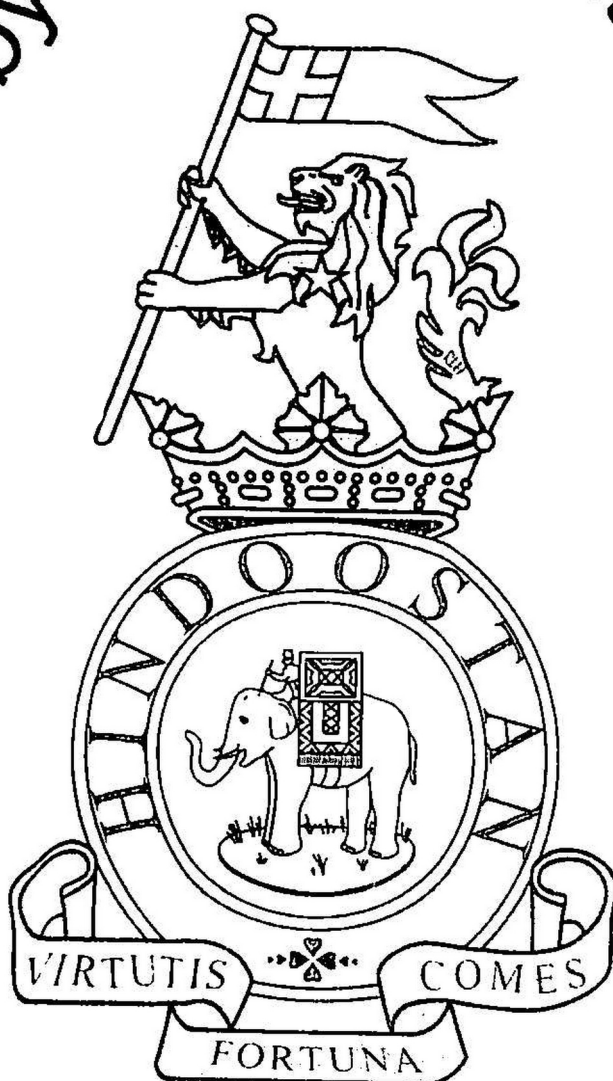
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THE REGIMENT

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 M. Robinson

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

Spen Valley

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

Commander P. D. Warwick, RN

H.M.S. Sheffield

BFPO 383

Commander S. P. Williams, RN



WO1 (RSM) Devaney (left) hands over to WO1 (RSM) Ness.
July 2001, Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück.

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

WO1 (RSM) M. NESS

Warrant Officer Class 1 Martin Ness assumed the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion in July 2001. He first joined the Battalion in 1983 and for the next five years served in Burma Company, deploying to Portugal, Belize and Northern Ireland. In 1989 he was posted to Depot The King's Division, Strensall, as a Corporal Instructor, returning to the 1st Battalion in 1991 as a Platoon Sergeant in Alma Company. In 1995 he was selected to instruct at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, as a Platoon Colour Sergeant. On his return to the Battalion in 1997 he became CQMS of Alma Company and took part in its five-month deployment to the Falkland Islands.

In 1997 he was selected for promotion to WO2 and assumed the appointment of senior Drill Sergeant for the Battalion's Public Duties role in London. This was followed by selection for a further appointment at The Royal Military Academy, this time as a Company Sergeant Major. WO1 Ness is married to Eileen and they have a young daughter.

We send our warm congratulations to WO1 Ness on his appointment and warm good wishes for the future to WO1 Devaney.

8th BATTALION DWR/145 REGIMENT RAC

The 57th Officers' Reunion and Luncheon was held at the Victory Club on 13 October 2001. Colonel J. F. Webb, RAMC, our esteemed MO throughout the North African and Italian Campaigns, proposed the toast in his usual jovial manner. He has maintained close association with the Regiment throughout the intervening years. Those also attending were Norman Pirie, George Valentine, Paddy Hamilton, Mike Gompertz, Mike Standege, Jacques Braun, Dike Bruce and Walter Amphlett.

TERCENTENARY EVENTS - 2002

The following Regimental events are currently being planned for our tercentenary year:

The Havercake March

A small team made up of DWR Regular, TA and ACF will march across our traditional recruiting area, the

West Riding, starting in Settle on Saturday 25 May and finishing in Sheffield on Saturday 8 June, stopping at as many towns and villages en route as possible. The team will be accompanied throughout by recruiting and display teams. The purpose of The Havercake March is to raise the profile of the Regiment across the West Riding and, most importantly, to use the march as a massive recruiting opportunity. There will be opportunities for members of the Regimental Association to get involved. Further details about the march, including route, dates, stopping points etc, will be published in the Spring Edition.

Freedom Parades

The Regiment has been offered the Freedom of the City of Sheffield. The formal granting of this honour will be on Saturday 13 April 2002. Other dates when the Regiment will exercise its Freedom rights are:

Saturday 20 July - Skipton (am), Bradford (pm)

Wednesday 24 July - Barnsley

Friday 26 July - Keighley

Saturday 27 July - Huddersfield (am), Halifax (pm)

Again, more details of all these parades will be published in the Spring Edition.

Presentation of New Colours

The presentation of new Regulation Colours and taking into use of the new Honorary Colours will be the main Regimental event of the Tercentenary year. The parade will be held in Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück, on Saturday 22 June 2002. Much information regarding the RHQ travel and accommodation packages has already been sent out to all known members of the Regimental Association and travel and accommodation for those that have registered has been booked.

If you are intending to make your own travel and accommodation arrangements, please remember that you must inform RHQ of your intentions, to receive further information about the parade and other events during the weekend. You will also require tickets for the events of the weekend.

Reflections on the events of 11 September 2001

What are the significant dates in the minds of most people? BC55/54; the Roman invasion? ... AD; Anno Domini, the year of Our Lord? ... 1066; the Norman invasion? ... 5 November 1605; "the gunpowder, treason and plot"? ... 1914? ... 1939? ... 2001?

Many are significant because they mark some form of violent event, major attacks, invasions even. Many of the events, for it is the events, not the dates, that are significant, have made a major impact on their era.

The birth of Christ was essentially a thoroughly normal and simple event, potentially presaging peace. Think, however, what violence down the ages has been perpetrated in the name of Christ: crusades, inquisitions, burnings at stakes. Christ's life, by engendering Christianity made a major impact on its era, certainly invoking spiritual values and seeking peace, but inspiring violence too. The same can be said of other faiths as well, so perhaps the fault lies in mankind, rather than in the faiths themselves.

Violence, we might say, is simply part of the human condition. We can't get on, so we fight. We have even developed sets of "rules" by which we should fight, the Geneva Convention, to name but one. We have developed philosophies, to which potential opponents have to some degree adhered, such as deterrence through the threat of Mutually Assured Destruction.

The events of 11 September might be viewed, therefore, as just one more example of mankind doing what it has always done: having a swing at an opponent and making full use of the element of surprise. But there are new elements: the perpetrators, several of them but essentially only a few, perished in their assaults, so there is no question of trial or punishment; the instruments

used were commercial airliners full of innocent crew and passengers, hundreds of them; the victims were innocent citizens going about their daily lives, thousands of them.

This is violence without direct military involvement, without weapons, without military explosives and without "rules". Fanatics bent on self-destruction cannot be deterred, so they will have to be prevented from perpetrating similar deeds in future. No easy task and hardly one for our infantry of the line. So must we now stretch our imaginations in order to anticipate and forestall our new potential enemies? Indeed we must.

J.B.K.G.

Battlefields Revisited

Towards the end of 2000, RHQ canvassed the response to a proposed Battlefield Tour in Europe in 2001 to be led by the Colonel of the Regiment. It soon became clear that there had been a good response and detailed plans were made and disseminated.

Thus it was that a party of 36 people assembled in Waterloo town on 25 September 2001 to be greeted warmly by the Colonel, having travelled variously by sea, by Eurostar and by road. It included not only Dukes, but also family and friends of Dukes.

The North Sea Ferry party (the majority) had had the advantage of a lengthy and convivial reunion and getting-to-know-you party on board and a convenient recovery period on the coach.

The Colonel introduced our first expert guide, Madame Cristianne Lannoy, a member of the Waterloo Committee (which is headed by our Colonel-in-Chief), who conducted us round the excellent museum in the town while the early autumn mists cleared off the battlefield itself. The Great Duke had sited his headquarters in this building before the battle.

Madame Lannoy then conducted us expertly round various parts of the battlefield, including Napoleon's headquarters, only a few miles from Wellington's, and the view from the French perspective of Wellington's carefully-selected defended ridgeline.

We also assembled virtually on the spot where the 33rd held their ground in Halkett's Brigade and, with allies, beat off both the French cavalry and, despite near-decimation by the French artillery, Napoleon's Old Guard too.

Individuals will have formed their own impressions of the battle, but it was clear that many were struck by the small overall area in which some 50,000 casualties were shared in a single day, a high percentage in hand to hand combat.

It was moving to note on commemorative tablets in the impressive Dom in Waterloo town how many men had survived Wellington's earlier campaigns elsewhere before perishing in this battle. Soldiers were hard men in those days.



Wellington's headquarters before the battle - now a museum.



Madame Lannoy briefing inside the museum.



The whole group in the area held by the 33rd on 18 June 1815. Memorial to the Prince of Orange behind.

After bidding a grateful farewell to Madame Lannoy, we passed an enjoyable evening in a hotel close to our next day's start point in Mons. This was handy, as the start was nearer to dawn than some might have wished - especially those who had, not long since, failed to outsmart or outlast the bar staff.

Our next expert guide had been shrewdly selected by the Colonel. An ex-Commanding Officer of an infantry battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Tony Coutts-Britton might well have seen service as a Private, Corporal and/or RSM, or, for that matter, as a stand-up comedian. He kept us very well informed, as well as hugely entertained, as he guided us through the very first moments of battle for the British Expeditionary Force

in World War I. In and around Mons we stood and listened, entranced, on the spots where the first shots were fired, the first men (of many) fell and where VCs were won.

Lunch was taken variously in the Grand Place in Mons until David Peckover sounded the call to the coach on his bugle and we pressed on to matters more serious.

Our final expert guide was the Colonel himself, who modestly confessed to having been well advised by Cyril Curling. He now guided us through some of the activities of 2 DWR at Wasmès and St Ghislain and we felt more closely involved than hitherto, as names we knew came into the story. We also became personally

involved, as the local Mayor, supported by a librarian, an historian and civic dignitaries held a short ceremony of welcome for our whole party in the Council Chamber, followed by a joint wreath-laying ceremony and then a generous informal reception in a sports centre.

We had heard from Madame Lannoy of the horrors of foreign occupation for a small region such as Belgium, which had been part of the Netherlands at the time of Waterloo. This feeling was reinforced by the Mayor in Wasmes, who was full of praise for 2 DWR which had fought gallantly in attempting to repel the German invasion of their town. The Commanding Officer of 2 DWR, Lieutenant Colonel J. A. C. Gibbs, great-uncle of Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier, had been wounded in the operation and had been nursed by the people of Wasmes before being smuggled away to safety. It was therefore appropriate that Colonel Hugh should have laid the regimental wreath.

We then moved to Ypres in time for us all to attend the very moving evening ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial, during which the Colonel laid a wreath, before we enjoyed another convivial evening together. We were pleased to be joined by Lieutenant Colonel George Kilburn, recently posted to Brussels, and his wife, Penny. We were also delighted to welcome, with his wife, Sylviane, Monsieur Jack Thorpe, who had been instrumental in creating the memorial to Private Arthur Poulter VC at Erquinghem-Lys in November 1998, the unveiling of which was reported in the Iron Duke, issue No.238.

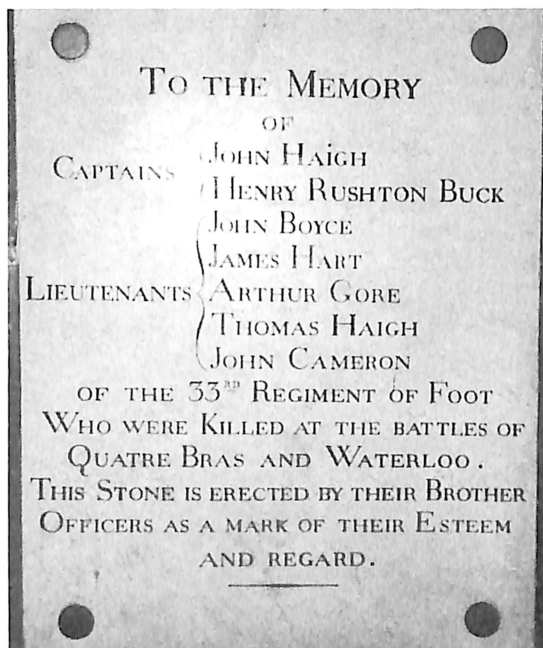
We were kept on our toes by another earlyish start and, within minutes, we were standing on the Messines Ridge, looking down into Ypres, beginning to understand the meaning of the term "vital ground" and to realise why so many lives were sacrificed in attempting to seize and hold it.

The Colonel guided us carefully through several actions fought by the 2nd Battalion and the 4th Battalion south of Ypres. Indeed at Hill 60, the tale became horrifyingly vivid as we stood in the rain imagining the Brigade attack, with 2 DWR forward left, on a frontage of 250 yards, to take the hill at great cost. Bill Norman's father was wounded in this action. As at Waterloo, we were struck by how many casualties, on both sides, had been inflicted in so small an area.

The afternoon was focussed on actions fought by the 4th Battalion north of Ypres and we visited the small and intimate Colne Valley cemetery, where many 4th Battalion Dukes are buried. In a very private ceremony Major Ken Buckland laid a wreath and David Peckover sounded the Last Post and Reveille, as he had also done in Wasmes.

Our tour of the battlefields ended, appropriately, at the vast and hugely impressive Tyne Cot cemetery, introduced by the Colonel with "I shall say nothing here, this place speaks for itself".

Rain had only slightly interfered with our activities, but it had been sufficient to demonstrate the high water table and it was not difficult to imagine our forebears floundering in mud as they toiled to and fro in their bloody battles all those years ago. And they were gassed as well ... Soldiers were hard in those days too.



One of the memorials inside the Dom in Waterloo town.

The coach party then had the benefit of an extensive seaborne post-exercise de-brief. Experience tells us that, after several jars of Belgium's Best, the truth will out. The truths that came out on this occasion were:

- a. Cyril Curling: "The truth is I don't like talking to people."
- b. Everyone (including Cyril, who was distinctly seen to crack into a smile at one stage): "That was a great trip."

All who took part, who are listed below, are greatly indebted to the Colonel for conceiving and conducting the tour and to Major Bob Heron and the staff at RHQ, who organised and administered it so effectively. Additional photos of the tour are on pages 132 and 133.

JBKG

Huddersfield party: Major Bob Heron, Major Simon Berry, Lieutenant Colonel Robbie Robins, Captain Bob and Mrs Jean Wilson, Geoff Hill, John Keatley, Bill Norman, John O'Neill, Jack Smith, Cyril Ford, Harold Greenwood.

Leeds party: Brigadier John Greenway, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier, Major Peter Hoppe, Major Ken Buckland, Major Nigel Buckland, Keith Farrar, Cyril Curling, John Sargeant, Cliff Boothman, Kath Shone, David and Jeanne Peckover, Geoffrey and Patricia Popple.

Joined at Hull: Tony and Margaret Balding.

Joined at Zeebrugge: Keith and Eveline Jagger.

Joined at Waterloo: Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Dick and Mrs Jilly Mundell, Lieutenant Colonel Bob and Mrs Veronica Tighe.

1st Battalion

Commanding Officer's Introduction

The 1st Battalion has reached something of a watershed, having successfully converted to the armoured infantry role in 2000, and then completed an operational tour in Kosovo in 2001. We are now back in Osnabrück and the emphasis is on achieving a balanced programme and improving basic skills. We are up to strength and well manned. Continuation of this happy state remains my main effort, and manning is a subject to which I will return shortly. The second half of our operational tour in Kosovo saw the Dukes consolidating control of our area of operations, and launching some highly successful Task Force operations outside our Brigade area.

Framework operations in Pristina in support of UNMIK Police continued through the summer and were aimed at preventing political violence, criminal violence and intimidation. In this, the Dukes, particularly those of Alma Company, were remarkably successful. Viewed from a battlegroup perspective, the prosecution of Information Operations appeared a key weakness in KFOR's operations. It was clear that KFOR did not enjoy sufficient access to local Albanian community leaders in Pristina. The wealth of information that could be exploited through closer links between KFOR and local people hitherto had remained largely untapped. Within a fortnight of our arrival we developed plans to fill this critical operational gap. Events both within and outside Kosovo produced discernible ripples of discontent through Pristina and it was possible that such views may take root, leading to a backlash against KFOR. The Dukes rapidly moved to establish regular meetings with city community leaders, including the university, to reassure local people and redress an imbalance in the reporting of events. We conducted interviews on Kosovo television and radio in order to reinforce our message. Even at the lowest levels, every team on patrol was required to select a "chat-up" man to further enhance information operations. The aim of all these activities was to: directly impart KFOR's message to the population to improve confidence in KFOR; increase force protection; monitor attitudes to KFOR; promote awareness of local concerns; and gather information.

Pristina University has about 17,500 students on its books, all of whom are Albanian. The student body is traditionally radical and nationalistic. The students generally support ethnic Albanian extremist action in Macedonia. Recognising that this is a key target audience for information operations, the Dukes established links with members of the faculty and the student leadership. Of more importance, student contacts were firmly established through informal meetings and planned discussion groups led by Dukes' Captains (improbably!) at the university library, including participation by international civil agencies. The first two events each attracted about 300 students and were a great success.

Framework operations continued in the rural north under Corunna Company. The panic alarm system was

installed in Kosovo-Serb villages shortly before the Battalion's departure from theatre. There is no doubt that these alarms improved local Kosovo-Serb confidence and contributed to their decision to stay. We were therefore able to hand over a successful system to the Black Watch and it is likely that further panic alarm projects will be set up elsewhere in Kosovo as a direct result. OC Corunna's efforts to build some sort of rapprochement between the Serb and Albanian communities in the rural north proved most successful and he presided over a number of headman meetings where both sides were present. Early June saw a visit by Kosovo Serbs from Serbia who were considering moving back into the area. This was the first faint glimmer of hope for "Serb returns" in Kosovo, and another Dukes' milestone.

Although Dukes' reserve tasks for the first half of the tour were covered in the last edition of the Iron Duke, it is worth summarising that we deployed reserve companies on five occasions throughout the tour. This was in addition to the reinforcement of the city and rural north on countless occasions. In every case, Dukes' companies operated as part of a multi-national Task Force (TF). Details of these deployments can be found in company notes, but are outlined as follows:

Burma Company: Gracanica under command the Swedish Battalion in March 2001.

Somme Company: TF Viking under Norwegian command in the US Brigade area. Tasked to the "Chicken Leg" for the return of part of the Ground Security Zone to the Serbs in March 2001.

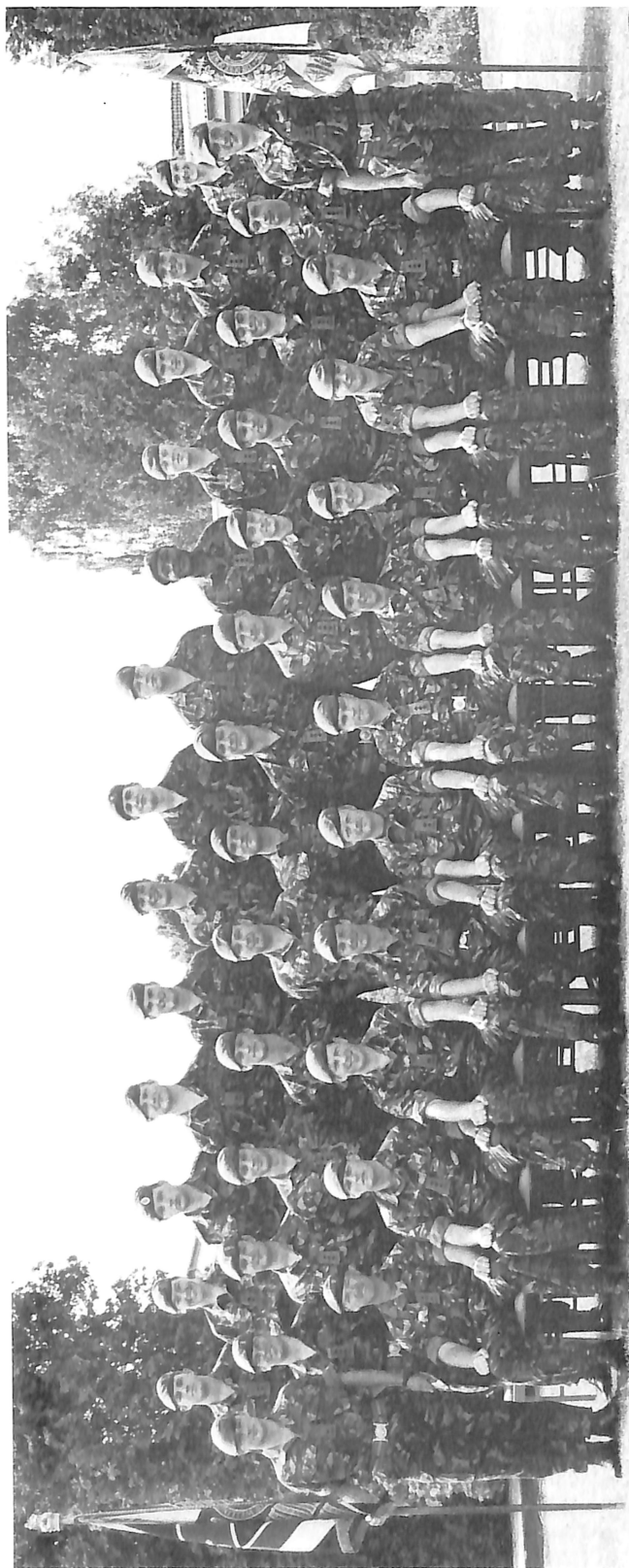
Dukes' Battalion Tactical Headquarters and Burma Company: TF Cambrai comprising a Finnish Company, Royal Engineers, Support Helicopters and one Royal Horse Artillery Battery. Tasked to the "Elephant's Foot" in the US Brigade area, on the Macedonian border to interdict Albanian extremists in April 2001.

Burma Company: TF Viking under Norwegian command in the US Brigade area. Tasked to the "Chicken Leg" for the return of part of the Ground Security Zone to the Serbs in May 2001.

Dukes' Battalion Tactical Headquarters and Somme Company: TF Juno comprising a Finnish Company, Royal Engineers, Support Helicopters and one Royal Artillery Battery. Tasked to the Dragas "Bootleg" in the German Brigade area, on the Macedonian border to interdict Albanian extremists in June 2001.

TF Juno is a good example of successful border interdiction operations against Albanian extremists operating in Macedonia. The Dukes' Battlegroup followed the 2 RTR Battlegroup and continued to develop the operation, deploying observation posts to cover insurgent routes through the mountainous Dragas "Bootleg". Patrols operated throughout the area of

The Officers' Mess
1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment
(West Riding)
Operation Agricola v Kosovo, February - July 2001



Osnabrück 19 July 2001

Rear row:

Lt G. P. Williams, Capt K. Hughes, Lt B. J. Bridgeman (RNZIR), 2Lt R. R. G. Scotherh, 2Lt D. J. Ogilvie, Lt D. J. Pawson, 2Lt I. D. Norman, 2Lt J. L. Pearce, Capt L. Gandiya (Padre), Lt P. Lee. 2Lt C. D. Adair, Capt J. A. Kennedy, Capt S. Crowther.

Centre row:

Capt S. L. Humphris, Capt D. I. C. Worrell, Capt A. S. Garner, Capt M. C. A. Palmer, Capt D. J. J. Kirk, Capt M. M. D. Stear, Capt K. D. Smith, Capt M. C. Tetley, Capt D. M. Taylor (RMO), Capt R. M. Sutcliffe, Capt J. E. Townhill, Capt J. Frear.

Front row:

(Queen's Colour) 2Lt S. J. Dick, Capt B. J. Thomas BEM (QM), Capt A. L. Jackson (OC Hook), Major N. M. B. Wood (OC Burma), Major P. M. Lewis (2IC), Lt Col N. G. Borwell (CO), Capt J. R. Bryden (Adjutant), Major D. P. Monteith (OC Alma), Major A. J. I. Wilson (OC Somme), Major N. P. Rhodes (OC Corunna), Capt A. J. Sutcliffe (QM(T)), 2Lt E. R. H. Colver (Regimental Colour)

operations and an Air Reaction Force (ARF) was on call. Insurgent activity was monitored by observation posts that then triggered the ARF or patrols to interdict suspects. TF Juno achieved its strategic and tactical aims. Strategically, it sent the required message to the insurgents, to the FYROM Government and the International Community, showing that KFOR could and would prevent cross-border activity. The operation was a tactical success: the 2 RTR part of the operation detained 14 people illegally crossing the border in ten days. The Dukes detained 48 in sixteen days: a total of 62 illegal border crossings identified and detained overall. As an aside, this figure was 55% of the KFOR total!

To summarise a highly successful tour, the Dukes demonstrated that armoured infantry is ideally suited to operations in Kosovo. It is inherently flexible. Troops were deployed in Warrior, Scimitar, Landrover, on foot, by helicopter and even on horseback! The Battalion re-rolled the Recce Platoon to become the Brigade Surveillance Platoon, and, in turn re-rolled Mortarmen to man Scimitar to exploit their thermal imaging sights. The Mortar Platoon fired 81mm Mortar illumination rounds on TF deployments and snipers and were deployed on patrols. The generous allocation of Support Company surveillance assets was put to good use on all deployments, and Milan and Mortar sections were attached to other companies to enhance their surveillance capability. In the city, a company of 150 men successfully supported UN Police and monitored a population of half a million. New inroads were made into the university and other communities in the city in support of Information Operations. In the rural north, progress was made in reconciling Serb and Albanian, and the first Serb returns visit took place. There was no direct threat to us during the tour and incidents were not of an intensity or frequency experienced on previous operational tours. Nevertheless, they presented a challenge, and one to which the Battalion rose with alacrity. The presence of mines, particularly in border areas, was an ever-present hazard, and one that claimed the life of a British soldier during our tour. The value of Brecon-trained NCOs, and Warminster-trained junior officers was clearly demonstrated time and again. In addition, the Dukes' recent experience, as part of AMF(L), in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, and on many exercises has paid dividends on this tour. The ability of

Battalion and company G4 staff to support operations at short notice, under difficult conditions, was excellent, and reflected the same hard experience. In short, the value of well-trained infantry, able to operate effectively for protracted periods, under all circumstances, in all terrain and weather, was clearly demonstrated by the Dukes in Kosovo.

Having enjoyed our post-tour leave, which happily coincided with school holidays, the Battalion is back together again in Osnabrück. We now embark on a period of consolidation in which we can hone our basic infantry and armoured infantry skills. My emphasis is on improving the quality of life in the Battalion, and ensuring that we remain one of the best-manned units in the Infantry. So far we have been successful, and our flourishing recruiting and retention figures reflect a great deal of hard work and commitment by the Dukes as a whole - including all at Regimental Headquarters and those at training establishments. That said, we cannot afford complacency, and all of us have a part to play in facing the manning challenge. As well as looking after our soldiers in the Battalion, and deploying "Satisfied Soldiers" back to Yorkshire, we have generated a number of projects to keep us ahead of the competition within the Infantry. On assuming command in 1999 I decided that we would produce a Regimental CD-ROM, rather than yet another video! The CD-ROM was finished this summer and is assisting in our recruiting effort. It is widely reported as being the very best in the Army and puts us at the forefront of the Infantry in this regard. We are fortunate in having the "Dukes" as our nickname; it is a punchy title and is easily remembered by potential recruits. The "Dukes - Yorkshire Warriors" slogan is one which is becoming well known throughout the Infantry and one we should use whenever possible.

We have enjoyed an excellent eighteen months of conversion and operations. The Battalion's effort now is concentrated on achieving balance in our programme and maintaining full manning. As I write this account there is talk of "war with terrorism", and there is little doubt that the momentous events of 11 September could prove one of history's turning points. We will see. In the meantime, the 1st Battalion is in good order and is a credit to the Regiment and the Army. We stand ready, as ever, for anything.

ALMA COMPANY

After a slightly disturbing two hour delay at Pristina International Airport, expecting at any moment to be bumped off our C130 in favour of the CO and BHQ whose VC 10 had broken down, the company departed Kosovo in good order and arrived in Osnabrück late in the evening of 14 July. After an extensive and lengthy check of weapons and other stored items the company deployed, almost to a man, on protracted urban operations in the central Osnabrück region. The next two weeks leading up to summer leave were an excellent opportunity to unwind and to catch up on administration and low level routine training. A lot of

sport was played, PT done and platoon books written up. We were even able to send a few soldiers back to Yorkshire early to work with the RRC as satisfied soldiers. This period concluded with an excellent company social in a local restaurant overlooking the picturesque Rubbenbruchsee Lake, for which many thanks to Sergeant Horsfield and Lance Corporal Hicks who made most of the arrangements.

The period after leave has been taken up with cadres, most of which are described elsewhere in this edition and in preparation for the upcoming Infantry Field Firing Camp (IFFC). We have said goodbye to many

Alma stalwarts including Lieutenant Williams (to ITC Catterick), Sergeant Conley (to ATR Glencorse), Corporal Walkinshaw (to 19 Mech Bde HQ) and Colour Sergeant Cole (to ATR Glencorse on promotion to WO2). Our greatest loss, however, was the departure of WO2 (CSM) Craddock who has moved on to become RQMS(T) after eighteen months as the real boss of Alma Company. His inimitable style of leadership and discipline and his excitable nature on the soccer field

will be greatly missed by the whole company, who wish him well in the G4 empire. On the plus side we have received most able replacements including 2 Lieutenant Cataldo (from PCBC), Sergeants Schofield and Graham (on promotion from Corunna) and in particular WO2 (CSM) Childs.

Major D. P. Monteith
OC Alma

BURMA COMPANY

At the end of the last submission from Burma Company we were comfortably dug in on the Kosovo/Serbian provincial boundary, awaiting the hand back of the Ground Security Zone to the Serbian Forces. Following our extraction from the comforts of our trenches, Burma was to experience a relatively quiet finish to the tour, with the exception of 4 Platoon, who as the company's 'mountain troop', were deployed once again to the Macedonian border in the south to interdict National Liberation Army guerrillas crossing the border for operations in Macedonia. This operation was another Dukes' success with many arrests and perhaps more notably the sight of 'Dukes on horseback' - not the traditional Duke on horseback so beloved by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, but instead Dukes' soldiers trotting about the hills of Macedonia on the back of bony, flea-bitten nags leased out by the locals to make up for the fact that virtually none of our transport could operate in the inhospitable terrain.

Needless to say we returned from Kosovo in good order, and by the end of August most of us had returned from leave eager to get back to normal life! The only problem is that normal life appears to have been redefined. Instead of the leisurely existence of routine in barracks training that one might expect, we have the 24-hour-a-day challenge to catch up with all the things we were unable to achieve in Kosovo. As soon as we arrived back the company split into many different groups, PNCOs, those attending support weapons cadres, Warrior driving and gunnery cadres, range conducting officer courses and preparations for our support to the Operational Training and Advisory Group (Germany) (OPTAG(G)) to training the units from 20 Armoured Brigade prior to their deployment to Kosovo. Superimposed on all of that was a two-week rugby training camp conducted by WO1 Williams (see rugby article).



A Burma Company Warrior dug in overlooking Sector B of the Ground Security Zone.

The period as Training Support Group (TSG) at OPTAG (G) presented an excellent opportunity for the company to work together in the public eye (well military public anyway), and along with help from across the Battalion, show off how well we had grasped the various skills and drills required to conduct a successful operational tour. The company worked on four packages training a significant part of 20 Armoured Brigade, including the whole of the QRH and RRW battlegroups. The work was particularly arduous,

especially when working as CIVPOP which involved conducting some nine riots in eleven days, each lasting at least two hours. This is covered in greater detail in following articles. It is worthy of note that the staff at OPTAG were extremely impressed with the performance of the company and I am confident that the Dukes' good name was well advertised across the British Army.

Major NMB Wood
OC Burma

BURMA COMPANY - TRAINING SUPPORT TO THE OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND ADVISORY GROUP (GERMANY)

After a well-deserved leave, Burma Company prepared itself to go down to its second home, Sennelager Training centre (STC). Before we knew it, it was the early hours on the morning of 10 September. After a good sleep we arrived at a place that we are all too familiar with: Tin City! This is a mock village that should represent a village in the Balkans, albeit in a much better state of repair. Our first task was to set up all our tents and make the city look lived in. At the end of the first day we were packed into the briefing cinema and were told what was expected of us. It was clear that we would have our work cut out.

On the first teaching morning as demo troops, we had to cover the following subjects: incident management, language training, patrol skills, use of interpreters, rules of engagement and mine awareness. All very important skills, that our recent tour enabled us to portray very well.

This was a two-day package for the Individual Replacements, being medics, engineers, clerks, chefs and drivers etc. The package was repeated for the QRH battlegroup deploying with a Highlander Company attached, to add that touch of infantry skill to the Tankies. By this stage the lads of Burma Company were getting used to the repetitive programme, however standards never dropped. During the QRH battlegroup FTX there were a few key appointments to be played out by the Dukes. One of these was a star appearance by Ali-G better known as Sergeant Holdsworth who was a star Albanian CD seller (from Staines!), and three outstanding tramps, Privates Brennan, West and Thursby, who all lived out on the streets in the 'Teletubbie house', a mound of earth with three large pipes in a 'Y' shape going into it, large enough for a man to live in, built to resemble the children's TV stars' house. If any of these lads were to leave the Army they wouldn't have to look far for pre-release training!

Then there was pub check night in Tin City. The pub is often packed by the troops playing civilian population, and on most nights it was very realistic, with many of the lads enjoying a well-earned beer. As we all know, Corporal Clemie cannot hold his beer and threw up over a Highlander platoon commander. I should point out that this was a planned serial, with fake vomit, however the luckless Platoon Commander didn't know this! On the final day of the QRH FTX things

started to heat up as they did a house search and had to deal with an explosion with mass casualties in the market square. The medics attached to Burma Company produced some excellent casualty simulation, however the lads were struggling to remove the red stains left by stage blood for days after. The explosion and casualties angered the crowd, which sparked the first of nine riots that Burma was involved in. The lads looked forward every day to the chance to throw potatoes at the soldiers and run at their shields. Lance Corporals Harrison and Lambert got the opportunity to throw petrol bombs at the troops under training. When the first riot had finished we realised that the QRH battlegroup had taken a hammering from "Albanian" Dukes. However we took casualties of our own; Private Ward looked like he had been in the wars, with blood on his hands and face, but he told me he had really enjoyed it, as it reminded him of being back at home in Sheffield! With a queue of casualties outside the Med tent all admitted that it had been very hard work, rioting is not easy. And this was only the first of nine riots! Before we knew it we were back in the cinema getting another brief in preparation for the RRW. It was back to the normal pub search where the Welsh not only had to deal with Corporal Clemie's drunkenness, but the fierce fighting of Privates Faruk and Fawcett (again a staged fight) just to see how the RRW would cope; which they did, quite well. The next days brought a welcome sight to the company, with the arrival of a batch of Fijian recruits, including the new company mascot "Rhino" (Private Wainiqolo). He proved this during the RRW's riot phase of training, as he was smashing through the shields for fun, and was swatting away soldiers in full kit as if they were flies! Hopefully this will be a small reminder to the RRW rugby team that we have got a few new weapons in the armskote! Coming to the end of three difficult and tiring weeks it was time for a massive clear up which proved to be another of Colour Sergeant Stannard's two-minute jobs! Once this was completed, WO2 McCabe was presented with a picture for all the hard work and effort that Burma Company had put in during our stint at STC, then it was back to Osnabrück for a well-deserved long weekend.

Sergeant K. Yeádon
OC 6 Platoon



Lance Corporal Thompson and Corporal Goddard lead a crowd of angry Burma rioters against an RRW shield wall.

CORUNNA COMPANY

The final month in Kosovo proved to be relatively quiet for Corunna Company. The framework operations continued, but the general pace of life slowed. This was perhaps fortuitous as the weather became particularly hot; something that the delicate Yorkshire skin is perhaps not used to. With the arrival of the Black Watch and the Gunner Battery the Company quickly and professionally handed over its area of responsibility. Everyone from the OC to the most junior private was now in a position to give accurate and informative briefs to the Battery. Although relieved that the tour was now drawing to an end, most of the Company had enjoyed and gained valuable experience from the four-and-a-half-month tour.

Once back in Germany there remained a two week period where everyone had to sort out their administration before we all departed on a well deserved leave. On returning, the Company would see a significant change in the command element. Major Rhodes and WO2 Scott left for the East and West Riding Regiment, to be replaced by Major Goodwin and WO2 Buckingham. Mr Scothern left for Glencorse and Captain Payne returned from Catterick into the Company Second-in-Command slot. However with all these changes complete the Company can now look forward to a period of stability.

After leave the Company had been particularly busy. In the initial stages this was with people either on or supporting the plethora of internal cadres. The remainder have been involved in fitness and preparation for the forthcoming Infantry Field Firing Camp (IFFC). With the cadres complete and the Company re-formed we departed for Sennelager and returned to grass roots infantry work. As the two-week package progressed the soldiers advanced onto more complex shoots that culminated in an excellent company attack.

With basic infantry skills honed, the focus has now switched to the Armoured Battle Camp in November. The company will combine both the light role skills and its armoured skills in a ten day battle and live firing camp.

Although life sounds hectic, there is a much greater structure than during conversion last year. This has allowed everyone to enjoy the experience of living in Germany.

Captain K. D. Smith
Acting OC Corunna

INFANTRY FIELD FIRING CAMP SENNELAGER - OCTOBER 2000

The range letters had been approved, the transport was booked, the Battalion was on parade and the Dukes were as prepared as they could be for the long-awaited Infantry Field Firing Camp. This was to be the chance for all members of the Battalion, from the newest soldier to the company commanders, to get back into doing what we do best. The operational tour in Kosovo was a distant memory, this fortnight was to be all about our war fighting capability.

The package began on the static ranges with zeroing of all individual weapons and the Annual Personal Weapons Test (APWT). The latter is still a mandatory test and must be passed by all soldiers before they move onto field firing proper. The soldiers then completed the fire team assessment, which tests shooting ability after completing a two-mile run with weight. It was an emotional couple of miles for some, but all individuals managed to complete the course and shoot more than satisfactorily. Having completed these tests, soldiers are then qualified to progress onto fire and manoeuvre exercises. These are based on a gradual progression from two soldiers operating in pairs to entire companies firing simultaneously on one area.

Time, as always with this type of exercise, was tight, but the soldiers worked hard and learnt a great deal. For some of the newest members of the Battalion it was the most live firing they have done to date, as their training

in Catterick was severely disrupted by the dreaded Foot and Mouth disease. That said, performances were of a high standard and the newest company commander, who turned up in the middle of the package, was able to see several platoons put in good displays on Tuesday's platoon attack range. With some minor tweaking on Wednesday all was set for the company attack range on Thursday. Alma were first on, shortly followed by Burma, then Corunna who, as the last company to go through the range had the most time for rehearsals in the morning. Unfortunately due to range constraints their exercise was cut short, but the two composite platoons had both managed to complete their missions beforehand. The same range also saw the 81mm mortar and the Milan anti-tank missile live firing. It was a first chance for many soldiers who had just completed support weapons cadres to live fire their respective weapons systems and the general consensus was that it had been an enjoyable and beneficial day's training.

In this unpredictable world nobody dares guess where the Dukes will be deployed next, but recent events have helped concentrate minds. This ensured that the Battalion got the maximum benefit from what was a hectic but extremely productive two weeks in Sennelager.

Lieutenant C. D. Adair
for OC Corunna

SOMME COMPANY

The last month in Kosovo turned out to be one of the most interesting periods of the tour for the company. We were deployed under Battalion Headquarters to the Dragas Peninsula on the Macedonian border. Our mission was to interdict Albanian extremists who were using Kosovo as a route to or from Macedonia. This proved an exciting proposition for the Company. Both Milan and Mortar Platoons deployed by air to a series of OPs and patrol bases along the border, all of which were well above the height of Ben Nevis, and all but one were only accessible by air, foot or donkey. The latter of the three caused much amusement to Milan Platoon throughout the three-week period. Picture the sight of WO2 Davidson armed to the teeth on the back of a donkey half his size and you will realise why!

The deployment was an excellent opportunity for some of our JNCOs to show their worth. They did so with remarkable success. The most noteworthy being that of Corporal Clarke's eight man team, who in the three-week period managed to catch approximately 35 people illegally crossing the border. The RTR were quite bemused when Corporal Clarke, with little regard to his takeover briefing, made the astonishing decision to move the OP they had occupied for over two weeks. It was not until he explained to them that the OP was facing the wrong direction and that a move from inside a cave onto the top of the feature might in the fullness of time prove more fruitful. This proved a 'clever' move as his OP were pulling in suspects before his predecessors had even left the mountain. Long live the Infantry! The deployment also proved a fantastic

opportunity for platoon commanders to get out of Company Headquarters. It's amazing how much peace and quiet you can get sat on the top of a mountain with Company Headquarters a four-hour donkey ride away! All in all, the deployment proved an excellent finale to a very enjoyable tour. It was then full steam ahead to sunny Osnabrück.

Since our return from Kosovo, there has been no let-up in the hectic pace of life. The drivers and administration parties did an outstanding job in successfully recovering the Company's stores and equipment from Kosovo. The admin party returned from leave some two weeks later than the majority of the Company to find the platoons already back into the swing of things within camp. For the first time in over six months, Somme Company is once again complete and now has its full complement of Mortars, Milan, Recce and Drums Platoons back under command.

Both Mortar and Milan Platoons are now coming to the end of a five-week cadre period, which will attempt to turn the raw rifle company recruit into a more mature and technically minded support company soldier. On completion of the cadres the Company will deploy with the Battalion to the Individual Field Firing Camp in Sennelager. This will be the culmination of their training, where both platoons will live fire their Mortar and Milan weapon systems. As we return from Gunnery Camp both platoons and indeed the Company will be back to full strength.

The Drums/Assault Pioneer Platoon are now beginning their lengthy operation for the Tercentenary

next year. They too have received new recruits from the rifle companies and are busy transforming them into musicians. Their drumming calendar is already busy with a plethora of 'gigs' and mess functions until Christmas. This is all, as always, under the careful eye of Drum Major Johnson.

The Recce Platoon, who many have not seen for over six months, are now busy reverting to their armoured role. Corporals Roberts and Garbutt have been tasked with the intensive conversion of Recce soldiers into armoured warriors, and have been teaching tirelessly on both gunnery and driving cadres.

Finally we have said a farewell to some of the key personalities within the Company over the last month.

After two years as OC, Major Alex Wilson returns to the UK to take up a place at Staff College. I am sure every member of the company would join me in wishing him the very best for the future and in thanking him for his unwavering commitment to Somme Company over the last two years. I am holding the fort until December, when another Major Wilson will assume command. We also say a temporary farewell to Captain Stear and Colour Sergeants Hughes and Roberts, all of whom have been posted away from the Battalion. We hope to see them back in the not too distant future.

Captain M. C. Tetley
OC Somme

81mm MORTAR CADRE

Kosovo had provided the Mortar Platoon with the opportunity to display many of its varied skills. These skills ranged from urban and rural patrolling, to covert and overt OPs, not to mention the first operational live firing of the Battalion's mortars since Korea. We recovered in dribs and drabs from Kosovo, having to provide drivers, escorts and an administration party to ensure that all our equipment was returned home in one piece. Thanks to Sergeant Daz Leen and his team the move all went according to plan with a well-earned four weeks' leave behind us, it was time to turn our attention to rebuilding the Platoon, which is established for 43 soldiers in the armoured infantry role.

The call had gone out to the rifle companies to provide five nominations each to attend the mortar cadre. After some bartering the nominations were agreed, the final touches put to the programme and on 3 September the Mortar Officer, Captain Tetley, delivered his opening address. The principle of mortaring has changed very little since its conception. Simply a smooth-bore tube with fixed firing pin, a plate to absorb the shock of the rounds and some screws on

the front legs to point the thing in the right direction. However, as the students were soon to find out, the basic principle has been improved upon somewhat, and the learning curve is a steep one!

It's not an unusual sight to see all nineteen students wide-eyed and mouths gaping goldfish-like, trying to absorb all the information. For the instructors too there was a lot of preparation required, with up to three lessons per day to prepare for and the prospect of an ex-Mortar Division instructor turning up to vet proceedings. The cadre has however proved a great success, with the bulk of the work falling to Corporal Baker and Lance Corporals Hopkinson, Ogilvie and Roe. As I write these notes there are a few days to run and four periods of live firing to look forward to. I am more than pleased with the level of commitment from the students, with notable performances from Lance Corporal Padgett and Private Lilley. I can assure you all that the Platoon is in good order for whatever the future may bring.

Colour Sergeant A. D. Williams
Mortar 2IC

MILAN CADRE

On Monday morning 3 September sixteen fresh-faced young, and some not so young, soldiers from across the Battalion sat nervously on the top floor of Somme Company lines awaiting the opening address from Captain Garner. Many had not volunteered; one had even come from the beautiful south pacific island of Tonga via Alma Company. One thing was now for sure, they were all ours to play with for the next five weeks.

The training objectives laid down for the cadre were as follows:-

- a. The Milan Weapon System
- b. Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) Recognition
- c. Battle procedure
- d. Signals Revision
- e. NBC Revision
- f. First Aid Revision
- g. Fitness

During the cadre period there was a lot of information to take in, and for many who were used to following

their section commanders like the proverbial sheep (while serving in the rifle companies), this was to be a shock to their system.

As the lessons began, the blood seemed to drain from the cadre students' faces as the information was passed and questions were asked about flexibility and the main recognition features of the T54/55 main battle tank. This on the first morning, for some this was all too much and the first applicants for a return back to the safety of their section commanders' bosoms was already forming outside the platoon office. But "Wait" said a voice from the back of the room, "We've not done the Basic Personal Fitness Assessment (BPFA) - the old BFT, yet." So the first week passed in a blur of characteristics and principles, along with fitness and armoured vehicle recognition features, and by the end of it one person had been returned to his company.

So after a much needed rest, Week Two began with a trip to Peasburg. This is a country park on the outskirts

of Osnabrück, but this was not to be a country walk, this was Battle PT in the form of a stretcher race. Surely this cannot be the support company that people said would be a cushy number!! So, as the students ran round the park, more questions about the Milan system were asked. A certain Lance Corporal, who goes by the codename Dorian Dawber the BATCO Trauma, was asked a question to which came the reply "Give us a minute I'm trying to breathe". Week Two was also the beginning of the dreaded drill lessons, which can be made to be very physically demanding, depending on the evil streak of the squad instructor. Lance Corporal 'Peapod' Painter and his magic clipboard gave a whole new meaning to the drill lessons, but that's another story.

So, more knowledge, more new skills were passed on during this and the following week. Throughout this period came a series of progress tests to see if the students were retaining the information that was taught to them. Also a CFT was done with everyone, with the exception of one person, who, may I add, was to tear both Achilles tendons, passing well within the allocated time. Week Three ended with a brief about the exercise phase of the cadre. This was to be run at Achmer Training Area, which is twenty minutes drive from Belfast Barracks. This was an opportunity to see the students in the field, which at the end of the day is the infantryman's bread and butter.

So Monday morning came and the cadre moved complete onto the area. The afternoon started with a pairs' Navigation Exercise at Achmer. Luckily for the cadre instructors there wasn't a taxi in sight as each pair successfully navigated its way around the course. Once the final pair was in, the evening meal was served from containers and then the next lesson could begin. This was in the form of a mini round robin, which would be night-time AFV and battle cards practical.

Tuesday began as Monday finished with a round robin, but this time on a much grander scale covering

fire control, NBC, first aid and AFV. This covered most of the annual ATDs every soldier has to take each year.

Wednesday was to start with a series of LAW stalk Battle Exercises with background activities such as Warrior drills and camouflage and concealment. The day finished with a night observation exercise with the students carrying full Milan detachment kit for the first time. This includes two Milan firing posts, eight Milan missiles, four LAW missiles, MIRA and of course normal personal equipment. After a good night's sleep, it was time to begin battle procedure for the final exercise which involved Harmonisation, UTE, Simulator Training, Drills Revision, AFV, final administration. A full set of Anti-Armour Ambush orders were given by Captain Garner (Platoon Commander). So after a final cup of tea, myself and Sergeant Smith moved off with the platoon 2IC to the Platoon RV. The insertion was to be on foot with everything required for the task being carried, so at 1830 hrs that evening the cut off groups moved off, knowing that there was a couple of miles of hard tabbing before them. By 2030 hrs the ambush was set, so it was now just a matter of waiting for the show to begin. Throughout the next five hours several serials came and went but at 0130 hrs there was movement past the northern cut off, three enemy vehicles moved into the killer groups' arcs and the ambush was sprung. Before the last rounds were fired, troops began to melt into the darkness back to the platoon emergency RV. Once everyone and everything was accounted for, the move back to the platoon hide took place for some much-needed rest and a hot drink.

All that lies ahead now for the successful students is live firing and this will take place at the IFFC at Sennelager in late October, so overall the cadre has been a great success and any budding Tankies out there just remember there is life after the Rifle Companies.

Sergeant W. Mills, Milan Platoon



Privates Butcher (left) and Mountsey on a LAW tank stalk.



Private Loseli and Lance Corporal Padgett practise their drills.

POTENTIAL JUNIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' CADRE 2001

Given a four-week block in which to train and assess potential non-commissioned officers was a challenge, but, given the expertise of the staff I had under my command, it was something I knew to be achievable. The next challenge was planning the whole thing whilst being in Pristina - not exactly handy for quick recesses to the exercise areas! A number of the companies achieved some comprehensive pre-cadre training in Kosovo and these were complemented by a warning order detailing the level each student should have achieved by Day One, both physically and mentally. Sergeant Hill, the Chief Instructor, also produced a training pack to help.

After some deliberating and research a plan of action was decided and the cadre ended up being broken into four week-long phases. The first was a cadre 'beat up' week in Belfast barracks, into which we also put all the lessons to be taken by people external to the cadre. The first week was very successful, other than the fact that we went from starting the cadre with 51 students to finishing the Basic Combat Fitness Test on the second day with a disappointing number of failures. This was testament to a lack of preparation and motivation for many and to the previous month's leave obviously having taken its motivational toll.

The second week saw the cadre move to Haltern Training Camp with, on the whole, some very motivated, ambitious and professional students. This phase took the form of field lessons. The week highlighted some weaknesses in field craft and infantry skills; Operation Agricola had obviously accounted for some skill fade. The week ironed a lot of these faults out and refreshed students in the role of the infantry and

also taught them field skills applicable to a Section Second-in-Command and potentially Section Commander. The week was very much a step up from the basic lessons and skills offered by the first week to an intermediate level of leadership, command, fitness and field craft.

The cadre changed location again for the third week to Achmer Training Area where we once again stepped up a gear into a Battle Teaching Week. This saw the students harbouring up and practising much of what they had been taught previously. Working in exercise conditions and learning their role as leaders, rather than as soldiers, in each phase of war, was a definite step up for the students and some of them found it difficult to adjust from the relative comfort of barrack conditions. On the whole they did very well and as their results showed they were starting to get a real handle upon what was required of them as potential administrators and leaders.

The final phase was back to Haltern Training Area for the final exercise. This was an excellent week where the reward for all the staff's hard work was the measure of the students' performance. Despite some glitches, each student worked well, getting at least three command appointments, some of which were quite demanding. An example of this was the 'Helicopter Raid'. The Platoon was warned off to carry out battle procedure subsequent to a demanding few days' operations. As a fast ball they were then moved by Lynx Helicopter into dead ground in an area they had not worked in. The section met friendly forces under fire and were briefed to take over the assault from the friendly forces who had



Private Fulton controls the battle as Section Commander



Privates Pearson and Thompson awaiting briefing during a lull in the battle.

sustained too many casualties to continue. Once successfully completed, the section had to withdraw to the helicopter landing site, with the casualties, and await pick up from the Lynx which meanwhile was bringing in the next section. The way the students managed to regain control of difficult situations was admirable.

After the final attack at the end of the week the Platoon moved off, after reorganising itself, into what the students thought was another big move only to find that round the corner, in dead ground, was a champagne breakfast ... well, lager breakfast! The end of course social included the video that had been made of the four weeks, accompanied by some beers and banter.

The cadre had been a great success but disappointing on an individual level, with only eighteen of the original fifty-one making it through to the end. Whether failing some initial 'basic' tests or simply not feeling motivated enough to cope with four weeks of demanding teaching it was a shame to lose so many.

Hopefully the students who did not make it through to the end of the cadre will return focused for the next one in February. Well done the eighteen.

Captain S. L. Humphris
OC Cadre

POTENTIAL JUNIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' CADRE 2001

The Corunna Company potential NCOs went through many long nights on a pre-cadre, run by the Company Staff. My own attitude towards the cadre was very positive, and this carried on throughout the Kosovo tour. But leave came and I think we all knew, in our own minds, that our standards would drop over the four week leave period for obvious reasons!

Day one of the cadre came and morale was high. Talking to the other lads I got the impression that there were two different groups of people entering the cadre. On one hand the group who had put the work in and prepared, and on the other hand the group who seemed to have already given up. Day one went by with no problems at all, however there was more yet to come. Rigorous fitness sessions meant that a number of students dropped out. Week two was still as hard, but a teaching week; the leaders amongst us started to come out of our shells and this was shown by our progress reports.

By week three the cadre was down to a total of eighteen men. This was how it was to stay until the end. At this point I started to realise, in my own mind, that I

had a good chance of being in the top three. After a few tests including the night navex and mid-term written test I knew I was doing well. My chances were looking good, along with two or three others, for the top spot. In the final week all was still open and I now knew I had to give it my best shot. Command appointments came thick and fast. Morale was running low as, with only six man sections, there was little sleep - it was hard to keep your head up and have a positive attitude towards commanding. I must admit that on some command appointments I did not do as well as I should have done, however I made up for it on others.

Final attack came and rumours of a good three hour assault were brewing. However the attack went well and everyone was surprised to see breakfast laid on by the directing staff.

To sum up I can now look back and realise that the hard work on the cadre paid off. This was all brought home on the final Saturday morning when I was told the good news that I had come top!

Lance Corporal Overend, Corunna Company

MANY PARTIES AND MANY PARTINGS

The return from Kosovo saw the Mess launch frantically and with enormous zest into some post tour de-stressing activities. The living-in members re-acquainted themselves with downtown Osnabrück within minutes of the final weapon being checked into the armoury, whilst the Pads took a more leisurely approach via the lengthy grass of their collective back gardens on the patch. Our first formal event took place on 17 July with a Welcome Home dinner in the Mess. This warm and balmy evening drew the Mess outside to lounge beside our ornamental pond and allowed Matt 'Hasselhoff' Stear to show his true worth by fishing poor Jessica Lewis out of said pond, while simultaneously finishing a cigarette with commendable insouciance. The evening also afforded us the opportunity to say farewell to Nigel and Liz Rhodes before they took their leave to the East and West Riding Regiment where Nigel will be able to purvey his own invidious brand of evil as Training Major. Both Nigel and Liz have contributed enormously to the Mess over the past two years and we wish them both well in Yorkshire, especially Liz with her impending double production!

23 July saw another round of farewells as the Mess lunched-out a number of people. We said goodbye to Alex Wilson (see previous edition), Karen Hughes, our AGC Detachment Commander, and to Ken Johnson (again). This lunch also saw the long-awaited departure

of Jim Kirk who is leaving the Army after five eventful and deeply memorable years. Jim took the opportunity to regale the Mess with his many (mainly hazy) reflections on life as a Dukes' Officer before publicly auctioning off his remaining military equipment and assorted oddments - mainly to the QM, who seemed to think that it should all have been handed in to begin with. Jim has left to pursue a career in the brewing industry which the Mess felt was a deeply appropriate career move. The day was also a doubly memorable occasion for Phil Lewis. Not only were we able to wish him and Sally all the best in Andover, but we were also able to formally celebrate his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. This we proceeded to do with gusto long into the night. Unfortunately the speed of events did not allow us to dine Phil and Sally out in the traditional style but, who knows, we might be seeing them again in a few years! Having paused only to replenish our champagne stocks from Pol Roger at Epernay, the Mess then broke up for a longish summer leave.

After leave the main event was the Autumn Ball at Schloss Schelenburg just outside Osnabrück. Despite causing the PMC to go grey and to wake up sweating in the middle of several nights, worrying about rain, decorations, budgets etc, the evening was a roaring success. The mediaeval Schloss was a magnificent backdrop to dinner, dancing, casino, drums playing, band, clay pigeon shooting, bungee running and the

ubiquitous bouncy castle. So keen was the Mess to party that the disco, which had been booked to close at 0500 hrs, was persuaded by a band of hardy survivors (led by the Families' Officer) to press on until dawn. The PMC awaits the additional bill with trepidation! The Ball was also the first chance for Richard and Juliet Holroyd to sample Mess life in Germany since their welcome return to the Battalion in August.

All in all it has been a very busy period since July, with an amazing number of formal and informal social

activities. This period also saw the departure of a number of people either on posting or on leaving the Army, we look forward to seeing them all again, together with as many other serving or retired officers as can make it next year at the Tercentenary Weekend in June, for which detailed planning, you will not be surprised to hear, has already begun.

Major D. P. Monteith
PMC

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Over the past six months the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has seen some busy times, with the preparation, deployment and return from Kosovo, to the dining in of the new RSM.

During the tour of Kosovo the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes combined in two locations, Station One and Peninsula Lines, both in Pristina. This assisted in maintaining the close bond between the two Messes.

WO2 McCabe built a volley ball court and Sergeant Mills CGC erected a stone barbecue stand by the side of the court within Peninsula Lines. Where these hidden skills came from no one knows. Suffice to say both were still going strong when we left.

Waterloo Day saw both Messes combine to enjoy an excellent cocktail party at which the Drums Platoon played Regimental music.

The Mess has also commissioned a painting depicting a scene from each Company location. Prints of the painting have been ordered and will be on sale during the Tercentenary.

On return from Kosovo the Mess dined out RSM Devaney combined with a Ladies' Dinner Night in the Stadt Halle. The evening went extremely well, RSM Devaney's parting words were with thanks and encouragement to all Mess members; he highlighted the special bond that the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have and that he would miss this in Civilian Street. I know I speak for all the Mess members in wishing him well in his future employment.

RSM Ness has now taken over the reins and he was dined in on 21 September. During dinner he spoke of Mess unity, irrespective of capbadge, and the historic Sergeants' Mess ethos.

WO2 (CSM) McCabe (PMC) and his committee are to be congratulated for all their hard work and time that they have put in within the past few months, even though he did occasionally wave his big stick about in frustration. Sergeant Jake Thackray gets a mention for converting the cellar within the Mess into a bar, which has been named 'Desperados'. With limited resources

he did an excellent job whilst the remainder of the Battalion was in Kosovo. At the moment the Mess itself is going through a restoration phase which should be complete by Christmas. All the upper rooms within the Mess are currently being revamped along with the ablutions.

Congratulations are in order for all the following newly promoted Mess members: Colour Sergeants to Warrant Officers Class 2: Chad Childs, Mark Kennedy, Stu Davidson, Swarve Harvey, Chris Hollinshead and John Elcoate. Sergeants to Colour Sergeants: Foz Foster, Mark Hughes and Baz Barratt.

A number of new Mess members have also been promoted from the Corporals' Mess: Sergeants Benny Hill, 'H' Graham, Scoff Schofield, Daz Leen, Keith Yeadon, Terry Conley, Jess Jessop, and, making history as the first female Mess member, Sergeant Samantha Nelson (AGC).

Farewells go out to WO2 Dave Hulse and Sergeant Mick Devaney and we wish them success in Civilian Street.

During this last period the Mess has seen many new arrivals from postings and also seen many Mess members depart on postings all over the world, the RSM would like to convey his best wishes to all.

Looking towards the Christmas period, we have a visit from Lieutenant Colonel De La Haye and Major Scott from the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow, who will discuss career management issues then have a few drinks with us in the Mess.

The Christmas function this year will be held on 7 December in the Café Osterhause. This will be our first in the Osterhause and if it is anything like the previous Christmas function it should be a great success.

Finally the RSM and all Mess members would like to wish all Iron Duke readers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

WO2 Brewer
PMC

HOOK COMPANY

A semblance of normality has returned to the departments of Hook Company after the post-tour leave. Those who deployed on Operation Agricola are now back doing the daily tasks required to ensure the smooth running of life in the Barracks, and the Rear

Party have returned to the four corners of the camp from which they came.

There are a few new faces; welcome to all those who have recently arrived in the Company. We have also lost some old ones; the Company has said a fond farewell

to Major Ken Johnson a fostered Duke who has served the Battalion and the Company on two separate occasions with genuine friendship and loyalty, Ken will be greatly missed.

Thanks go out to WO2 Mark Kennedy for his hard work as the CSM Hook Company and good luck to him in his new employment down the corridor.

The Company now looks forward to supporting the Battalion on the Infantry Field Firing Camp at Sennelager and the Gunnery Camp in Bergen Hohne, two weeks away should seem like a walk in the park to most of the Company after four months in Kosovo.

Major A. Jackson, OC Hook

OPERATION AGRICOLA 5, 1 DWR LAD REME

The preparation for deployment on Op Agricola for us, started back in February 2001 when many people were to get their first insight into fitting special armour to the Warriors. The Battalion organised teams of round the clock workers, working in eight-hour shifts with two teams of REME in support for any technical difficulties. It soon became apparent that we would be needed, due to the amount of re-taps that had to be done to the Warrior hulls. This kept all REME personnel busy throughout the fit. As the week went on the Warriors started to pass through a lot faster as the workforce became more confident in what they were doing until thankfully the final Warrior rolled out completed.

The advance party left on 25 February 2001 under the then ASM, Dave Brown, on his final operation with 1 DWR before his posting to the UK. 45 Commando RM eagerly greeted us as the blizzards howled around. They soon put us in the picture as to how they had operated the workshops and what external support was available to assist us on the tour.

As we had far more armoured vehicles than our predecessors, B Company 1 PWRR, the first problem was where to put them all. After Somme and Corunna lost the toss, Burma Company moved its vehicles on to the hard-cored park, leaving the other two companies to make the most of working in a quagmire. ISO containers were moved and tents were erected giving the Fitter Sections their offices.

Sergeant Matty, SNCO IC Workshop Main, who had the luxury of working in a heated hanger, soon got on top of running B shops and thus enabled them to turn round vehicles from unroadworthy to roadworthy almost as fast as our colleagues in the Dukes could break them. The members in there, along with the supporting elements such as electricians and metalsmiths, all played a vital part in keeping as much equipment as possible in the hands of the user.

The Fitter Sections meanwhile, were kept busy on the tank parks carrying out six-monthly inspections and 24-monthly services which, despite being on an operational deployment, still had to be carried out to keep the vehicles roadworthy and taskworthy.

Somme Company prepared for the first deployment with the armoured vehicles on Op Viking and under the command of Artificer Staff Sergeant Mark Portas deployed to the area of the Zegra Valley. Communication proved difficult due to the terrain, so spares requests were unable to be passed by telephone or radio. Messages were relayed to and fro by whoever would be making the next trip to either location. It did not seem to hinder the Fitter Section and with a lot of hard work, especially by Sergeant Mawdsly and his CVR (T) Samson recovery crew, they all returned from the operation with their pride intact.

No sooner had Somme returned when Burma Company were to be deployed south into the area known



Burma Company 2IC keeping the REME busy

as the Elephant's Foot on Op Cambria. Sergeant Dave Martin took control and deployed with the rest of the section. Once deployed it was obvious that the terrain was unsuitable for Warrior, so the fitters spent most of their time repairing the Land Rovers that were mysteriously getting bumps and dents. The Recovery Mechanic, Lance Corporal Garside, proved to be the busiest, as the Company tried to push the Land Rovers to the extreme, which often ended in a call on the radio for REME assistance. The Fitter Section all improved their recovery skills, with real hands-on experience.

The Echelon element also deployed on the same Op and was about 45 minutes from Burma Company's location. A little less than two weeks saw the Op come to an end. Not surprisingly every vehicle made it back to TFA without problems, as we all know a vehicle never breaks down when it is going home!

Back in camp the LAD got back into its routine work of inspections and servicing, when the next deployment came up and Burma Company were again nominated to deploy. They would be part of Task Force Viking on Op Salisbury. This time the company took nearly all of its Warriors, so the Fitter Section was hoping for a slightly busier time than the previous deployment. We were not disappointed! On the route out Corporal Robertson, in one of the REME Warriors, broke down leaving the REME with only one vehicle to cover the company. In the first three days the company managed to throw five Warrior tracks, due to the unsuitable ground, one of them the REME vehicle, so pride had to be swallowed when one of the company Warriors had to come out and recover the REME. Once the first few days were over and everyone had caught up on their sleep, life became more pleasant. Plenty of work came in to keep them busy enough without overdoing it. The weather was great so it was a good chance for everyone to try and acquire a tan, which Somme Fitters already had.

Corunna Fitters, although not deployed on an Op due to the Company's commitments in Pristina, were kept busy. The Warriors were used on various tasks and were always in need of love and attention on their return to camp. They also managed to fit in all their servicing and inspections on top of many other tasks. Notably the fitters helped the Company on patrols around Pristina and could often be mistaken for Dukes wearing REME cap badges as they left camp with all their kit on. They acted professionally and could show their Infantry colleagues that REME could be adaptable and take on the role of foot soldiers, to a level that was effective.

Other achievements throughout the tour were the complete refit of all the Warrior drivelines. Staff Sergeant Morris was trained up on the refit and also took on all other units within theatre that had Warrior. He then organised teams of DWR and REME to work together on our own fleet of vehicles. The turn-round was very fast and resulted in vehicle mechanics and Warrior drivers having a better understanding of the basic safety points regarding the drivelines.

The tour saw many faces come and go, noticeably the two most senior posts within the LAD. Although getting to the unit before Christmas, OC Captain Worrell found this an ideal time to get to know and to be known by members. Also the ASM, Dave Brown, left the LAD on posting to the UK. This saw the AQMS, Pete Gaylard promoted to ASM. Staff Sergeant Orr, Corunna Company's artificer, was another senior rank to leave relatively early in the tour, on posting. This left Sergeant Wiles to take over the running of the fitter section for the rest of the tour.

In all, the tour has been very enjoyable and successful. Valuable experience has been gained and a good working relationship has been fostered between the Dukes and REME.

Sergeant Martin



Somme Company's rouge 432

THE DUKES RFC

The new season is upon us without us ever really leaving the last one. The Dukes RFC has continued to play rugby come hell or high water, as you would expect. We extracted from Kosovo undisputed kings of the pitch at both fifteen and seven-a-side, having played four full fixtures and a sevens tournament and won the lot. Admittedly some of the opposition was not up to much, but then beggars can't be choosers and we had to keep the enthusiasm in Dukes Rugby going throughout the summer. I say this because there is no doubt about it, we as a unit are far busier than we have been for many years, if ever, and every soldier has an increasingly important part to play, making it harder to ring fence people as rugby gladiators. Rugby has to compete at Battalion conferences as hard as any other activity or event to ensure that the right people are made available to play.

In order to kick this season off with a professional start the Commanding Officer invited WO1 Williams across from his recruiting post in Middlesbrough for two weeks at the beginning of September. The expressions of angst on young subalterns faces were clear for all to see as the old and bold recounted tales of muscle shredding pain and floods of sweat endured when 'Willy' was coaching the 1st XV on a regular basis. The reality was somewhat different (in that no one had to run for ten miles with a chair above their heads), although at times no less painful! Willy was programmed to coach a couple of two hour sessions a day over the two week period, which would include our first two fixtures of the season. Getting as many people as possible time off their various cadres was an achievement in itself. However the dedication of many of the squad members was clear to see, especially from the many new Fijian players we have, and the training period significantly improved the base level of skills across the whole squad.

The first game of the season saw us travelling to Fallingbommel to allow the full 2 RTR side to avenge the honour of their under strength side that we had hammered earlier in the year in Kosovo. The fact that we would be playing in front of many of their Regimental Association members, as it was their Regimental Weekend, was an added incentive to reissue the drubbing. The first half was fairly even with the

RTR scoring first whilst the Dukes settled from the long journey, but in the second half the benefits of Willy's training came through as we kept our discipline and piled on the points to win 43-12. The second week saw us playing a training game against the team that will surely become our great rival in Germany, 1 RRW. They did not want to play a proper game so we agreed to play four periods of twenty minutes, involving as many players as possible. Being last year's losing finalists in the Army Cup, the RRW side clearly had a lot of experience compared to our relatively young and inexperienced squad. That said, we put up a sterling performance, defending with great tenacity, but unfortunately allowing three tries to go begging, two being knock-ons within metres of the try line! The end result was a 21-17 defeat. However it was only a training game and I feel that come the time we meet them in the Cup the result will be different.

The season ahead promises to be challenging. It will once again be very difficult to secure regular, quality fixtures with most of British Army Germany deployed in support of Ex Saif Seeria. We will play, among others, Durham County's development squad, a Dutch National development squad, RMAS and hopefully a game against the Halifax 2nd XV. We will also host a development side from the Natal Sharks RFU when they tour this part of Germany and should hopefully be able to train with them for a couple of sessions. The main aim of the season is of course to put together a serious challenge to win the Army Cup. I am confident we will have a good showing in the BA(G) rounds, with our first game being on 5 December 2001, and we have a favourable draw once in the UK stages.

The reward for our efforts this season will be the tour to New Zealand to mark the Regiment's Tercentenary. We will send two teams across to New Zealand to play ten fixtures between 10 March and 1 April 2002, planning and fundraising are well under way, however we are still seeking sponsorship in whatever form it may come! This tour will be a serious challenge and a fitting way in which to mark the importance rugby has played in our history and should give forty-plus players from across the Regiment a rugby experience of a lifetime.

Major N. M. B. Wood, OC Rugby

FAMILIES' UPDATE

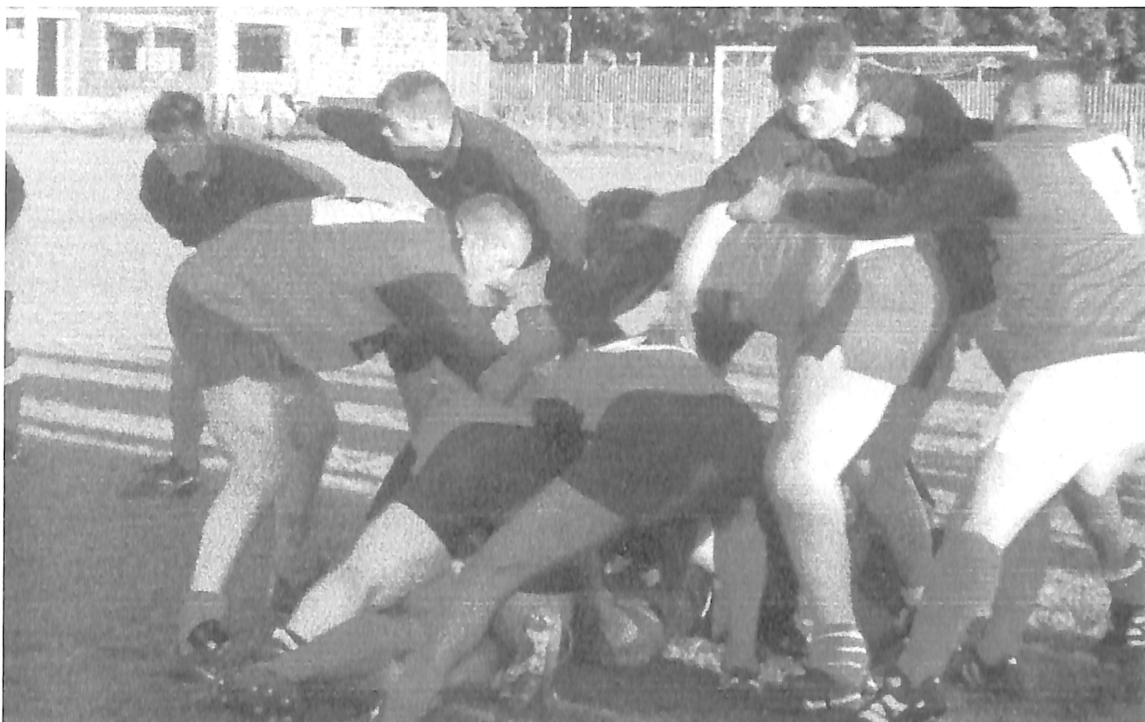
The last notes concluded with the eagerly-awaited return of husbands from Kosovo. Thankfully this passed without incident and families were reunited prior to a well-deserved August block leave.

Return from leave coincided neatly with the Osnabrück Garrison Summer Fete. As well as many big attractions, every Garrison organisation tends to run a small stall resulting in a mini flea market where it is impossible to walk around without paying to guess the number of sweets in a jar many times.

The Dukes' WAGS also set up and ran a stall where the main attraction was a cleverly designed elephant shaped 'wiggly wire' (touch the wire with the handle

and it bleeps). A steady hand and focused mind were needed to complete the wire successfully. Well worth avoiding if you wanted to keep secret the fact that you'd had a few drinks too many the night before. Our other attraction was 'guess the number of sweets in the jar'!

Another Garrison event was the SSAFA Forces Help Charity Big Brew Up. The Families' Office assisted in setting up this annual event run by the SSAFA Committee, which includes Jane Borwell. Due to most of the Garrison exercising in the Oman the stall would take on a desert theme and include a BFBS live link up. Our part was to set up an oasis scene with a life size stuffed camel, palm trees and sand. Among the



The Dukes vs UNMIK International XV played at Sadim Adiki Stadium, Pristina (note football goals instead of rugby posts!) From right to left: defending, 2 Lieutenant Ian Norman, Captain Pete Cowell and 1st XV Skipper Captain Jim Kennedy.



2 Lieutenant Ian Norman reaches for the ball, supported by Private 'Oscar' Nakanacagi and Private Kieran Honeyman, in the UNMIK International fixture, Pristina.

brickwork and concrete of the NAAFI entrance, what could be simpler? Many years in the army have taught me that within its real estate there is at least one of everything and a stuffed toy camel was duly acquired from a Hameln-based Engineer Regiment. The oasis and the day itself were a huge success raising funds for charity in the process.

As long dark winter nights approach us, we look forward to repeat two of our most popular functions from last year. Our children's fancy dress Halloween

party will bring all our little horrors together to the newly renovated Wellington Centre for a spooky time and the wives' annual Christmas function on 1 December will be a repeat of last year's much talked about 'Stars in their Eyes'. My next update will 'fingers crossed' inform you of how successful these two nights were.

Captain J. Frear
Unit Welfare Officer

The East and West Riding Regiment

Commanding Officer's Introduction

The last six months indicate how situations can rapidly change. The impact of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) on training had been significant, resulting in the loss of an exchange exercise to the USA and a late change of venue for Annual Camp. Nevertheless the Regiment has continued to train wherever we have found a range or training area open, even if this has meant travelling considerable distances. Highlights have included a resurrected Regimental SAAM in May, the field firing at Sennybridge in July and a Regimental FTX at the end of September, where we trialled aspects of the 2010 structures.

Ypres Company continues to be fully manned and attendance has held up despite the disappointment of losing the exercise in the USA. Major Hughes and his team are to be congratulated on producing an excellent alternative programme at very short notice to provide rewarding training for his company group, albeit at Longmoor! In August 2 Lieutenant Newiss led three multi-cap badge teams in a military patrol competition in Switzerland and all came in the top ten. Fontenay

Company are also beginning to pick up again, especially in Sheffield where the SF Platoon are increasing steadily. The Company also took part in the IFFC at SENTA which culminated in the guns being used in the Light and SF roles in support of live-firing platoon attacks which also featured 94mm, 51mm mortar and 81mm mortars. Both companies recently participated in a very successful Regimental FTX conducted at Leek and Proteus which employed manoeuvre support sections and a full BG HQ and Echelon.

We have also kept a high profile, with recent visitors including GOC 2 Division, Commander 15 (NE) Brigade, General Webb-Carter (especially welcome), Brigadier the Duke of Westminster, Brigadier Elcomb and Colonel Infantry (TA).

Looking forward, there is another busy and challenging year ahead as we develop tactics, techniques and procedures in line with the 2010 infantry structures, take part in the Tercentenary celebrations and prepare for an OTX in Belgium - all routine stuff for a TA infantry regiment!

EXERCISE BLACK ADDER

Ypres Company was rewarded for its efforts in 2000 when the Commanding Officer told the Company that they would be going on Ex Rattle Snake (a company group exchange exercise with the US National Guard (USNG)) in Minnesota in the United States. In early March, three of us flew out and conducted a recce of Camps Ripley and Dodge, but even as we flew out there were doubts if the exercise would come to fruition due to the foot and mouth outbreak (hoof and mouth if you're American). Four weeks prior to our deployment to the US, we were assured that the exercise was 100% on. Seven days later it was 100% off, and that was a definite "off".

Conscious that many soldiers had pre-booked annual leave from their civilian firms and were unable to alter those dates and it was too late to arrange an alternative camp in the UK, there was a real concern that many of those selected to go to the States would miss out on annual training for the year. The implications of soldiers being unable to qualify for bounty were not good. Thankfully Land Command came to the rescue and

allowed the Company Group to utilise the facilities that the USNG Company was to have used on their visit to the UK, Longmoor Camp in Hampshire.

Three weeks left little time in which to conduct a recce, plan a comprehensive training programme and book equipment, training aids and facilities and brief those involved. However this was done in ten days and the Company successfully deployed to Longmoor on 9 June.

Longmoor Camp is the home of the old Longmoor Military Railway. It is a large camp capable of housing two major units, and it is home to the London District Training Team and the Royal Military Police CPU. It is somewhat run down and in places in need of serious repair, the troops' accommodation could best be described as basic, however the officers and SNCOs were accommodated in the very grandiose former Royal Artillery Officers' Mess. The camp itself has ample training facilities, including an urban training centre, ranges, watermanship lakes and more importantly four small training areas within no more than an hour's drive.

The training areas are not used as agricultural land and are "within the wire"; therefore in June they were some of the few training areas that were open to both troops and vehicles for tactical training.

The training programme started with a day spent learning and refreshing OBUA skills in the UTC, where WO2 Caple ran an excellent confidence course. The Company moved onto the ranges for two days and everyone fired and passed their APWT. The platoons then rotated around a series of stands run by the PSIs, pioneers and a number of SNCOs, the stands included basic infantry skills, watermanship and CTR. The training was designed to be basic, progressive and interesting but above all it allowed commanders the chance to command and gave soldiers the opportunity to perform their allocated role.

The remainder of the Regiment took advantage of the training areas the Company had allocated and travelled down for a weekend's training, this gave the Company the chance to withdraw from the field and to prepare for the FTX. It also allowed the officers and SNCOs the chance to celebrate Waterloo Day in the majestic surroundings of the mess. Corporal Johnson and his team of chefs prepared an excellent Regimental Dinner which included of course "Beef Wellington". The CO, Colonel Whitmore (LI), was invited and appeared to be suitably impressed with his first visit to a Dukes' dinner.

On the Sunday the Company began its battle preparation for the FTX "Speckled Jim". The Company left Longmoor late on Sunday evening and deployed to a training area to the south of Guildford. The scenario was based around a NATO peace enforcing operation, each platoon was allocated an area of responsibility and tasked to deal with any incidents that occurred and included ambushes, platoon sized attacks and rescuing hostages detained on a small island in the middle of a

lake. The platoons regrouped after forty hours and moved back down to the Longmoor training area, where a company sized operation was undertaken to seize the UTC back from a number of belligerents, who were in reality a platoon of Royal Marine recruits from CTCRM Lymington. This was a complex task which included clearing minefields, recce patrols, tank stalking, bunker busting and finally an all out attack on the village. The battle raged for five hours before the belligerents could be seen beating a hasty retreat, allowing Ypres Company the chance to indulge in a large Yorkshire breakfast. After a period of post exercise administration the Company moved onto the R and R phase. This began with a Company smoker in the evening, and the following day individuals visited Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight and Thorpe Park, prior to making their way back to Yorkshire.

Although Hampshire bears little resemblance to Minnesota, and Portsmouth isn't as interesting to a Tyke as Minneapolis, and the kit available to Ypres Company in Longmoor was nowhere near what individuals would have seen had they deployed to the US, the Company had an excellent camp and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The quality of the training, thanks to the PSIs, was of a very high standard and more relevant to the soldiers' needs. Individuals learnt more than they would have done had they been working with the Americans and above all commanders were allowed to command and individual soldiers were allowed to fulfil their appropriate role. That said, the Company is anxiously waiting to see where annual training will be in 2002, it is very much hoped that this will be somewhere abroad.

Major Jeremy G. Hughes
OC Ypres



Ypres Company on completion of the FTX during annual camp.



The Colonel and Lt Col Hugh Le Mesurier with the Mayor at the War Memorial at Wasmès



Tyne Cot Cemetery

BATTLE



Colne Valley Cemetery



The Colonel moves to lay a wreath at the Memorial



y, with the towers and spires of Ypres in the distance

DS REVISITED, SEPTEMBER 2001



David Peckover sounds the Last Post at Wasmes

Lt Col Tony Coutts-Britton telling the tale of the first shots of the First World War



Photographs here, on pp 111 to 112 and pp 157 are by courtesy of John Keatley, Keith Jagger and the Editor.

FONTENAY COMPANY

The last few months have seen the Company out on the training areas again, though the limitations of the foot and mouth epidemic have meant that on occasion we have had to travel some distance. We have also managed to get both annual camp and some adventure training under our belts.

This year's camp proved a great success with, after several changes of plan, our two weeks spent on a field-firing package in Brecon. This was despite Brecon's amazing climate with bright sunshine one minute and pouring rain the next. Week One, based on one of the farm complexes, gave the Company the opportunity to do build up training, moving from the very basic on the zeroing range, through the annual personal weapons test (eventually for some), individual, pairs and finally fire team live firing attacks. There was also the chance for the majority of the Company to fire the 51mm mortar and the 94mm LAW (light anti-tank weapon), a first for most of the soldiers. Hopefully it won't be another three years before we get the opportunity again. Week Two we moved from the luxury farm complex with Colour Sergeant Padley and Sergeant Hattersley's good cooking to a wood on the edge of the ranges. It allowed us to spend the maximum amount of time on the range to fire GPMG in its sustained fire role. The machine gun platoon's skills and accuracy came on in leaps and bounds over the three days' training and they finished the week by acting as the firebase for two live firing platoon attacks by the rest of the Battalion. A fitting highlight for camp to end on.

August, as well as being holiday time, is when the Company goes adventure training. This year for a change, and to give our PTIs a rest, we went to Parsons House outdoor pursuit centre where the staff laid on the activities for us. It proved a chance to try out something a bit more adventurous than in previous years and to see what members of the Company were really made of. I'm sorry to have to report that the mere idea of crawling through some dark holes under the ground was enough to frighten off some very senior members of the Company. I would not dream of mentioning their names, but it is a long time since I have seen the Second-in-Command and CSM volunteer so quickly for anything except potholing.

We hear good reports about the four members of the Company who are currently serving in Kosovo. Corporals Irwin and Emery recently popped in while home on leave. They seem to be enjoying both Kosovo and life with the 1st Battalion. We look forward to having them back on our books in November just in time for the Christmas weekend. Some people certainly know how to time it right.

Our new SPSI, WO2 Roberts, has now arrived in post. He must be a man of very considerable strength of character as this is his second posting to the TA. We welcome him back and hope he enjoys his time in Barnsley.

Finally, congratulations to Sergeants Burton and Fitchett, Lance Corporals Deakin, Rees and Wallage on their recent promotions and all the extra responsibilities that come with it!

Major D. Baird, OC Fontenay

TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR

THE THIRD (MILITIA) BATTALION GOES TO WAR, 1914

"First Weeks of the War in England" - from Captain Barton's Diary

The prospects of war, except between Ireland and England, were not considered very seriously in North Donegal in the summer of 1914, so our orders to mobilise took myself and the one other reservist in the district somewhat by surprise. However, 6 August found me en route for Halifax to join the 3rd Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Most of the Yorkshire reservists had joined before I arrived and a large draft had gone to join the 2nd Battalion, no officers, however, included. The mobilisation arrangements worked wonderfully smoothly and by Saturday 8 August the Battalion was ready to move, so, in a thunderstorm, which drenched us all to the skin, we entrained for an unknown destination.

After an all night journey we arrived at Sunderland about 10am on the Sunday. Here we seemed to be quite unexpected and no arrangements had been made for our reception. After some delay, my Company, C, was ordered to take shelter in a parish hall; after much argument with the caretaker I arranged with him to provide some tea for the men, when we were ordered at once to move to the docks. Here, at last, we saw some rations, uncooked, our first in nearly 24 hours.

After dinner I was given a second company and told that I was OC Harbour Defences. Great excitement was apparent on the part of the local officials, chiefly from fear of spies, and most stringent orders were given as to admitting unauthorised persons to the docks. Soon after posting my sentries, in the dusk, two of the latter observed a boat creeping in the shadow towards the dock gate.

Disobeying the sentries' call to stop, the boat's occupants received twenty rounds rapid at fifteen yards range: possibly highly strung nerves account for the fact that, except for smashing one man's foot, no harm was done. There was, of course, a row and an enquiry, when it turned out that the boat contained some Harbour Police, who declined to take orders from the soldiers! The same sentries, later in the night, arrived from their post in great excitement to say that they could see signals in morse being sent to a ship at sea, and acknowledged by her, from the top of a large warehouse, in which we were billeted. Unluckily, though they could make out the 'dots' and 'dashes' they could not read the message. Efforts to get a party to go and search the top floor were futile: not a man would go unless I went first, so, with drawn revolver, and men

with fixed bayonets behind me, I had made them unload their rifles, we set out. Floor by floor we searched the place and in the topmost room we found the 'spy', an old man mending some machinery by the light of a flickering candle. Other spy alarms took place during our two days in Sunderland but in future all suspected persons had to be brought to me.

On the Tuesday we marched to Gateshead where we were left in peace till the Friday, and then through Newcastle to Earsdon. So far the population had shown little interest in us, but in Earsdon they were decidedly hostile; doors were locked and windows barred on our appearance and it required all the efforts of the local policeman to secure our billets. For three days my party were billeted in a school in great discomfort; on the 17th we moved to East Holywell, about a mile away, and took up our abode in a chapel, I having the vestry for myself. We weren't very well received at first, especially as I had a beer canteen just outside the chapel, but we gradually made friends with the inhabitants and, before I left, I had been invited to conduct a service on the Sunday when the minister was away, one of the greatest compliments, I considered, I have ever been paid.

Our chief occupation was the construction of defences, varied by spy hunting, the latter not entirely devoid of excitement; for instance one night news arrived by a civilian that a noted spy, with £10 reward for his capture, had been located in a shed near us: he was a dangerous man and the locals refused to tackle him alone. Again my people refused to go without me, so, much against my will, we started off. The door was covered by picked shots, men with fixed bayonets supported them and a couple of the bravest prepared to break down the door. They rushed at it with a battering ram, found it unfastened and disappeared inside, where they found emptiness. On our way home Herepath's Company, for some reason, opened fire on us, but only succeeded in killing a horse, the responsibility for whose death was still being argued when I left.

The spy fever became too much of a good thing and eventually I had to make my subalterns report to me daily at the Company Orderly Room, salute, and say "I must not get the wind up". This had an instantaneous and salutary effect.

A breeze with the local staff enlivened my last few days in England. At a Court Martial we sentenced a

prisoner to what we decided was the correct punishment. The General, a peppery old gentleman, ordered us to give him a different one, which we refused to do. A further order from him led to our appealing to the Commander-in-Chief, for which the local General ordered us to apologise; this we wouldn't do but, as I was ordered overseas at this point, I never heard the end of the episode.

On Friday 4 September, orders came for a draft of officers for France, and Umfreville, Langdale, Moore and Williamson, all old friends, Crawshay, Henderson, Downey and myself, started next day for Southampton. Here we met Parsons, Gardiner and Kidd from the K Battalion, (I).

We were kept at Southampton until the 8th when Parson's party, much to their disgust, were ordered back to their battalion and the rest of us embarked on the 'Kingstonian', fuming at the delay and afraid that the war would be over and that we should lose our medals.

In a considerable experience of France, including many unpleasant situations, I have never seen anything to equal the excitement and general 'wind' that existed in England in the first weeks of the war. France, even in the firing line, felt peaceful in comparison.

(I) Notes:

Barton (author)	Survived the war. Died 18 December 1944.
Crawshay	Survived the war. Transferred to Labour Corps, April 1917.
Downey	To hospital in England, 23 July 1915.
Henderson	Died of wounds, 2 May 1918.
Herepath	Survived the war. Later Lieutenant Colonel
Langdale	Later Major.
Moore	To hospital, 20 October 1914.
Umfreville	Badly wounded, 14 November 1914. Later commanded a Service Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment and was again wounded. Died 16 July '56.
Williamson	Died of wounds, 12 November 1914.

Scott Flaving

THE HAINES DIARY

Albert Edward Haines (1899 to 2001) enlisted on 24 September, 1917, and was posted to the 1/4th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. 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, reaching the 1/4th Battalion on 5 June, 1918.

An extract from his diary had been transcribed alongside the official War Diary of the 1/4th Battalion for comparison. It shows a different aspect of the war, as seen through the eyes of a private soldier.

Albert Haines' Diary1918, June

- 1st Finished signalling exam (at 49 Division Reinforcement Camp)
- 2nd Saw French Corpus Christi. Arrived at 2 o'clock at Reinforcements Camp, Millom.
- 1st - 2nd
- 3rd Left Millom at 9.15am. Arrived Walden Station at 11am. Caught train at 6pm. Reached rail head rest camp at 10.15pm.
- 4th - 10th
- 4th* - Left camp at 9.30am for Palmer Camp at Poperinghe. We were shelled whilst coming along but arrived safely at 1.30pm.
- 5th* - Messed about camp all day. Got ready to go up the line at 5pm. Waited at ration store to go up with ration party at 9pm. At Ypres, whilst waiting, saw Fritz come over and fetch down two of our observation balloons. Quite close. Started about 9pm for BHQ behind the lines. Arrived about 11.30pm after passing through heavy bombardment.
- 6th* - Had to go down to meet ration transport at 11pm and fetch rations up to BHQ.
- 7th* - Took a roll of wire up to A Company in the Front Line at 11pm. We then made another journey up the line to D Company with some bombs (sneeze gas).
- 8th* - Made two journeys with a box of bombs and trench stakes, also a journey to A Company with a box of ammunition. Both companies in Front Line. Started at 9pm. Done at 5am. Was heavily shelled just as we got back from last journey. Shell fell just about six feet away.
- 9th* - Made two journeys up to B Company with ammunition and trench stakes.
- 10th* - Was sent to join A Company in the Front Line. First time in the Front Line. About ten minutes in Front Line when company pulled out to do eight days in reserve trench at Goldfish Chateau.
- 11th
- 12th - 18th

1/4th Battalion War DiarySt Jans Ter Biezen

Major A. L. Mowat, MC, assumed command of the Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel R. E. Sugden, DSO, having gone to England on leave.

Lieutenant Colonel R. E. Sugden, DSO, was recalled from leave to take command of the 151st Infantry Brigade, 50th Division, Major A. L. Mowat, MC, was appointed to the command of the Battalion with the Acting Rank of Lieutenant Colonel

The Battalion was at Road Camp, St Jans Ter Biezen. Five hours a day were devoted to training.

Ypres Right Sub-Sector

The Battalion relieved the 18th Battalion KRR in the Ypres Right Sub-sector on the night of June 3/4. Details as per Operation Order No.188. During the relief of Ypres and the S. approaches to it were heavily shelled with "yellow cross" gas shells; fortunately only one casualty was sustained.

The Battalion was holding the Ypres right sub-sector with three companies in line and one in support. Owing to enemy observation it was difficult to move about the line by day and so practically all work and inspection had to be done by night. The Battalion was very active patrolling, at least three patrols being out nightly; these patrols frequently penetrated No Man's Land to a considerable depth but found enemy patrols also very active and enemy posts alert. On the night of June 10/11, 2 Lieutenant Woodward was wounded in an encounter with an enemy post while out on patrol. Apart from patrol activity the enemy was very quiet; there was little machine gun or artillery fire apart from a few "blue cross" gas shells which were fired several nights. Work consisted mostly of improvements to the Front Line.

The Battalion was relieved in the line by the 1/7th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment and went into Brigade Reserve. The relief passed off very smoothly. Details of relief and dispositions in Brigade Reserve as per Operation Order No.189.

Ypres Sector - Brigade Reserve

The Battalion was in Brigade Reserve in the Ypres Sector. Work was done throughout the night as movement was inadvisable - particularly for the two forward companies - by day. A quiet time was spent. An epidemic of a mild form of influenza, which had started

15th - Turned out for five hours working party from 9pm to 2am.

16th - Was working over a sewer. Stench most horrible.

17th - Was transferred to Battalion Signallers.

19th - 20th

19th - All the boys went over the top on a stunt, to round up some Jerry outposts. Was successful, capturing fifteen prisoners and a machine gun. Five of the boys were wounded.

20th - 21st

20th - Moved to Vlametinghe.

21st - 28th

26th - Rejoined Company Signal Section.

29th Went in trenches, left of Ypres for sixteen days. Eight Front Line, four reserve, four support.

30th Went out on patrol in No Man's Land for 300 yards plus.

1918, July

1st *1st* - Went out on patrol in No Man's Land for 300 yards plus.

- 14th *2nd* - Went out on patrol in No Man's Land for 300 yards plus.

3rd - Went out on patrol in No Man's Land for 300 yards plus. Got within fifty yards of one of Jerry's posts. Nothing happened.

4th - We opened a barrage and severe gunfire at the Jerry and then shrapnel and other shells. Barrage lifted at 12. Went out into No Man's Land at 1.30am. Got the wind up, thought we had run into a patrol of Jerries but it turned out to be one of ours..

while the Battalion was in the line, caused some trouble, a number of officers and ORs having to go to hospital or to B Echelon. Much time was spent in preparing for the operation which, after postponement, took place on the night of June 19/20.

Ypres Right Sub-Sector

The Battalion carried out an extensive raid on the enemy positions opposite the Ypres right sub-sector on the night of June 19/20. The whole of A and B companies and two platoons each from C and D companies took part in the operation. The operation was highly successful, eleven prisoners and one MG being captured and numerous casualties being inflicted on the enemy with only light casualties to ourselves. Details as per Operation Order No.190 (with amendments and map) and "Report on the Operation".

Siege Camp

The Battalion was relieved in Brigade Reserve by the 1/5th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and moved to Siege Camp, the Brigade becoming Division Reserve. Details as per Operation Order No.191.

The Battalion was in Division Reserve resting at Siege Camp. Time was spent as follows:

1st day - Baths, cleaning up and interior economy.

3 days - Six hours work daily on the Vlametinghe Line.

4 days - Training.

Ypres Left Sector

The Battalion relieved the 1/7th Battalion West Yorks Regiment in the right sub-sector of the Ypres left sector. The relief went very smoothly and was complete before 12.30am. Details of relief as per Operation Order No.192.

A quiet day in the line.

Additional Appendices

Appendix 9 List of Casualties, June 1918

Appendix 10 Honours and Awards, June 1918

Appendix 11 Extract from "London Gazette" dated 18 - 6 - 18.

Major A. L. Mowat, 1/4 Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed CO 1/4 DWR.

Ypres Left Sector (Right Sub-Sector)

The Battalion was holding the right sub-sector of the Ypres left sector. The tour - sixteen days in all - was the longest that the Battalion had ever done in the Front Line (FL). Details of the tour:

1. Dispositions. The line was held on a three company front, each FL company having 1 platoon in the FL, one in support and one in reserve. The fourth company was in Battalion reserve mainly in the Ypres Defences between the Menin and Potijze roads. During the tour dispositions were reorganised somewhat, no change being made in the FL but support and reserve platoons being moved into positions further back.

7th - Went out on patrol.

8th - Severe thunder storm. Two of our chaps from D Company were killed by lightning.

2. Work. Much work was done on the existing defences.

3. American Expeditionary Force. During the tour a large number of officers and NCOs and also a few specialists were attached to the Battalion for instruction from 118 IR, AEF (30th Division). Most of them were with the Battalion for a period of 48 hours during which time they were attached to and did duty with their "opposite numbers".

4. Patrols. During the early part of the tour little patrolling was done as, owing to the activity of the previous Battalion, the enemy was very alert. During the latter part of the tour patrolling was much hindered by the nightly artillery "shoots" on the neighbourhood of Rifle Farm; these "shoots" were intended to cover the preparation for a gas attack (v.infra). Some useful daylight patrols were done particularly in the neighbourhood of the Railway Cutting, north of the Rifle Farm. On the night of 14/15th July, 2 Lieutenant Entwistle (D Company), acting on information which he had himself obtained earlier in the day, took out a fighting patrol in the hope of laying an ambush for the enemy when he came to occupy some of his forward posts; unfortunately the enemy was there before him and he was compelled by heavy MG fire to withdraw.

5. Enemy Activity. Very quiet throughout the tour. Some light shelling of the Menin Road and Ypres daily. MGs occasionally active at night on FL and "F" Track. No hostile patrols encountered.

to be continued ...

THE WAR YEARS 1939 - 1945

Major Peter Knight's story continues

In the spring of 1939 the 2/6th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment was formed and I was appointed Company Commander of A Company, under Lieutenant Colonel E. H. Llewellyn MC (Lu to his friends). I was glad to be so seconded. The War Minister, as he was then called, Hore Belisha, announced that all Territorial Army Units would be doubled in strength. It is said that upon hearing this news Skipton rugby team joined the battalion en bloc! Such were those heady days, spurred by the resolution to do something for one's country to offset the tide of German nationalism which was about to engulf Europe in its evil grip. In the same year the Germans renounced the Anglo-German naval pact, the Polish non-aggression pact and finally marched into Poland following the most brutal air bombardment of Polish cities. There is a tendency to play down the recollection of these days in a general spirit of reconciliation. I well understand and sympathise with these feelings and have no wish to open anew wounds which have taken so many years to heal. I am however speaking of the facts historically and setting the scene for my own brief confrontation with the old enemy, Germany, which twice in my lifetime had threatened all that I hold dear. When on 8 May 1945 Germany signed an unconditional surrender and the concentration camps were uncovered and the full extent of their bestiality was known, it was difficult not to feel the utmost revulsion for people who could be guilty of such obscene atrocities. It was only after the war that we were made aware of the death

camp for the Jews; their merciless exploitation of the populations of the countries which they so brutally subjugated; the torture chambers of the Gestapo; their cynical disregard for the Geneva Convention. All this is difficult to forgive and certainly should never be forgotten. All such thoughts were far from my mind as I listened to our Prime Minister reciting those fateful words on 3 September 1939: "We are at war with Germany".

The general mobilisation of all the country's armed forces had taken place a few days previously and already I was in command of A Company, which was then stationed at St. Bede's Grammar School at Heaton, Bradford. The new term had not begun and the premises were very suitable for a company headquarters.

We shared the premises with D Company under the command of Eric Stell, a splendid fellow from Keighley, who owned a magnificent Alvis four-seater open tourer which he allowed me to use to go to Martin's Bank in Tyrrel St, Bradford, to collect the men's pay every week. My CSM was called Alfred England, a regular soldier of the very finest kind. It was he who knocked us all into shape, who guided me in the way that old NCOs have traditionally done to prevent their young officers making fools of themselves. From him I learned all that I knew of the command of men and am eternally grateful for his help during a very difficult period of my life. All with great tact and grace. To my own credit I was willing to learn and had already learnt the essential truth - that I knew little of soldiering.

There was much to learn and in those days one learned fast. Conscript soon followed, but most of the men in my company were volunteers or former regulars. The company strength was about one hundred. The company consisted of headquarters staff and three platoons each of three sections under a section leader, a junior NCO. Two platoons were commanded by Second Lieutenants, Michael Selka and Frank Slater and the third platoon by Sergeant Desmond Joyce who, after the war, earned distinction as a Bradford solicitor. The HQ consisted of the CSM, the CQMS and a small number of other ranks who acted as administrative staff, company runners and batmen. Wisely I left the choice to the CSM, who picked out the most suitable men. My batman was called Private Kenneth Ward, who was employed by Bradford Corporation Waterworks Dept and always looked like a new pin. To him I am again grateful. Like me he also had to learn his duties as he went along. Despite the fact that he later lost all my gear in France, I formed a great attachment for him; for whither I went he went also.

We remained at St. Bedes for several weeks and ate very well, as all the catering was done by the school staff. It was a Roman Catholic school of great distinction under the headmastership of a Roman priest, Monsignor Tindall, a small chubby figure of a man with an agreeable smile, a role model for G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown and helpful to me in solving the many problems with which I was faced.

In the midst of these responsibilities I married Gwen on 16 December 1939 at Bingley Parish Church, which we left under an arch of Boy Scout staves. There were those who thought our marriage irresponsible in the circumstances, imagining that we might have a child soon to be rendered fatherless. My parents were wonderfully good about it all and raised no impediment. Of course we had no intention of starting a family, but saw no reason why we might not have a little happiness. It never occurred to us that there was any acceptable alternative.

After many weeks at St. Bedes, A Company was sent on detachment to "The Knoll" a large detached house in extensive grounds on a hill-top in Shipley. There we were to continue our battle training, such as it was, for not one of us had had any battle experience, apart from the CO in the First World War who was too busy with administrative matters to spare much time with his officers. By this time I was getting the feel of things and, under the unobtrusive guidance of Sandy England - as the men referred to the CSM, was making a success of my command, due, I am bound to admit, to a degree of self-confidence which I felt, but could hardly justify. At this time there was an all-in wrestler in Bradford who fought under the pseudonym 'Cocky Knight' and on more than one occasion I heard it applied with reference to myself by some of my fellow officers. Such was their perception of me. I was not dismayed. It was not very flattering but it hardly reflected a timorous disposition which would have been more apt. Our training exercises decreed that we should undergo the test of a ten mile route march with full kit. In the case of the officers the kit was weighed, so that there would be no suggestion that they were to be exempted from the full

rigour of the march. It was a gruelling experience. I had never walked so far in all my life and never carried such a load. I doubted my ability to complete the task but as we marched along with myself in the vanguard I was hardly in a position to show signs of weakness.

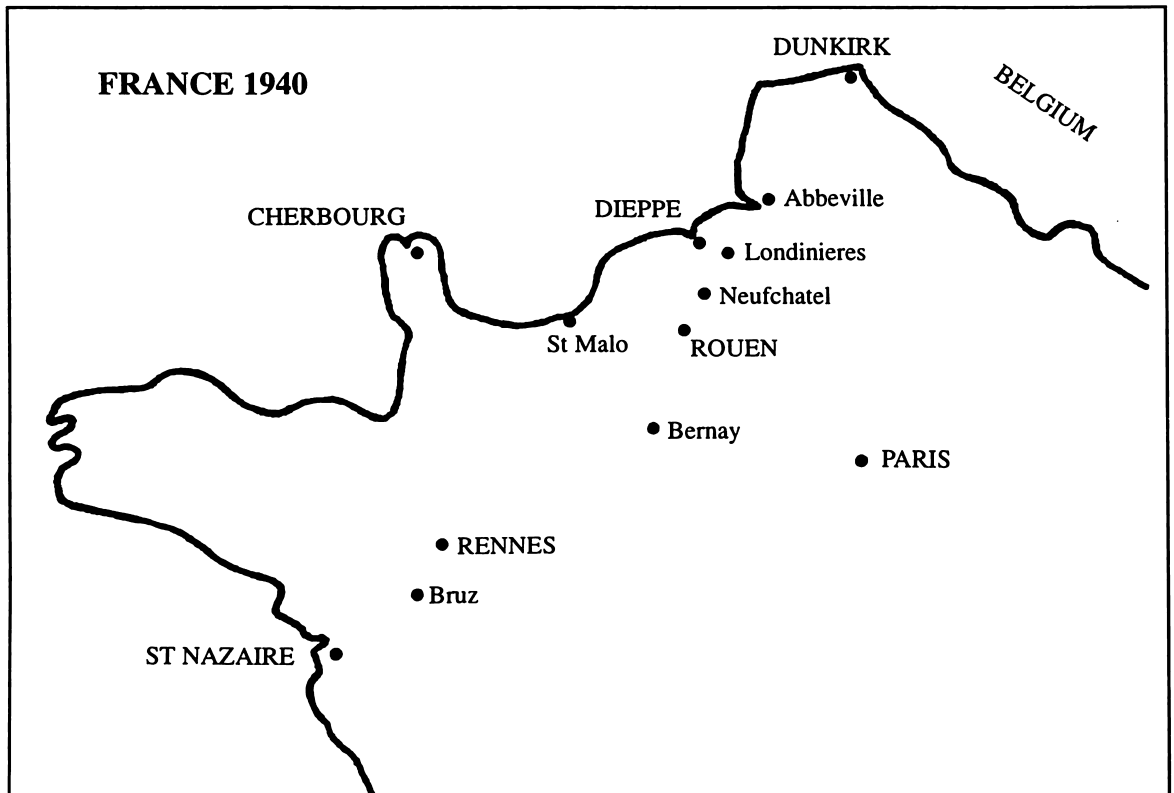
During the period I am now recounting I was sent on a three-week weapon training course at Hythe in Kent. I travelled by train to London and stayed the night with my brother Arthur and then went on to Hythe the following day. I had arranged to stay in a hotel and for Gwen to join me there. In this I was fortunate for when I had married, shortly before, my leave had been cut down from forty eight to thirty six hours so we only had one night together and that had been interrupted by an air raid warning - but that is another story. The Army Weapon Training establishment at Hythe was a national institution of great renown and I was very lucky to have been selected. The war had not yet reached the environs of this school so far, as was evident from the regimen I was privileged to enjoy for a brief period. Training sessions in the morning and afternoon were made to coincide with 'elevenses' and 'cup of tea time' and, as we were invariably outdoors, the venue was usually in a marquee strategically placed in the grounds, when a motorised trolley would appear and we would be fortified with hot drinks and sausage rolls. The officer trainees were formed into squads under an experienced NCO who treated us like the gentlemen we were supposed to be. During bayonet training we were made to advance on dummy enemy with piercing cries and aim unerringly for the vital parts. As I ran screaming at my imaginary foe, my NCO instructor ran alongside shouting "Come on Mr Knight - you couldn't knock the skin off a rice pudding, Sir"! The remark, like many others of equal pungency, was well-rehearsed, as was the instructional routine itself. Nevertheless I believe there was some truth in the observation! Whilst on the course I developed German Measles, but I did not go 'sick', a fact appreciated by my instructor who suggested I kept two paces from everyone else, but otherwise showed his appreciation of my determination to do my best. I passed out with a top grade 'A' and was much gratified. On my return to unit I was shortly thereafter promoted Captain - I had two more pips. I was no longer a pip-squeak!

On 28 April 1940, two days after my 24th birthday, we embarked at Southampton on the 2,000 ton ship 'Bruges' and in foggy weather arrived at Cherbourg the following morning. Our ultimate destination was St. Nazaire where, we were informed, we should be regarded as a pioneer unit carrying out important work on the lines of communication. When we arrived at Southampton I was the first to leave the train and was immediately detailed as Ship's Adjutant by the railway transport officer for the station and was instructed to report to the Captain, Royal Navy, in order to receive embarkation orders. I was given a large gin and made to feel very comfortable with a cabin of my own. We duly embarked and looked forward to a hot meal which the Quartermaster's staff had prepared. This was to have been the inevitable stew which figured so prominently in our diet. Unfortunately, the cooks had not mastered the art of keeping food in 'hay boxes', a form of

container which was supposed to keep food hot on the 'thermos' principle - but when these were opened there was an appalling smell and it was evident that the stew was rancid. Over the side it went but, landlubbers to a man, the QM's men put it over to the windward side of the ship and when we arrived in France it seemed as if the whole of the battalion had suffered from mal-demer! I was reprimanded by the First Lieutenant RN who continued to ply me with gin. I arrived tired, hungry and almost euphoric.

We were given a very cordial welcome by the population and entrained for our destination which we reached on the morning of 30 April. Here we were given a civic reception, but all I recall was standing on parade for what seemed an hour to be addressed finally by an

aged French Officer of some distinction, much be-medalled from the 1914-18 war. The address, in French, long and unintelligible to us, concluded, we marched to a camp near the docks for a variety of duties, principally the unloading of ships. The officers were more fortunate being billeted in a hotel at La Baule, a popular resort in Brittany. I was there for but a short time, for my Company was again singled out for detachment duties, this time to a hutted camp next to an army catering school. Here we lived, like guinea pigs, on the fat of the land, such was the wonderful variety of fare. Little did we expect to go on to such a severe diet so shortly after. Indeed within a few days the CO received warning that we might have to take a more active role.



to be continued ...

‘D’ COMPANY YORKSHIRE (N&W) ARMY CADET FORCE

Dinner, 21 July

This was our Annual Ladies' Night Dinner which was attended by our Commandant, Colonel Stephen Ashby and his wife Jane, together with 36 other retired and serving officers and their wives. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and it also gave us chance to renew old acquaintances. We were also joined by the Company HQ staff from both C and E Companies YACF.

Annual Camp, 5-17 August, Wretham

Saturday 4 August saw all the Company HQ staff setting off for annual camp at Thetford - a day earlier than the Cadets. This was to ensure that Company HQs were up and running and that all the logistics were in place ready for the mass invasion on the Sunday. This worked very well and could become the normal course of events for future annual camps. Sunday saw our 130 senior and junior cadets arrive and after settling in they

were quickly into their separate training programmes. The first week for the seniors was very much a military programme, whilst the juniors' programme was more adventure training based. On Friday of the first week (10 August) we held our Officers' Mess Dinner, but we were unaware that our County Training Officer, Major Alan Hooks, would be present. Alan had decided to leave us due to increased work commitments; he will be sorely missed and we wish him every success for the future.

On Saturday 11 August we said goodbye to our junior cadets who returned to Yorkshire. The senior cadets then started preparations for their 48 hour Field Training Exercise. This was a very good exercise which saw the cadets using all their military and fieldcraft skills and it culminated in a dawn attack on the Bailey Bridge which was being held by the enemy force. Lots of smoke, but drifting the wrong way! After the FTX they returned to camp, went swimming and then got ready for the County Inter Company Competitions which were held on Thursday. D Company seemed to come second in all the competitions, but this was a very creditable result in view of us entering scratch teams, but, no prizes for second! Still, better luck next year. After the competitions, Friday morning was the usual panic to pack, clean up and be ready for the coach transport to return the very tired cadets and adults back home to Yorkshire. Overall, a very good camp.

SSAFA Collection at Camp

Whilst at annual camp we were asked if we could raise some funds for SSAFA. It was decided that a collection box would be put on the bar in both the Officers' and the Sergeants' messes. After hearing about this, our Company Sergeant Major, Brian Yardley, announced that if the sum of £100 was raised, then he would agree to having his trademark moustache shaved off. He then foolishly announced that if £300 was raised, then he would have his moustache, eyebrows and all his hair shaved off! The day before the deadline only £130 had been raised, but just 24 hours later this increased to £340, so he had to submit to being shaved in public. All our senior cadets enjoyed this because they each took turns in snipping some of Brian's hair off prior to the shaving. By the end of camp, £480 had been raised for SSAFA and this money has now been handed over through the County RSM, RSM Taylor. That should teach Brian to keep his mouth shut, no matter how worthy the cause.

Affiliation between the Dukes' Army Cadets and the Wellington Rifles Royal Canadian Army Cadets

At 1930hrs on 18 June 2001, exactly 186 years after the Battle of Waterloo (18 June 1815) in the Canadian Forces Armoury, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, a small piece of 'Dukes' Army Cadet Force history took place.

It had taken two years of planning and obtaining unofficial permission behind the scenes by Major B. Johnson, ACF and Captain H. Kerkhoff, RCAC to form an affiliation between the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Army Cadet Force in Yorkshire and the Wellington Rifles, Royal Canadian Army Cadets in Guelph, Canada. The city of Guelph in the county of

Wellington is approximately 100km west of Toronto, Ontario. It has a population of about 80,000 and is a university town. The Army Cadets are located in a 100 year old armoury, which they share with their affiliated unit, the 11th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery and a Canadian Air Cadet Squadron. The affiliation certificate was designed and produced by Major Johnson and Captain S. Marren of D Company Yorkshire (New), ACF.

The history of the Wellington Rifles Army Cadet Corp goes back to 1882 when the Highland Cadets were raised at The Guelph Grammar School by a Captain Walter Clark, a Crimean War Veteran. They were re-designated as a Rifle (Infantry) Cadet Corp under the title 'The Wellington Rifles' in 1976. The original Wellington Rifles trace their history back to 1846 when a militia regiment was raised with the name the 1st Battalion Waterloo Regiment. In 1866 it was renamed 30th Regiment, Wellington Battalion of Rifles. In 1920 the Regiment was renamed yet again to the Wellington Rifles.

Three years prior to World War II the Regiment was disbanded only to be reformed again during the war as the 54th Battery of the 11th Field Regiment. At present the 11th Field Regiment is still in existence as a reserve regiment and the Wellington Rifles Cadet Corp has been affiliated with them since World War II.

The cap badge is the crest of the Duke of Wellington above a Maltese Cross, which is the traditional designation of rifle regiments, and the letters 'WR' (Wellington Rifles) in a circle in the centre of the cross. The riband underneath displays our common motto "Virtutis Fortuna Comes". The colour of the cap badge is in the traditional silver of rifle regiments.

During the parade on 18 June 2001, Major B. Johnson, on behalf of the Regiment, presented the Canadian cadets with an affiliation certificate and County ACF wall plaques as well as a plaque provided by Major P. Cole of D Company Yorkshire (N and W) ACF.

A short speech about the Dukes and its cadet detachments within Yorkshire was given by Major Johnson. Captain Kirkhoff of the Canadian cadets replied and read out to the parade the affiliation certificate. He then presented two Wellington Rifles wall plaques, one for each ACF County HQ Mess.

The new CO of the Canadian Cadets, Captain Alan Miller, gave his support to the affiliation and expressed the hope that exchange visits could begin in the not too distant future. In the meantime the annual small bore rifle competition between the two cadet forces will continue. The results of the competition in its first year are as follows:

Team Match

Winners	South Yorkshire
2nd	Wellington Rifles 'A'
3rd	Wellington Rifles 'B'
4th	West Yorkshire

Individuals

Seniors	Winner	Cadet Sidebottom	} South Yorks
	2nd	Cadet Slack	
	3rd	Cadet Chesnei	
Junior	Winner	Cadet Moss	South Yorks



Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force, Birdwell Detachment Shooting Team
Wellington Rifles Competition Winners: Major Barry Johnson, centre left and Sergeant Major Tony Smith, centre right, with from left to right: Lance Corporal Nicola Chesney, Sergeant Mathew Sidebottom, Corporal Liam Moss, Colour Sergeant Nicola Slack and Lance Corporal Tom Smith.



Major Barry Johnson, DWR ACF, shooting at the 2001 World Police and Fire Service Games held in Indianapolis, USA. The games are held every two years, the next to be in Barcelona, and are reputedly the world's second largest sporting and athletics events after the Olympics with over 10,000 competitors from sixty countries. Major Johnson was in the Great Britain shooting team and earned 7th place in the large bore rifle competition at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards and 3rd place (bronze) in the small bore competition at 50 yards.

Mutual Support

We were pleased to note the following in the August 2001 edition of *The Gunner*: "...D Company of Yorkshire (North and West) Army Cadet Force consists of ten detachments, seven of these are affiliated to the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, while the remaining three are affiliated to the Royal

Artillery. Until it was placed in suspended animation in 1990, 45 Field Regiment was their parent unit. Since then there has been a period in the wilderness. I should say at this point, that we have always been encouraged to take advantage of the support offered by the Dukes and we thank them for all their help." Well done our cadets.

H.M.S. SHEFFIELD

The Type 22 Frigate HMS Sheffield returned to her home port of Devonport on Thursday 9 August after spending over six months away from the UK patrolling the Caribbean as the Atlantic Patrol Task (North) ship, a task which incorporates the duties of the old West Indies Guardship that many will remember.

Having left Plymouth on a chilly February morning, we had a stormy North Atlantic crossing to start our patrol before reaching the much sunnier climes of Key West, the southernmost city of the Florida Keys, where, as well as attending briefings on the current local situation, we were all able to enjoy a well earned break and a chance to see the local sights.

Sheffield's task was to operate in the Caribbean to fulfil an important operational role, at times taking tactical command of a task force of four US coastguard vessels plus air support to conduct anti-drug operations. As well as acting as a clear deterrent to the drug cartels, we were to follow up on intelligence received and attempt to put a stop to known drug routes across the Caribbean. At times this would lead to high-speed chases across the sea, chasing the "Go-Fasts", as the smugglers' speedboats were known. Secondary tasks were to provide disaster relief if needed - a task that Sheffield had been involved in during her last visit to this area, dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch in 1998 - and of course, flying the flag. Our first chance to do this came soon into the deployment, with a visit to Norfolk, Virginia, to provide a Royal Naval presence at the commissioning of the USS Winston S. Churchill, an Arleigh Burke class Destroyer. In this high profile



HMS Sheffield at speed

setting, the "Shiny Shef" and her Ship's Company were fundamental to the success of the ceremony, which they opened by firing a nineteen gun salute, and providing an ideal nautical backdrop for the Band of the Royal Marines. The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhig KCB, hosted a reception on board Sheffield for over 280 VIP guests which included sixty admirals, generals and members of the Churchill family, notably Lady Mary Soames.

En route to this event we had our first success in apprehending smugglers. Having been called to the aid of a vessel in distress, we arrived to find that the vessel looked suspiciously like a Go-Fast. We took the two crew members on board before handing them over to the US coastguard, and were rewarded by one of the two crew being arrested on outstanding narcotics charges. After this, Sheffield continued the main tasking of counter drug patrols, which included a high speed chase in company with the Dutch ship HNLMS Van Brakel, netting 750kg of cocaine, before visiting her first Caribbean island, Trinidad, to give the ship's company their introduction to the glamorous sights of the tourist brochures.

On leaving Trinidad, we took a number of the Trinidad coastguard to sea, to demonstrate aspects of replenishment at sea, an operation that they are hoping to introduce into their portfolio by the end of this year. A visit to Barbados followed where we were able to lend some assistance to their coastguard and defence force, and provide a working party to help a community project. The Ship's Company also got their first real taste of Caribbean beaches. Prior to our next port of call, Antigua, we spent a Counter Drug (CD) Patrol assisting the Grenada Coastguard to conduct intercepts of drug smugglers attempting to land along their coastline. As a highly manoeuvrable unit at sea, fitted with efficient sensors, we were in an excellent position to be able to pick up the smugglers on radar, shadow them, and inform the units on the beaches in Grenada where the smugglers were heading. It was then time to visit Antigua, where the ship strengthened its affiliations with the ex-pat population of the island.

A short period of CD operations then took place, during which we worked for the first time with the new Dutch frigate, HNLMS Van Amstel, sharing tactics and ideas about countering drug smugglers, before arriving in St Lucia for a two day visit. Quite different to some of the other Caribbean islands, its volcanic peaks or 'pitons' added to the impressive scenery. While alongside, the Ship's Company took the opportunity to conduct joint operations with the St Lucia Maritime Police, again in the constant battle to contain the flow of drugs through the region. Our self-maintenance period in Curacao then marked the middle of the deployment and for some there was the chance to take a break and welcome families who had flown out to meet them.

After the maintenance period it was back to sea for more CD operations; a busy period during which we hosted the Mexican Navy, who were interested in our Lynx helicopter. Our flight department put the helicopter through its paces for a day, and the Mexicans

went home impressed. An intensive training period was then upon us. Even whilst away from the UK, operational and safety standards are continually monitored and to assist with this a damage control and firefighting training team from the staff of the Flag Officer Sea Training organisation in Plymouth arrived to conduct a five day training package at sea, ensuring that everyone remained up to the required performance standard for an operational ship.

Tortola in the British Virgin Islands (home of Pusser's Rum) was the venue for our next call and after all the damage control exercises, the Ship's Company were looking forward to a well-earned break. Tortola is a very beautiful, mountainous island with long white sandy beaches and clear blue sea that offered amazing snorkelling and diving on the coral reefs. A Queen's Birthday Parade took place here and the ship provided a 24-man guard, fired a 21 gun salute and a Lynx helicopter fly-past for the event. The parade was quite spectacular despite the intense heat. As we departed for another period of CD operations, our Lynx conducted an aerial drug spotting survey for the Tortola authorities, locating fourteen marijuana sites across the island. These were later to be destroyed as a result of our reports. Unfortunately, the night before we were due to arrive in Anguilla, we had an engine room fire. It was extinguished quickly, however it took some time to sufficiently cool the engine space before we could stand-down our firefighting teams. This didn't affect our visit to Anguilla, which was a little different to our previous stops as we were at anchor for the duration; the waters surrounding the small island being too shallow for ships of our size. This island is only seven miles long and three miles wide and is very flat in comparison with previous islands visited. Here, we also participated in a Queen's Birthday Parade and the Guard were invited to the Governor's lunch reception following the event. We sailed later that afternoon into Operation

Bluewater, a joint CD operation between ourselves, air assets from Barbados and the Grenada Drug Squad. It was during this phase at sea that we experienced problems with the second of our two Olympus engines (the high speed engines) which meant that we would have to exchange both this engine and the fire damaged one for new ones.

It was decided that our next visit to Martinique would still go ahead as planned, but Kingston, Jamaica would be cancelled in order for us to return to Curacao where they had the facilities for the twin Olympus engine change. The Marine Engineering and Supply Department worked hard to ensure that the two new engines and associated parts arrived and were fitted in time for us to sail five days later. Engineering teams flew out from the UK to assist with this major evolution and we also flew out a specialist diving team to carry out repairs on one of our propellers. Personnel not involved in the engine changes continued to work hard during this time with upperdeck maintenance in preparation for Captain's upperdeck rounds later on in the deployment. A sponsored cycle ride also took place in Curacao; the challenge was to complete a 65 mile cycle ride around the island between 0800 and 1600. A number of the Ship's Company took part, including the Captain and First Lieutenant, and money was raised for the Children's Appeal at the Sheffield Children's Hospital, which is the ship's chosen charity.

A five day visit to La Guaira in Venezuela followed Curacao. Quiet different from all of our previous visits, large areas of the coastline had been destroyed by the disastrous mudslides which took place two years ago. Most people, though, enjoyed visits to Caracas, which took approximately an hour in a coach. This was a busy visit where we hosted local Venezuelan dignitaries and British Embassy personnel and we also welcomed visitors from the Argentinian square rigged frigate Libertad which was berthed opposite us during our stay,



HMS Sheffield (left) conducts a replenishment at sea with RFA Gold Rover (centre), and HNLMS Van Amstel (right). Sheffield's Lynx helicopter watches over the group.

a particularly poignant rapprochement given the Sheffield history in the Falklands. Another period of CD Ops followed at sea for ten days before an all-too-brief thirty six hour visit to Grand Turk, immediately followed by a two day exercise with the Van Amstel, our Dutch counterpart in the area.

The Devonport based frigate HMS Coventry was by now leaving the UK to replace Sheffield on task and therefore the two sister ships met in Bermuda to exchange stores and hand over operating procedures and ideas. The return trip across the Atlantic was enjoyed in benign weather and one last visit to the Azores for a fuelling stop completed the deployment, leaving the Ship's Company looking forward to returning home for some well-earned leave.

During this deployment, Sheffield and her Ship's Company have been away for 181 days, spent 2,648

hours at sea, sailed 3,0133 nautical miles, used 6,200,000 litres of fuel and 9,100,000 litres of water, flown 130 operational sorties for 200 hours, of which 100 were at night; completed 266 deck landings, prepared 141,000 meals and cooked for 7,644 hours in temperatures above 94°F. Potatoes weighing 5,800 kg have been consumed, along with 17,472 sausages, 17,280 eggs, 2,429 chickens, 65,500 bars of chocolate and 13,170 packets of crisps. The Ship's Medical Officer required 73 sutures, 12,000 postage stamps have been used, 22 sports divers have qualified and physical training has taken place at circuits three times a day every day at sea. Over £3,000 has been raised for charity.

Lieutenant Sue Moore RN
Operations Officer, HMS Sheffield

H.M.S. IRON DUKE

HMS Iron Duke is undergoing her first major refit since she was commissioned in May 1993. This is an extensive repair and improvement package, carried out at the Rosyth Royal Dockyard (formerly one of Her Majesty's naval bases), near Dunfermline in the "Kingdom of Fife" - as this east of Scotland region is proudly known. Iron Duke's refit contract was awarded to Babcock Rosyth Defence Limited (BRDL) along with the refits for four other Type 23 Frigates, a Type 42 Destroyer, and all three Invincible class Aircraft Carriers. BRDL was awarded these contracts to compensate for the loss of promised Trident Nuclear Submarine refit contracts, which were shifted to the DML company who run Devonport Dockyard in Devon.

The Ship's Company that took Iron Duke to her last operational task in the South Atlantic and off Sierra Leone have moved on, and since the start of the refit in April a core of only thirty or so Technical and Logistics personnel have remained. In the summer the company steadily built up with more Warfare personnel joining the 'technocrats', which culminates with the arrival of the new Commanding Officer, Commander P. D. Warwick Royal Navy on 4 December. Early in the New Year the ship should be fully manned with around 180 Ship's Company.

During the refit many items of equipment have been overhauled or modernised, with perhaps the most significant improvement being the fitting of the latest version of the BAE systems (formerly Vickers) 4.5" naval gun. This heralds a new development in naval artillery, allowing improvements in Iron Duke's capability to conduct naval gunfire support for troops operating ashore, which could conceivably include soldiers from regiments such as the Duke of

Wellington's. Although expenditure had been focussed on essential equipment and machinery work, the habitability of the ship has received some investment, seeing much improvement in the junior ratings' mess-decks, the senior ratings' messes and accommodation, and the officers' wardroom and cabins.

Iron Duke will emerge from refit in mid February 2002 to embark on an intensive period of post-refit sea trials, at which point we will return to our home port of Portsmouth. These sea trials are designed to ensure that the work carried out in the refit has been successfully completed, and that new and existing equipment is working to design specifications. After this and throughout 2002 the ship will be heavily employed in sea training, naval exercises and some 'showcase' events; details of these will be reported in future issues, as they unfold. At this early stage it is worth reporting that in 2003 the ship is destined for a similar patrol to her last one, however, this will be a *North* Atlantic Patrol Task instead. This usually involves the assigned ship spending most of her time in the Caribbean, but as they say - it's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it!

Nothing further to report in this article; there should be some more exciting news of deeds done on the high seas in the next issue of the Iron Duke. The Ship's Company remains proud of her affiliation with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and hopefully there will be opportunities for some members of the Regiment to visit the ship, and vice-versa, as we emerge from our repair period and beyond.

Lieutenant Commander R. H. Hawkins RN
Executive Officer & Second-in-Command
HMS Iron Duke

THE BIRTH OF WARRIOR

This short recollection has been written from memory and without reference to any records. Thus the detail and sequence of events may not be entirely accurate, and I have deliberately skirted around some controversial items, as well as omitting any matter which may even now have a confidentiality aspect.

In October 1976 I reported to St Christopher House Southwark, then part of the MOD Procurement Executive, to become Project Manager Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle (PM MICV).

Having worked in the Infantry Trials and Development Unit in Warminster I was generally aware that some years previously a General Staff Requirement (GSR) had been written for a vehicle to replace the ageing FV 430 family which lacked the capacity, protection, firepower and agility required on the future battlefield by infantry battalions and in various other roles. A prototype meeting these requirements and incorporating Chobham armour had been produced in the early 70s, but had been swiftly rejected on the grounds of size and weight.

At this juncture the GSR was revised to call for a vehicle with an absolute weight limit of 25 tonnes with the capacity to carry a full infantry section and its kit, with improved conventional protection and incorporating NBC protection; it was to have better mobility and reliability, and for the first time the infantry vehicle was to have a fighting capability in the form of a turret-mounted 30mm Rarden cannon. The vehicle was also to act as the basis for a family of variant vehicles for use by RA and REME units.

A study was carried out, looking at existing vehicles and their suitability to meet the need. These possible options included the in-service German Army Marder vehicle, the US Army Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) which was coming to the end of development by FMC Corporation in San Jose, California, an upgrade of the existing FV432 and an extended version of the CVR(T) family, both of which would probably require the addition of an extra wheel station and major redesign.

From all of this the Defence Equipment Policy Committee (DEPC) decided upon the design and development of an entirely new vehicle to meet the GSR, with the work to be carried out, for the first time on a major vehicle contract, by an industrial prime contractor. Two firms, GKN Sankey and Vickers had been invited to tender and as I arrived in office their proposals were in the final stages of assessment by the MOD. Suffice it to say that GKN was selected and immediately appointed Vickers as subcontractors for the turret, which made complete sense given Vickers' long experience in designing and building tanks.

Once contracts had been signed, Project Definition (PD) work began and it quickly became apparent that two important issues had to be addressed before an outline design could be finalised.

First, the conflict between the required levels of protection and the overall weight limitation had to be resolved. A major question was whether to use steel or

aluminium for the armour - each material had advantages and disadvantages, and these together with the overall cost implications, were carefully analysed. However, GKN were more familiar with steel construction and this together with the recent discovery of some difficulties in the aluminium armoured CVR(T) fleet were probably the decisive factors in the decision to adopt steel. It is of interest that, by contrast, the American IFV was built of aluminium but with steel armour overlay to vulnerable areas of the hull.

The second area of immediate difficulty was the power pack. The engine could be a Rolls Royce unit based upon one already in use in British Army tanks and this would be a relatively low risk solution, but no compatible tried or tested transmission existed. David Brown Ltd had designed and partially developed one for the original MICV which perhaps could be modified; the US IFV was utilizing a very advanced transmission developed by General Electric, but this was linked to a Cummins engine, and while the latter American firm did have a factory in Scotland, there were obvious industrial, political arguments and difficulties to be considered. A further option would be to commission the design and development of a specific gearbox using an established company in the field, of whom Allison, another US company, was probably the best known. This matter rumbled on for some time, and Ken Lofts, the GKN Project Director, and I made a number of visits to the USA examining the possibilities. Eventually, Rolls Royce Motors were appointed subcontractors for the power pack and Allison was commissioned to produce a matching gearbox.

About a year into PD, the DEPC decided to re-examine the various options available to meet the GSR; essentially revisiting the study carried out some two years previously. Another period of intense work ensued, at the end of which the DEPC confirmed continuation of PD, but required me in parallel to carry out a study into the feasibility of adapting US IFV to meet our GSR. We immediately started negotiations with FMC to enable an assessment to be carried out, and I was loaned a REME Lieutenant Colonel to act as liaison with the company in California.

A complication arose almost immediately when IFV failed Operational Test 2, essentially an acceptance trial conducted by the US Army, largely on the grounds that the turret was not fightable. FMC was given a few months to put things right, and since the turret mounted a TOW missile launcher, a 25mm Hughes chain gun and infra red vision device, this was a major challenge. The stakes for FMC were huge and for the first time I saw the ability of US industry rapidly to commit major resources of cash and personnel to sort out a problem. Some time later and on schedule I attended a second OT2 conducted on a training area outside Colorado Springs and observed an impressive display of IFV's firepower and mobility, as a result of which the vehicle was accepted by the US Army.

From an early stage in our study of IFV it was apparent that while it should be possible to mount the

UK Rarden turret on the hull, the existing US fire-power package was very attractive to our infantry; capacity problems could probably be overcome; our variant vehicle requirements could probably be met; and we would have access to the American reliability figures. In short, our preliminary study was moving rapidly towards a qualified recommendation that US IFV could be made to meet all main features of the British Army Requirement. However some detailed design work would have to be carried out to confirm these preliminary views and I was authorised to start contract negotiations with FMC.

In the UK, GKN was generally aware of our activities in the USA; indeed Ken Lofts had accompanied me on many of the trips to the USA, and while obviously concerned about the impact upon their position as Prime Contractor for MICV, took a pragmatic view in having some informal discussions about the possibilities of co-production in the UK. Inevitably the word got round Whitehall and I found the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry beginning to take an interest since a large sum of money was involved. The Treasury was, naturally, interested in the cheapest solution regardless of the source, while the DTI was concerned about possible impact on UK employment. Inevitably, the

possibilities of offset deals if we did go down the IFV route began to be explored and a momentum started to build up, with the Americans initiating some proposals which were discussed at political level.

However, it was also becoming apparent that time was running out; the UK project was successfully ending PD and a commitment to Main Development was required if momentum was not to be lost. At the same time FMC had hardly commenced design work necessary for a decision in favour of IFV to be given, and without that no firm offset deal could be negotiated. So, almost in the blinking of an eye, the whole complex situation disintegrated.

Thereafter MICV continued through its development under my successor as Project Manager and, as Warrior, was brought into British Army service on 20 May 1987. Alongside IFV, Warrior first saw active service in the Gulf War when, ironically, it was fitted with Chobham armour cladding and overall vehicle weight, with which we had all struggled for years, quite rightly became secondary when faced with the real threat of Russian produced hand held anti armour weapons held in large numbers by the Iraqis. The wheel had completed a full circle!

Peter Mitchell

PATROLLING

see page 148



Left, from top: Lance Corporal Winspear (Intelligence Section), Private Seymour (Sniper Section), Sergeant Goddard (Intelligence Section). Right, from top: Private Keenan and Corporal Glackham (Orderly Room).

Albert Haines' diary references to patrolling in no man's land in 1918 (see pages 135 to 138) remind one of Tommy Nowell's article describing a recce patrol in Korea in Iron Duke issue 236 of Spring 1998.

Here Tommy reflects on the result of a different patrol in Korea in 1952.

The Battalion was transferred from the Yong Dong area to a new portion of the front some two miles or so further to the north-east called Nai-Chon. It was round about the beginning of December 1952 and the weather, by this time, had got into its winter mode.

The Battalion frontage was three companies up, with one company behind in reserve. The area covered was some three miles or so of hills and valleys. We had to have a system of patrols to cover the ground between ourselves and the Chinamen.

We used all the standard patrol patterns: standing patrols of three or four men just in front of our positions as eyes and ears; recce patrols going further out to gather information; and fighting patrols going out in an offensive role to harass, or capture, the enemy. We felt we had no man's land well covered.

At this time there was evidence that the Chinamen knew of our taking up a new position and they were keen to let us know that they knew. Some of our armchair warriors had dismissed them as peasants without the intelligence to do skilled patrolling and observation. But they were proved wrong when incidents occurred which left them scratching their heads. For example, we found that we had inherited pamphlets and even banners, delivered in different ways to our front lines. One such banner was some ten feet by eight feet, supported on poles stuck in the frozen ground and held up for our astonishment, or admiration! It bore a vivid picture of Uncle Sam filling his big bag with money at the expense of British soldiers' lives.

People wondered how they managed this despite our rota of patrols and vigilance. My own opinion, as a Sergeant sniper in charge of a group of snipers and actively engaged in observation and counter-sniping, was that we did not give them enough credit for what they did and we ought to have allowed greater credibility for what they might do.

Ex-Sergeant T. Nowell, MM

THE LANDING AT SUVLA BAY

The poem which follows was found in a book which belonged to the mother of the late Major John Bearder (ex 5th Battalion). It is thought to be by 10837 Private F. Collins, 8th Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, 11th Division, whose name is written in the same longhand script as the poem itself.

You may talk of Balaclava
And of Trafalgar's Day
But what of the 11th Division
That landed at Suvla Bay.
They were part of Kitchener's Army
Some had children and wives
But they fought for England's freedom
Fought for their very lives.

It was on the 6th of August
That they made the terrible dash
And the Turks along the hillside
Our boats were trying to smash.
The orders came: "Fix bayonets"
As out of the boats we got
And every man there was a hero
Who was facing the Turkish shot.

Funnels of ships were smashed
While some of the sea was red
But they fought their way through the foam
To the beach that was covered with dead.
Creeping at last up the hillside
While the shot and the shell fell around
They made a last desperate effort
And charged on Turkish ground.

The Turks at last gave it up
When they saw the bayonets play
For they turned their backs on the British
And retired from Suvla Bay.
There were West Yorks and East Yorks
The Yorks and Lancs as well
Who fought for good old Yorkshire
And were amongst the lads who fell.

The Lincolns, Dorsets and Staffords
And Notts and Derby too
The Border Regiments were there
The Rough and Ready crew.
Then we got the Manchesters
With the LFs by their side
The boys who came from Lancashire
Will fill our hearts with pride.

The Fighting Fifth were fighting hard
Northumberland lads you know
While the Duke of Wellington's as well
Were keeping back the foe.
And far away on the hillside
Lying beneath the clay
Are some of the lads who died
Whilst trying to win the day.

So remember the 11th Division
They were all volunteers you know
Who fought and died like heroes
Whilst facing the Turkish foe.

The landing at Suvla Bay in 1915 was part of the abortive Dardanelles operation and the Brereton/Savory History (page 257) confirms that the author of this verse and his colleagues were men of Kitchener's Army, without experience of active service. This was the first time that the men of 8 DWR had fired their Lee-Enfields in anger.

Regular Officers' Location List

as at December 2001

Brigadiers

A. D. Meek, Commander 143 (WM) Brigade
M. J. Stone, DCIS(A)
D. M. Santa-Olalla, DSO, MC, Commander 2 Brigade

Colonels

N. St J. Hall, BA, MA to UK Ambassador to NATO

Lieutenant Colonels

D. S. Bruce, MBE, SO1 DS JSCSC
S. C. Newton, MBE, Sierra Leone
A. H. S. Drake, MBE, HQ ATE (NW)
D. I. Richardson, MBE, SO1 Ind Trg Pol (A) Upavon
G. A. Kilburn, MBE, HQ NATO
G. D. Shuttleworth, SO1 GS HQNI
N. G. Borwell, CO 1 DWR
P. M. Lewis, DPAYD

Majors

A. J. Adams, SO2 Mil DEO
P. R. S. Bailey, SO2 J6 HQBFFI
J. C. Bailey, SO2 Battlespace Management
R. N. Chadwick, CATC Warminster
B. J. T. Faithfull, RARDE Fort Halstead
P. R. Fox, DSSC
R. N. Goodwin, 1 DWR
C. F. Grieve, MBE, ACA R & LS (S)
R. C. Holroyd, 2IC DWR
C. S. T. Lehmann, SO2 (W) ITDU
A. J. M. Liddle, SO2 J3 (Ops controller)
J. C. Mayo, AFC Harrogate
D. P. Monteith, 1 DWR
P. J. Morgan, Def Int Staff
M. D. Norman, SO2 MOD Whitehall
R. C. O'Connor, JCU (NI)
J. H. Purcell, BMATT Sierra Leone
N. P. Rhodes, E & WRR
S. Richardson, HQNI EC (Ops) Branch
M. S. Sherlock, SO2 R & LS
T. G. Vallings, RMCS
A. J. I. Wilson, 1 DWR
N. M. B. Wood, 1 DWR

Captains

F. Bibby, 145 Brigade
J. R. Bryden, 8 Infantry Brigade HQ
P. M. J. Cowell, Adjutant 21 SAS
A. S. Garner, 1 DWR
J. A. Glossop, 1 DWR
R. J. Hall, 1 DWR
R. A. Harford, 1 DWR

Captains

J. P. Hinchliffe, ITC Wales
S. L. Humphris, 1 DWR
J. A. Kennedy, 1 DWR
L. R. McCormick, BDLS Australia
M. C. A. Palmer, 1 DWR
R. B. Payne, 1 DWR
M. Robinson, Adjutant 1 DWR
K. D. Smith, 1 DWR
M. M. D. Stear, 20 Armoured Brigade HQ
R. M. Sutcliffe, Adjutant E & WRR
M. C. Tetley, 1 DWR
P. J. Wilson, 4 Armoured Brigade HQ

Lieutenants

C. D. Adair, 1 DWR
E. R. H. Colver, 1 DWR
S. J. Dick, 1 DWR
P. Lee, 1 DWR
D. J. Ogilvie, AFC Harrogate
R. J. Palfrey, 1 DWR
D. J. Pawson, ITC Catterick
J. L. Pearce, 1 DWR
K. M. Price, ATR Bassingbourne
R. R. G. Scothern, ATR Glencorse

2nd Lieutenants

A. J. Brown, 1 DWR
M. H. Cataldo, 1 DWR
D. A. W. Nelson, 1 DWR
W. J. W. Peters, 1 DWR
P. G. Smith, 1 DWR
G. P. Williams, ITC Catterick

Late Entry Officers

Major B. W. Sykes, MBE, TQM 3 Bn ITC
Major P. M. Ennis, SO2 Trg Estate & POL
Major R. M. Pierce, SO3 Coord CRR East
Captain M. Smith, RTMC
Captain B. J. Thomas, BEM, QM 1 DWR
Captain A. L. Jackson, 1 DWR
Captain A. J. Sutcliffe, QM (T) 1 DWR
Captain J. Frear, UFO 1 DWR
Captain P. Mitchell, 1 KORBR
Captain A. G. Pigg, MBE, OC 124 AYT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Lowenva
Fleet Lane
Twynning
Near Tewkesbury
Glos GL20 6DG

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I was very sorry to hear that Dennis Shuttleworth had died recently. I read his obituary notice in the ID with great interest, particularly as to his outstanding record as an army officer and on the rugger field, both as player and Captain. I particularly loved the bit about 'his wicked sense of humour' having been at times the unwitting butt of it!

I then turned to Simon Arnold's story about his first day in the Battalion which was an excellent example of it in action!

I first met Dennis at Otley Park in 1950. He was playing for Yorkshire versus Middlesex in the semi-finals in the County Championship. I was playing at wing forward immediately opposite him for the Middlessex XV. We were the favourites to win having several England players and trialists.

I had heard much talk of the 'terrible twins', Dennis Shuttleworth and Mike Hardy, who were soon to play for England. I quickly discovered the talk was reality. Dennis had the longest pass that I had ever encountered. It shot out like a rocket from the base of the scrum with deadly accuracy, giving his partner every advantage. That combined with his powerful darting runs and breaks around the base of the scrum made him a formidable opponent. We were lucky to hold them to a draw in front of their very partisan Yorkshire crowd.

The return match was on our home ground, Twickenham. It was a weather-beaten stormy day. I quickly noticed how Dennis, the evident leader of the 'terrible twins' partnership had so cleverly adjusted his tactics to the circumstances. We were lucky to scrape home with a penalty kick.

I soon discovered what a powerful force they were to have on one's side and what a canny Captain and brilliant trainer of teams Dennis was. His constant flow of short 'exhortations' such as 'Nail him David!' are deeply etched in my memory.

He served as a wonderful role model of a Captain which I attempted to copy when I took over from him.

I was saddened to hear about his illness and waited until he came out of hospital to contact him. I rang him and Jean, his wonderful true companion in life and now guardian, answered the phone.

"Yes, he would love to speak to you" she said.

We spoke of old times and old doings and discussed how the game was changing under professionalism. "The 'allicados' (a rude word for the top brass which translates into 'all I can do') of the Rugby Union have made a right mess of professionalising the game" I said. "You realise that I was an allicado myself" he riposted. "You weren't just an ordinary allicado" I said, "You were Top Cat Allicado himself!"

The familiar chuckle came down the phone. I could imagine the big grin, the flashing white teeth followed by his lifetime habit, the inevitable adjustment of his glasses.

"Well you certainly haven't lost your sense of humour!" I said. "No fear of that" he replied. He was a true 'Captain Courageous'.

Yours faithfully,
David Gilbert-Smith

From: 112 Donvale Road
The Original Washington
Tyne & Wear
NE37 1DN

23 October 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

My service in the 7th Battalion Dukes in 1944 was very short, but, catching up on my Iron Duke reading, I was quite taken with your autumn issue and the article by Lance Corporal Emery on her six months in Kosovo and her group's most bittersweet find. (See issue 246, page 71.) The photograph showed a namesake and I refer to WO2 Craddock.

Research into my family surname shows we have the coat of arms with argent and three wheat sheafs and the motto "Neither rashly nor timidly". Surnames can have slight variations over history, General Sir Richard Craddock, Tony Craddock of the present day Sunderland Football Club, and, just as important, having been to the annual dinner and AGM in Bradford two years ago, and the service in York Minster, walking down the main aisle what a pleasant surprise to see a public tribute to Sir Christopher Cradock, KCVO, CB, who, gallantly upholding the high tradition of the British Navy, led his squadron against an overwhelming force of enemy off Coronel, on the coast of Chile, and fell gloriously in action on All Saints' Day 1914 - all quite large, with the same coat of arms and motto.

Added to my previous contribution for the archives of the Duke of Wellington's visit to Sunderland in 1827, I now enclose a photograph of the 1944 Corunna squad at Brancepeth, County Durham, Training Camp. (*Unfortunately the photograph is unsuitable for reproduction but it will be kept in the archive - Ed.*)

Apart from HM Queen Elizabeth II's birthday in April 1924 being the same as mine, it was a Sunderland bus driver who taught the Queen to drive during her wartime service in the ATS.

Yours faithfully,
Bill Craddock

Editor's Note: But see on page 134 how the good people of Sunderland greeted 3 DWR in August 1914. And we think the Queen was born in 1926.

From: 11 Glencraig Road
Glengormley
Co. Antrim, BT36 5WJ

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

If I may by way of the Iron Duke thank everyone and anyone who helped to make my wife and myself feel at home at the reunion dinner.

Fred L, and his partner, who almost from the word go made us feel at ease, Mel S, and his good lady, plus the group at the dinner table, it's at times like that when I wonder why I left, but deep down I know why.

I cannot go on with all the faces that we came across, only to say thanks again, you will know who you are and I can only hope that we meet again in 18 months.

After 22 years it was nice to see and hear you again, but it was sad not to come across some of the men I was told would be there, ie Jim B, Tony G, Alan K and Duggie D. I know that I have left out some like T.M.-B.G. but I can only hope that you know who you are, all I can say is go on make that big effort and try for the next reunion in eighteen months.

I would like to say sorry if you tried to make contact and I did not reply, but it took some pushing from my wife and Fred for me to do what I did.

I, like many others, would like to thank Bob Heron and his team for a good night. If anyone would like to get in touch with me by E-mail, my address is:

geoff.russell1@btinternet.com

Go on give it a try, don't be worried if you think I may not remember you, it's still worth a try.

Yours hoping,
Geoff Russell

From: Ampleforth Abbey
York, YO62 4EN
20 October 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Irish War of Independence, 1919 - 1921

On Sunday 14 October 2001, in Dublin, ten IRA members were given a state funeral through the streets of Dublin, the Republic's capital, as 10,000 mainly Catholics watched and applauded the cortege of tri-colour-draped coffins and soldiers acting as ceremonial escorts. A sung Requiem in the Catholic pro-cathedral preceded a graveside volley and further military honours. Mary McAleese, the President of the Republic attended; and the Taoiseach or Prime Minister spoke. These ten IRA were said to represent thousands of casualties in a dreadful little terrorist war; and the British forces were demonised, the Irish being exalted.

The ten had been executed by hanging for treason and murder by the British Government at Mountjoy Gaol. In effect the ten had broken the rules of war; for constitutionally Ireland was not 'occupied' before 1922, but a part of the Empire (as were most small states then parts of empires). The IRA was no way comparable to the 1940s Resistance units.

Of those ten murderers, the principal was Kevin Barry, 'a lad of eighteen summers' (as his ballad had it), hanged after court-martial on 1 November 1920, for his part in murdering three off-duty soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, as they were out collecting bread from a central Dublin bakery. Youngest of these was a fifteen year old boy soldier of 2 DWR, Henry Washington (whose name comes from Durham). The next was but four years older, Thomas Humphries, son of a Bradford war widow. The next had reached twenty, Matthew Whitehead, son of a Halifax war widow. They saw themselves not as any enemy, but as soldiers of the realm - as much as had the Duke of Wellington, born in Dublin in 1769 when his father was Viceroy.

The Irish state funeral included famous ballads for the Mountjoy ten, but not a word or even a solemn silence, for those young 2 DWR soldiers caught by Irish terrorists far from their homes. On the eve of Barry's execution, the Irish went on a killing spree without discrimination: for instance, an Irish police officer - a much decorated Great War veteran from West Cork - was shot dead. Three constables were overwhelmed in their Kerry police post by thirty IRA; and five constables returning off leave were captured. Two died instantly, and the bodies of three were not recovered - it was said that they were thrown alive into the Tralee Gasworks furnace. A fortnight later the first policeman's father, a GP called Dr Kelleher, had to perform post mortems on seventeen ambushed Royal Irish Constabulary Auxiliaries: one other was severely wounded, but initially escaped till he was caught, long interrogated, and promptly shot and buried unsung in a bog.

Yours faithfully,
Alberic Stacpoole

Afternote: A Times letter of 24 October commented: "Is a similar ceremony contemplated in honour of the 77 IRA men subsequently executed in Mountjoy Prison by the Irish Free State?"

From: 60 Duchy Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2E2
30 July 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I am writing to introduce two Yorkshire-based Corps of Drums to you. Both Corps play drums, flutes and bugles, and both are looking to recruit new members. The details are:

The West Yorkshire Fire Service Corps of Drums

The West Yorkshire Fire Service has a well-established Military Band and Pipe Band. The Corps of Drums has existed for nearly 12 months and has a mixture of male and female members, with musical abilities ranging from very experienced to novice. The Corps of Drums meets from 7.30pm to 9.30pm every other Tuesday at the West Yorkshire Fire Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire.

The Yorkshire Corps of Drums

The Yorkshire Corps of Drums is affiliated to the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for Yorkshire and the Humber. The Corps of Drums was established on 2 July 2001 and was formed to maintain a drum, flute and bugle Corps of Drums in Yorkshire, and to provide instructors to local service Corps of Drums. Members of the Yorkshire Corps of Drums comprise ex-services personnel with proven military musical skills. At this stage the Corps of Drums will meet one Wednesday per month at Harewood Barracks, Regent Street, Leeds.

Both Corps of Drums compliment each other with some individuals being members of both organisations.

If you would like to know more, attend a practice evening, or can identify potential members, I would be delighted to hear from you on any of the following:

Telephone: 01423 507601 Mobile: 07703 191719

E.mail: greg@tunes.com

Yours faithfully,
Greg Tunes, BEM

From: 7 Chichester Close
Exmouth
Devon, EX8 2JU
Tel: 01395 273613
20 September 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I am currently in the process of preparing a presentation on Korea, 1950 to 1953, with special coverage of the battle of the Hook and the Dukes stalwart defence of this feature. Unfortunately I am unable to obtain OS maps depicting the areas concerned.

Since the presentation is helped in no small way by the use of large screen projections, many of these being animated, you will no doubt appreciate the importance of decent scale OS maps covering 29 Brigade deployments 1952 and 1953.

Should any of your readers be able to assist by providing maps or suggesting where I might possibly purchase such maps I would be extremely grateful. I have contacted the Imperial War Museum, Ordnance Survey and BKVA so far but have had no luck in this respect. It would seem that war maps of Korea from this period are something of a "no no" at this time, so I'm hoping that this letter will bring some to light,

Yours faithfully,
John Goodman

From: Hook House
Haley Hill, Halifax
West Yorkshire, HX3 6EE
4 August 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

The enclosed photograph is of members of the British Korean Veterans' Association on parade before marching to a memorial service at Eden Camp, North Yorkshire, on Sunday 29 April 2001.

The 150 veterans present were inspected by the President of the Association, Major General A. C. Birtwistle, CB, CBE, DL, MA, who paid particular attention to ten ex-Dukes in the front rank.

I hope it is of sufficient interest to be included in the next Iron Duke journal.

Yours sincerely,
Reuben Holroyd



Left to right: Tom Ferguson, William Turner, Alan McDermott, John Meyers, Edgar Gaukroger, Charles Daynes, Tom Wood, Johnny Sergeant, Ben Gunn and Dennis Cragg.

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 27 Jan, 14 July and 22 Sept 2002. Dinner TBC, probably 16 March.

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.

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

* * * * *

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER

The Reunion Dinner was held in the Hilton Hotel, Bradford, on Saturday 6 October. 236 people attended, including a party from the 1st Battalion who travelled from Osnabrück for the dinner. The toast to the Regiment was proposed by former WO2 Philip (Ena) Elwell. Now resident in Sheffield and currently Secretary of the Sheffield Branch of the Regimental Association, Ena joined the Army as a junior soldier in 1970 and completed his regular service in 1995. This was followed by seven years with the TA, finally hanging up his boots earlier this year after a total of 31 years' service. Ena, as he was known throughout his service - we don't know why, has always been a talented sportsman, but he excelled at rugby. He was an Army Cup winner with the 1st Battalion and represented the Army many times. In his response, the Colonel of the Regiment welcomed all who attended, with a particular welcome for the first time to the members of the York and Lancaster Regiment. He spoke of the 1st Battalion's recent operational tour in Kosovo and of the recruiting successes of both the 1st Battalion and the Dukes' TA companies. He pointed out that approximately 50% of the current 1st Battalion are

soldiers from South Yorkshire, the old recruiting area of the York and Lancaster Regiment. The Colonel explained the Regiment's plans for the Tercentenary year 2002, with particular mention of the Presentation of Colours Parade in Osnabrück on 22 June 2002 and the other planned events throughout the year in Yorkshire (more details of these events are listed on page 109). The Colonel explained that because of the number and nature of the many Tercentenary events in 2002, the next Reunion Dinner, which would normally have been in Autumn 2002, will be put back by six months to the Spring of 2003.

ANNUAL DRAW

The Annual Draw took place at RHQ on Friday 5 October 2001. To remind readers, the purpose of the draw is to offset the cost of the Reunion Dinner, which in recent years has been heavily subsidised from Regimental funds. The draw again proved to be an outstanding success and thanks are given to everyone who has supported it this year. A total of £2,776 has been received from raffle sales, which, after prize money and admin costs are deducted, leaves £1,550 approximately to offset the costs of the dinner. Winning ticket numbers are listed over the page.

	Prize	Winning Ticket
1.	£250	7556
2.	Weekend at Hilton Hotel	5357
3.	£100	0050
4.	£100	2819
5.	£75	3580
6.	£75	6196
7.	£50	7268
8.	£50	1217
9.	£50	0819
10.	£25	5615
11.	£25	0947
12.	£25	7427
13.	£25	0542

Note: Prizes have been posted to all winning ticket holders.

SKIPTON BRANCH

On 21 July 2001 Skipton Branch headed north to Thornaby, Teesside, for a dedication service at Acklam Road Cenotaph for Shaun Taylor, who was killed in Bosnia in 1994. The service marked the addition of the names of four soldiers who had died in recent conflicts. Major Heron laid a wreath, which was supplied by the RBL Thornaby, on behalf of the family of Shaun Taylor. In all there were ten members who attended the service. After a visit to the local Ex-Service Club for a drink and buffet we visited Stockton Market for a couple of hours, and later took a trip to the seaside at Redcar for a fish and chip supper. Then home in the early evening having paid our respects, but also enjoyed a good day out.



Major Bob Heron lays the wreath.

The Catterick Challenge 2001

On 6 October 2001, four members of the Skipton Branch attended the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick Garrison to accept the Catterick Challenge by returning to the Army for one day for training as a recruit. The team had obtained sponsorship in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and hoped to raise £500, as well as increase public awareness of the regiment through the local media.



Skipton Branch members. Left to right: Mrs M. Bell, Mr B. Turner, Mr T. Schofield, Mr E. Ramsbotham, Mr D. Normanshire, Mrs M. Normanshire, Mr G. Bell, Mrs M. Schofield.

The challenge was: Shoot ten rounds, climb the 35 foot wall, foot drill on the square and complete the assault course.

The four members of the Dukes team were Ernest Ramsbotham (64), David Normanshire (62), Alex Bentley (56) and Barry Blood (55). The collective age being 237 years.

On registering at the ITC it was discovered that there were 71 four-man teams; that it was a team event against the clock; all team members had to finish or the team would be out.

We, the Dukes, fielded the oldest team at 237 years, fielded the oldest competitor at 64, and won the drill competition.

The Drill Instructor on the square was a Black Watch WO2. Both he and our team enjoyed the old parade ground banter. As it was thirty to forty years since we did such things, it took us fifteen minutes or so to get it together. But it all came back - thanks to Big Harry Randall's training.

Completing the assault course, wet, muddy, puffing and blowing - but still smiling; it was all worth the effort. We collected £591 through sponsorship, and the total raised on the day was £22,000. Many thanks to all the people who gave us their support.

Ex-23632186 Corporal E. Ramsbotham



Left to right: Barry Blood, Alex Bentley, David Normanshire, Ernest Ramsbotham

Reuben Holroyd, a member of the Skipton Branch Shooting Club, has won two shooting competitions organised by the Leeds Service Rifle Club. Winning the Bennett trophy for Gallery rifle using PC 357 magnum at 25 yards, and the Bullet trophy for Sporting rifle, calibre .308, at 300 and 500 yards.



Reuben Holroyd displays his trophies.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr G. Batley, School House, Brownhill Primary School, Torre drive, Leeds, LS9 7DH.

Mr P. C. Burgess, Lowcroft, Torpenhow, via Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 1JD.

Mr M. Dowdy, Wolfson College, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB3 9BB.

Mr E. Fishwick, 5 Chatsworth Close, Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO16 7QB.

Mr C. J. W. Gilbert, Allt Grianach, School Road, Lochearnhead, Perth, FK19 8PR.

CSgt D. H. P. Harley, 49 Broad Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 9BY.

Captain R. A. Hawkins, 31 Springwood Hall Gardens, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 4HA.

Mr D. Lodge, 11 Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford, BD13 5AN.

Mr W. Morris, 217 Croxted Road, West Dulwich, London, SE21 8NL.

Mr C. Moulton, Magnolia Laan 9, 6711 WD EDE, Netherlands.

Sgt T. J. Newhouse, 30 Hornby Drive, Newton with Scales, Preston, PR4 3ST.

Mr M. A. Nuttall, 4 Willows Court, Les Grands Vaux, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7WH.

Mr S. D. Preston, 17 Quayside, Edgewater, Donaghade, County Down, BT21 0ER.

Captain R. J. M. Pugh, Foxley Barn, Church Road, Tadley, Hants, RG26 3AU.

Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Thorn, OBE, 19 Warene Close, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9SR.

Major J. W. Wood, 7 Aultmore Court, Kingswood Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 4UF.

* Mr W. J. Dodd, 89 Whinney Hill Park, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2ND.

* Mr A. T. Ward, 50 Corsletts Avenue, Bond Bridge, Heath, RH12 3NZ.

* Mr M. Wilson, 6 Thorpe Drive, Tranmere Park, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8JS.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

STOP PRESS - Promotion

We send our warm congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Nick Borwell on his selection for promotion to Colonel in the appointment of Chief of Staff, Headquarters Infantry, after he has handed over command of the 1st Battalion next year.

e-mail Addresses

RHQ dukesrhq@netscape.net
1 DWR dukeofwellingtons@hotmail.com
Ben Bates benbates@cwcom.net
Dave Mace, Alma Company 1976-82
 dave@macefamily.co.uk
Geoff Russell geoff.russell1@btinternet.com

The Thiepval Project

Readers will be interested to know of plans to build a visitor centre close to, but out of sight of, the towering Lutyens-designed memorial at Thiepval, which commemorates the 72,085 British soldiers missing after the battle of the Somme. At present there is no information available at the site and therefore no easy means of briefing visitors, particularly the increasing numbers of school children, about the historical context in which their great-grandfathers fought, suffered and, in so many cases, died.

Our own 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions were amongst those involved on the Somme, as was the 10th, in which Lieutenant Henry Kelly won his Victoria Cross.

Funds are being raised from British, French and EU sources and anyone who wishes to make a contribution should send it to: The Thiepval Project, Trust Department, Charities Aid Foundation, King's Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA.

Community Policeman of the Year

We are pleased to record that ex-WO2 Tony Sweeney (ex-Mortars and Somme Company) was personally congratulated by the Prime Minister at a reception held at 10 Downing Street in September on his award of Community Policeman of the Year. This was for his excellent work in the Chapeltown area of Leeds, where he has been based since joining West Yorkshire Police seven years ago. We send him our own warm congratulations.

Strensall Golf Course

In our last Keeping in Touch column we mused on whether Captain W. J. Anderson and his working party might just have been sent to construct bunkers and greens, rather than range butts in October 1892. We are glad to report that our suspicions were completely groundless, for we now have it on good authority that Strensall Golf Course was in fact laid out by one Lieutenant Denys Firth, the father of Brigadier Tony, in about 1901, when he was stationed at Strensall. It just goes to show that one shouldn't harbour suspicions.

Joint Operations

We did several joint exercises when I was in the JHQ in Cyprus and during one, when I was responsible for the reinforcement cell, Colonel GS came in and asked when some particular unit was due on the island. We told him and he went contentedly on his way. Shortly afterwards, we realised that we had given him the wrong information, so I tracked him down and found him back safely in Brown country. "Terribly sorry, Colonel. Bit of a nonsense I'm afraid. We gave you the wrong information just now. Those reinforcements won't be here until 131400 Zulu."

"Ah", he said. "I'm afraid that's not very clear. What day did you say?"

"13th, Colonel."

"Ah yes ... the 13th. And what time did you say?"

"1400 Zulu, Colonel."

"Right. 1400 Zulu ... Hmmm. No, I'm afraid that's still not very clear."

Whereupon a tired, laconic major's voice was heard to say: "About tea time on Friday, Colonel."

"Ah. Thank you very much."

An RAF Staff Officer

The Rigours of Service Overseas

In our last edition we outlined the circumstances of the death in the West Indies, from Yellow Fever, of John Stuart, whilst serving with the 33rd Regiment. For the sake of historical completeness we note that Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Baynes, Bt, whose research and kind permission has allowed us to publish the tale, is the great-grandson of John Stuart's sister. Moreover, intriguingly, he tells us that he has in his possession a silver teapot which had once belonged to Lieutenant Colonel C. Knight, John Stuart's Commanding Officer, who had agreed with the Regimental Surgeon in Gibraltar (sic) that John was fit to travel to the West Indies, but who was himself one of the first to die there in 1841.

A Village Goes to War by David Tattersfield

"A Village Goes to War" follows the men named on the war memorial in Ravensthorpe, a community in the industrial heart of the West Riding. The stories of these men are set in the chronological context of the First World War, enabling the reader not only to follow their stories but also the First World War as it unfolded for the men in the trenches. Of the 114 men named nearly half were members of either the KOYLI or the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The men in the 'Dukes' were primarily in the 1/5th or 2/5th Battalion and significant sections of the book are dedicated to the actions of these battalions.

The book is available at a cost of £13.50 including post and packing (the cover price is £14.95) and can be ordered direct from the author:

Mr D. Tattersfield
5 Hill Top Green Lane
West Ardsley
Wakefield
WF3 1HS

Officers' Dinner

Those who attended the Officers' Dinner at the RMA Sandhurst on 8 June 2001 may like to reflect that, despite youthful memories engendered by the steps of Old College, we grow no younger. There will be a small reward for the best guess at what Bob Heron has said to so upset your Editor. We are indebted to John Golding for the photograph.



Battlefield Tour

We forgot to mention that the tour enjoyed an entente cordiale and were reminded of Relief in the Line by the facilities, which are not only very Convenient, but also very Public.



KEEPING FAITH - The History of the Royal British Legion

On 11 November 1918 the guns fell silent. For the millions who had fought in the Great War, and for their families, the "land fit for heroes" turned out to be an illusion. Instead there was suffering and deprivation, homelessness and unemployment. Out of this was born a voice to fight for justice and the rights of the ex-service community - the British Legion.

The Legion introduced the inspired Poppy Appeal and insisted on an annual Two Minute Silence as an act of national remembrance to honour all those who had died in service. It went to extraordinary lengths to try to prevent another war, ultimately finding itself in discussions with Hitler. Even after the Second World War, the Legion's work was far from over.

In later decades, more battles were to be fought. Those returning from conflicts and peacekeeping missions such as the Falklands, the Gulf and Kosovo, needed support and the Legion now faced new challenges.

In 2001 the charity celebrates its 80th anniversary. Eighty years on active service. Just one inspiring aspect behind this milestone is the Legion's huge driving force of very special and committed people. They all have one thing in common: compassion for all those who have suffered in the service of their country. This thoroughly absorbing, illustrative and poignant book is the story of them all. (The above is the publisher's description, rather than an Iron Duke review.)

This hardback, by Brian Harding, with 496 pages and illustrated throughout, and published by Pen & Sword Books, which has been available to the general public at £25, is now available on special offer for £19.50 (including UK post and packing).

To order by cheque, send and make payable to:

The Royal British Legion Trading Company,
Janet Loze, The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JY.

To order by credit/debit card, telephone: 0207 973 7270 or e-mail: jloze@britishlegion.org.uk

A South African Holiday

Campaign Trails offers an exciting, fresh approach to battlefield tours in South Africa, covering both the Zulu and Boer Wars. We combine the historical involvement of the British Army in the first of the modern wars of the 20th century with visiting and seeing some of the finest scenery and spectacular wildlife that the country has to offer. In conjunction with Classic Safaris of South Africa, we are able to conduct battlefield tours of the Natal and Transvaal battlefields by vehicle, horse or on foot, depending on the individual's wishes, together with time to relax on the Indian Ocean coast and participate in safari tours on game and nature reserves. We are also able to offer you the opportunity to test your marksmanship with authentic weapons of the time! An ideal number for each tour is six, or a multiple thereof, but any number within reason is viable. For regimental or larger parties we also offer a train tour of the battlefields for up to about fifty persons, travelling by train and sleeping in comfortable hotels and guest houses. All accommodation is carefully selected and of good standard with excellent food and wines.

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Charles Aikenhead



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is essential that subscribers, including serving members of the Regiment moving on individual postings, advise the Business Manager of their change of address without delay

NAME

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM

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Please complete and send to: The Business Manager, 'Iron Duke' Magazine, RHQ DWR, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA.

Obituaries

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

Maj General J. D. Lunt, CBE, MA, FRGS, FRHistS

Major General James Lunt died on 1 October 2001 aged 83.

Born in Liverpool and schooled in the Isle of Man, he grew up in India, where his father was serving, and aspired to join the Indian Army after being commissioned from the RMC Sandhurst in 1937. However, his father's prescient advice that the Indian Army was likely to be short-lived caused him to join the 2nd Battalion of the Dukes, which was then serving in Mooltan. Before long he had opted for service with the Burma Rifles in 1939. Meanwhile he had met Muriel Byrt, the daughter of a correspondent of the *Delhi Times of India* and she sailed through wartime waters to marry him in India.

She later escaped from Burma with him, just before the Japanese entered Moulmein in 1942, crossing the river to Martaban with him in a sampan, whilst being strafed by fighters. It was in Burma that James contracted an amoebic infection, which may well have been the cause of subsequent breakdowns in health later in his career.

In 1949 he made a major career change by transferring to the 16/5th Queen's Royal Lancers and was posted to Egypt. He was subsequently to become their Commanding Officer and then their Colonel. Meanwhile, in 1952 he jumped at the opportunity to command an Arab armoured car regiment in Jordan's Arab Legion and he in due course wrote biographies of both Glubb Pasha (1984) and King Hussein (1989). He became a respected military historian, writing for journals as well as publishing fourteen books, including "Imperial Sunset" and "A Hell of a Licking - The Retreat from Burma 1941-42".

A period in command of the Federal Regular Army in Aden, previously the Aden Protectorate Levies, led to the award of his CBE, but resulted in another breakdown in his health.

However, senior appointments followed, as Director of Administrative Planning at the Ministry of Defence, Defence Adviser to the British High Commissioner in India in 1966, and Chief of Staff of Contingency Planning at SHAPE in 1969, before returning to the Ministry of defence as Vice Adjutant General. The last three appointments were at two star level.

In 1973 he declined an offer to command the Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces, becoming instead Domestic Bursar and Fellow at Wadham College, Oxford until 1983. He was a popular and effective Bursar at a time of much change, including, for example, the admission of women students into college accommodation and the need for colleges to let accommodation during vacations in order to raise funds. And he was able to keep up his writing.

Although he served in the Dukes but briefly, he served the Regiment well, in writing, as part of the Famous Regiments series, our short Regimental History, of which Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks wrote:

"I have read the histories of many famous regiments, but after reading General Lunt's prologue I felt there was nothing more I could possibly add".

At his Memorial Service, held, appropriately, in the Chapel of Wadham College on 31 October 2001, General Sir Richard Trant pointed out in his address that, although the formal obituaries in the press had reported accurately on James Lunt's life and career, they had failed to reflect his vivacious spirit and his sense of humour, which were well known to most of those present in the Chapel. Brigadier John Greenway represented the Colonel of the Regiment and Colonel Charles and Jo Cumberlege were also present.

James Lunt is survived by his wife Muriel and by their son and daughter.

Captain J. M. Hollinshead

Captain Michael (Hollie) Hollinshead died in April 2001 after being ill for some considerable time.

He joined 373 Battery, 43rd SL Regiment RA DWR in 1940 from the King's Liverpool regiment as a Troop Commander in the Hull defence area and served with them in all areas subsequently.

Hollie was very well liked and a great character, who became an ardent supporter of all things DWR.

He retired from business in ceramics to be a keen vintage car and steam enthusiast - driving his own road-going traction engines in the Cheshire area.

He attended some fifty annual 5th DWR reunion dinners before ill health made it too difficult for him. There can be few, if any, who have been more loyal in their support for these.

He leaves a widow and three family.

Major J. E. V. Butterfield

John Butterfield died in Hampshire on 18 November 2001, aged 82, just three days after the death of his wife, Barbara, whom he married in February 1945.

John joined the Regiment from Sandhurst in 1939 and joined the 2nd Battalion in India. Within two years he was Transport Officer, in charge of both animals and vehicles. In 1943/44 he was Administrative Officer of 76 Column in two Chindit expeditions. After the war, he served for a number of years at the Army Air Transport Development centre, attended the RAF Staff College and commanded C and Support companies in the 1st Battalion. Attentive to detail, with a penchant for staff work, he was also a good sportsman. He represented the Regiment at a number of sports, being remembered particularly for hockey, tennis and squash.

In 1949 he joined the Fifth Fusiliers in Gibraltar for service in Korea and later held a staff appointment at HQ Gold Coast District.

John took a "Golden Bowler" in 1960, left the Army and joined the personnel team at Gillette. He and Barbara leave two sons, Hugh and Neil, and a daughter, Gillian. Brigadier John Greenway attended the Thanksgiving Service held at Cheriton on 28 November.

Mr J. W. Rattigan

John William Rattigan died in Hartlepool on 5 August 2001, aged 81 years.

John first joined the Regiment in 1937, serving briefly in both the 5th then 1st Battalions, before joining the 2nd Battalion in India in July 1939. He was with the Battalion for five years in India and Burma (1942) until December 1944 when he returned to the UK, to be medically discharged in July 1946.

John is survived by his wife Joan. They were together for 55 years.

Mr B. Crawshaw

Brian (Nobby) Crawshaw died on 8 August 2001, at the age of 71 years.

Nobby joined the Dukes as a junior Bandsman in Halifax in 1945 and he joined the 1st Battalion Band in 1947. Most of his 22 years adult service was in the Band, including Korea, Gibraltar and Cyprus in the 1950s and he eventually became the Band Sergeant in the early 1960s. His following appointments included Rations SNCO in Osnabrück in 1965 and finally Officers' Mess Colour Sergeant until his retirement in Hong Kong in 1969.

Mr W. Wills

Ex ACC Chef Sergeant Bill Wills who served with C Company, 1st Battalion in Italy during the Second World War, died on 21 August 2001, at the age of 84.

Mr J. Goodall

John Goodall, who was a National Serviceman in Korea with the 1st Battalion, died on 1 September 2001, at the age of 69. In Korea, John was the driver/radio operator for Major Dick Ince.

Mr M. J. Gibbon

Michael John Gibbon, who was a member of 8 Platoon, C Company in the 1st Battalion in Korea and Gibraltar, 1952-55, died on 16 September 2001, at the age of 67.

Mr W. A. Ellison

William Arthur Ellison, who served in the 6th Battalion from 1938-46, in the UK, Iceland and North West Europe, died on 22 July 2001. Arthur was a regular member of the Keighley Branch of the Regimental Association, many members of the Branch attended his funeral.

Mrs Ruth Waller

Ruth Waller, widow of Colonel W. A. (Swazi) Waller, OBE, MC whose obituary was published in issue 239, died in York on 3 October after a short illness.

Mrs Rona Kershaw

Rona Kershaw, widow of Major Lewis Kershaw, DSO, TD, whose obituary was published in issue 245, died on 23 August 2001 in her 85th year.

Notification of recent deaths

The following recent deaths have been notified to RHQ.

Captain John Farrar Feather (Ex 6th Battalion 1943-46) died on 1 October 2001, at the age of 80.

Derek Wade who was a National Service JNCO in the 1st Battalion in the late 1940s, died on 17 October 2001, at the age of 72.

Major F. B. Murgatroyd died peacefully at home on 28 October 2001, aged 84. An obituary will be published in our next edition.

WO1 (RSM) Geoffrey Cork died on 12 November 2001.

Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Bennett, ACF, died on 5 November 2001.

Sergeant (Drum Major) Gary Ryder died in a car accident in November 2001.

Charity: The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association Fund

Reference: 234616

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: Headquarters,

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment,
Wellesley Park, Halifax,
West Yorkshire, HX2 0BA

during the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

The Charity Commission,
Woodfield House, Tangier,
Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL

quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>
Comments or representations can be made within one month from today (18 January 2002).