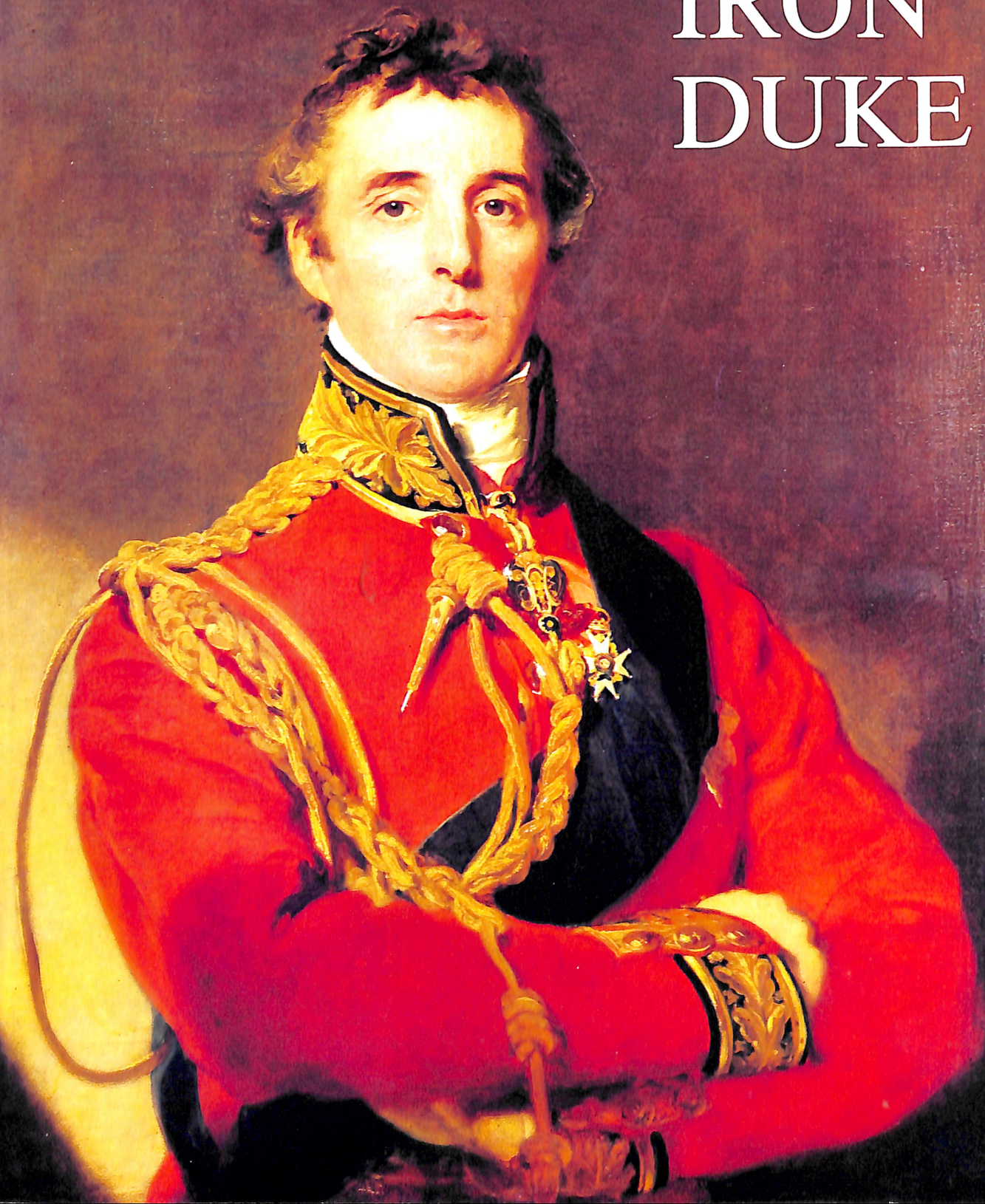


SPRING 2002
No. 248

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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BUSINESS NOTES

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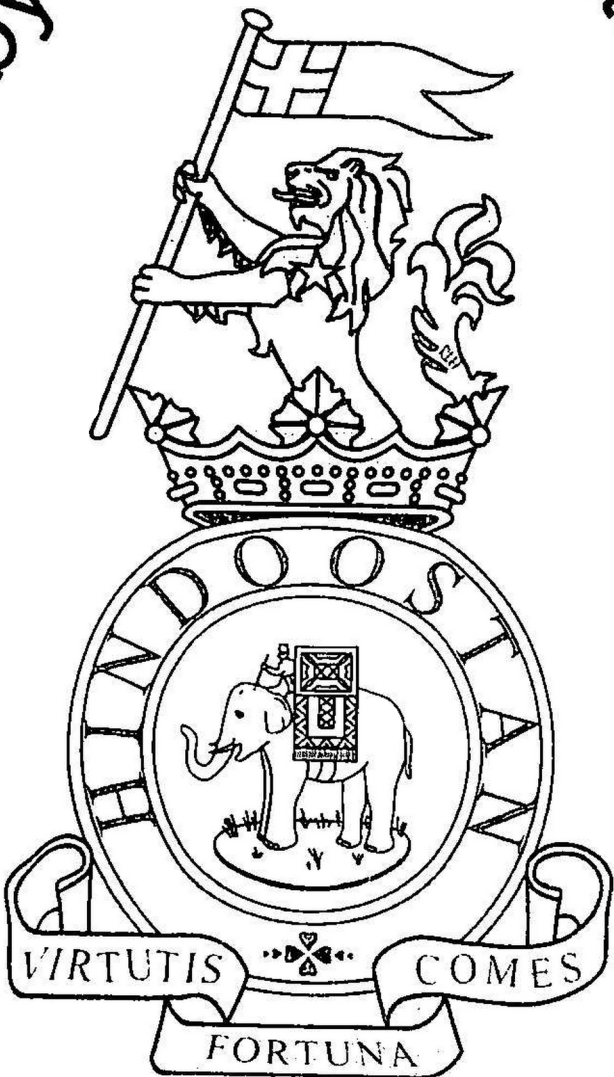
CONTENTS

Regimental Items for Sale	2
Three Hundred Years of Service to the Crown	4
Regimental Headquarters	6
1st Battalion	7
The East and West Riding Regiment	27
'D' Company Yorkshire (N&W) Army Cadet Force	34
Recruiting in the Army Foundation College	34
The Recollections of Mr P. Sentsi Rengma	35
Sport in the Regiment	36
Sport in the Regiment by Colonel M. J. Campbell-Lamerton	38
Letters to the Editor	42
Regimental Association	46
Change of Address / New Subscribers	49
Keeping in Touch	49
Obituaries	50



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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,
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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 D. S. Bruce, MBE

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

Spenn 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

Wath on Dearne

Wombwell

Endcliffe

Thurcroft

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



THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CROWN 1702 - 2002



This year, AD 2002, sees the tercentenary of the raising of the 33rd Regiment of Foot.

Queen Anne's Royal Warrant, below, initiated the process in preparation for the War of Spanish Succession under the command of the great Duke of Marlborough against the French.

The Royal Warrant by King George III initiated the formation of the 76th Regiment of Foot in 1787 for service in India. The 76th, in which the first Duke of Wellington briefly held a lieutenancy before later exchanging by purchase to the 33rd, was formally joined with the 33rd in 1872.

It is a matter of great pride to us that the 8th Duke of Wellington is our Colonel-in-Chief and that he will be presenting our new Regulation and Honorary Colours to the Regiment in this auspicious year.

33rd OF FOOT 1702

ANNE R.

These are to authorise you by Beat of drumme or otherwise, to raise Voluntiers for a regiment of Foot under your command, which is to consist of twelve Companys of two Serjeants, Three Corporals, Two Drummers and Fifty-nine private soldiers, with the addition of one Serjeant more to the Company of Grenadiers. And as you shall raise the said Voluntiers you are to give notice thereof to Our Commissary General of the Musters, in order that they may be mustered according to our directions in that behalf. And when the whole number of non-commission officers and soldiers shall be fully or near completed, they are to march to our city of Gloucester, appointed for the rendezvous of the said regiment. And you are to order such person or persons as you think fit to receive Arms for our said regiment out of the Stores of our Ordnance. And all Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, Constables and other of our Officers, whom it may concern, are to be assisting to you in providing Quarters and otherwise as there shall be occasion.

Given at Our Court of St James' this 14th day of March 1702 in the first year of Our Reign.

To our Trustie and Well-beloved The Earl of Huntingdon. Coll of One of Our Regiments of Foot.

76th OF FOOT 1787

GEORGE R.

Whereas We have thought fit to order a Regt. of Foot to be forthwith raised under your Command, which is to consist of ten Companies, with 3 Sergts, 4 Corpls, 2 Drumrs & 71 private Men in each, with two Fifers to the Grenadier Compy and one Compy, of 8 Sergts, 8 Corpls, 4 Drumrs & 30 private Men with the usual Comd. Officers, these are to authorise you by Beat of Drum or otherwise to raise so many Men in any County or part of Our Kingdom of Great Britain as shall be wanted to complete the said Regt. to the above mentioned numbers. And all above given the 12th Octobr. 1787 in the 27th Year of Our Reign.

By H.M.'s Command

(Sd) Geo. Yonge

Note: This Royal Warrant was sent by the Secretary at War to Brevet Colonel Thomas Musgrave along with three other Colonels to raise four regiments for service in India against Tipu Sultan who was hoping to obtain support from Louis XV in Versailles.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS 1702 - 1802

1702	33rd raised			
	1702 - 1713	War of Spanish Succession	33rd involved	
	1742 - 1748	War of Austrian Succession	33rd involved	Dettlingen
	1756 - 1763	Seven Years War	33rd involved	
	1775 - 1783	American War of Independence	33rd involved	
1787	76th raised			
	1789 - 1792	3rd Mysore War	76th involved	Mysore
	1794 - 1795	Netherlands Campaign	33rd involved	
	1794	West Indies	33rd involved	
	1799	4th Mysore War	76th involved	Seringapatam

OUR TERCENTENARY

Three centuries ... three hundred years ... several lifetimes ... history in the making.

In 2002 the Iron Duke will be drawing our readers' attention to many of the highlights in the long history of our illustrious Regiment. But, rather than go into detail, which can be easily obtained from our Regimental Histories, we

have chosen to commission some special articles to mark this momentous year. Appropriately, the Colonel of the Regiment provides an introduction. Later we have a short review by General Donald Isles of the place of sport in the Regiment, which is complemented by Colonel Michael Campbell-Lamerton's account of life on two British Lions' tours.

Recalling our history is entirely appropriate, as is pride in the performance of those who have gone before us and pride in our own performance. But we must beware both of any triumphalism, which is the pride which comes before a fall, and of any tendency to get stuck in the past. Those serving today and those being prepared for service tomorrow, must be readier than ever to respond to the accelerating rate of change in the civil and military life of our nation. For service to the nation is what soldiering has been all about. And yet...and yet...the 1st Battalion in Bosnia, or Kosovo and others in Sierra Leone and elsewhere have also been serving a broader purpose, which might be described as serving the cause of international civilised behaviour. This means that we must continue to operate from a strong moral base and with careful control.

Articles commissioned for later in the year will be provocative and forward-looking. So we hope that you, our readers, whilst celebrating our past, will nonetheless feel free to take up your pens and contribute to the debate about the future.

JBKG

INTRODUCTION

by the Colonel of the Regiment

When Queen Anne signed the order to raise a new Regiment on 12 March 1702 she and the Earl of Huntingdon would never in their wildest dreams have foreseen continued existence of that Regiment into another Queen's reign three hundred years later. Up to this time Regiments were raised for specific acts of war and disbanded afterwards. The war of the Spanish Succession, for which the 33rd was raised, created the establishment of the more permanent regular army. On the other hand, those in the 33rd in 1702 would perhaps not be so surprised to learn that conflict has continued almost without rest in Europe. After all, warfare has been a permanent fixture on the continent for centuries, so why should it cease? For us it is tragic to reflect how many have lost their lives in Europe in just the past century, a century which can justifiably be compared with the calamitous 14th century.

It is a remarkable achievement for the 33rd to have been an active battalion for over three hundred years. In the early years of our history there was a great demand for infantry, but in the last sixty years there has been so much contraction of the Regular Army that every cavalry and infantry regiment has dreaded yet more restructuring. That the Dukes have survived, not only intact but also in first rate order, is testimony to the quality of generations of commanding officers, officers and soldiers. The one single attribute which has sustained the Regiment in the last phase of history has been its consistent record of full manning. The other attribute has been the sheer solid reliability and robustness of this essentially Yorkshire Regiment. These things do not just happen, they are borne of a lasting loyalty to the memory of history and a burning desire to serve one's comrades. The record of the Dukes in WWII is a fine example of the Regiment's character and qualities. A more recent example is Gorazde in 1995 when the 1st Battalion was in a most difficult situation, but managed by courage and endurance to see the day out. A translation of our motto which was recently passed to me - "good luck is the companion of courage" says it all.

One important strand in the last 300 years has been the strong connection with the Duke of Wellington's family. In 1793 Arthur Wesley joined the 33rd as a

Major, when he was just 23 years old. We are all well acquainted with his subsequent career and proud to bear his name, but what is particularly special is that the Duke of Wellington of today is our Colonel-in-Chief. This is a unique distinction. It's also worth mentioning that his first cousin, the 6th Duke, was an officer in the Regiment and killed in action at Salerno. All this underlines the family influence which runs more clearly through this Regiment than through many others.

So, we have every justification to celebrate this singular achievement. The aim of the events over the year is to celebrate not only amongst ourselves but also in a way which raises our profile in our homebase, the old West Riding. It is with this in mind that for two weeks the Regiment, represented by elements of the 1st Battalion, the TA and Cadets, is marching through all our home towns and cities. The Havercake March, as we are calling it, will attract a great deal of curiosity and interest from the communities, but our aim will be to gain maximum publicity and at the same time focus on the young. The main effort is devoted to the Regimental Weekend on 22/23 June when the Battalion will receive new Regulation and Honorary Colours. This in itself is unique since the 1st Battalion's Colours and the Honorary Colours have never before been presented together. By the end of the summer we will have done the Tercentenary considerable justice. But throughout the celebrations we should all reflect on the good fortune that has brought us thus far. We must be grateful to our forefathers for their achievements and we must similarly remember many of whom gave their lives. But we must also invest in the future and give as much encouragement as we can to the youth of today, for it is they who will ensure that another generation celebrates the 400th anniversary in 2102 in similar style and jubilation. Now that would surprise Queen Anne and probably Queen Elizabeth too!

To all members of the Regiment whether they be past, present, Regular, Territorial, old or young I congratulate you on being part of the history that has brought us to this proud moment. Let us prepare for the future and commend all those who serve today and in the future.

VIRTUTIS FORTUNA COMES

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

HONOURS AND AWARDS

A year ago, in our Spring 2001 edition, we made reference to the awards made by the Order of St John pre-war to Brigadier Brian Webb-Carter and more recently to Brigadier Johnny Walker. We are now delighted to congratulate him, albeit very belatedly, and to record that Colonel Mike Campbell-Lamerton was honoured in 1982/83 and appointed as a Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Malta.

CHANGE OF PATRON

We note that Brigadier Dick Mundell took over in January 2002 as Patron of Huddersfield and Army Veterans' Association from General Donald Isles. After 24 years in the post we feel that General Donald well and truly earned the handsome silver salver with which he was presented on departure.

BEQUEST

Mrs Jean Bentley, who died in January, has most generously bequeathed the Regiment £25,000 in her will. Jean was the widow of Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Bentley TD, one of an outstanding group of pre-war territorial officers of the Regiment. Before the war he served in the 4th Battalion and after the war was Honorary Colonel of the West Riding Battalion DWR, then the sole Dukes' TA Battalion, as well as being a member of Council and a Trustee. Jean supported him closely in all his regimental activities and they had innumerable friends in the Regiment.

The Regiment is deeply grateful for this bequest as a memorial to her and Colonel Trevor's long and close association with it. Her bequest will be a most valued and valuable help in securing the future well-being of the Regiment for which they had both already done so much.

REGIMENTAL BROOCHES

Very belatedly, the Regiment wishes to record and acknowledge with gratitude the donation by Brigadier Pip Moran and his late wife Viviane of her two Regimental brooches to the Regiment in 1995. The design of both brooches is based on the Regimental cap badge. Currently, the larger brooch is worn by the wife of the Regimental Sergeant Major and the smaller by the wife of the Commanding Officer.

1 DWR 1943 - '45 OVERSEAS DINING CLUB

Major T. F. Huskisson presided at the 57th Annual Dinner of the 1 DWR Overseas Dining Club at Armoury House on 8 March 2002. The Colonel of the Regiment was present, along with the following officers: Geoffrey Bullock, Dickie Bristow RA, Richard Diacon, Ronnie Hoyle, Bob Heron (RHQ), Donald Isles, Hugh Le Messurier, Dick Mundell, 'Vic' Oliver and John Wilson.

Very sadly, Ernest Oliver, known to all as 'Vic', died in the early hours of 14 March 2002 in the Royal London Hospital, to which he had been admitted following an accidental fall. An obituary will be published in our next edition.



From left to right: R. Heron (guest), G. Bullock, R. F. Diacon, H. S. Le Messurier, R. K. Briscoe (RA), J. Wilson, T. F. Huskisson, Colonel of the Regiment (guest), E. Oliver, D. E. Isles, R. H. Hoyle, W. R. Mundell (guest).

1st Battalion

Commanding Officer's Introduction

As we enter our Tercentenary year - and out third year in Osnabrück - the Dukes have carved an enviable reputation for themselves as an excellent armoured infantry battalion. This winter has been a period of turbulence in which a very high proportion of the Battalion's hierarchy has changed over. This has been arranged so that, when I hand over command to Lieutenant Colonel Bruce in March, the new command team will already be in place to tackle the challenges of the next year.

Having been away from war-fighting training for about a year, the Battalion's basic skills are in need of a brush-up. The pre-Christmas and New Year periods have been largely devoted to courses and cadres. The second Potential Non-Commissioned Officer (PNCO) Cadre within six months took place in January and February, allowing those who needed to develop skills on the October course to try again. This has proved most successful and has allowed a progression in PNCO training to take place, something that we have been unable to achieve for some time. Our sniper and recce cadres will inject fresh blood into those two organisations and the standards achieved have been universally high. The plan for 2002 has been adapted recently to take into account a number of factors. Last year was 4th Armoured Brigade's training year, during which the Dukes were deployed to Kosovo. This year the Brigade is at "high readiness" and funding has been released so that the Dukes can go some way towards conducting "catch up" training. Corunna Company will continue, as planned, to go to Canada to act as the enemy for an armoured exercise. Alma and Burma Companies will deploy in April to Poland for training there. The first half of the year's training will be complete in time for the Tercentenary on 22 June in Osnabrück. Thereafter, training will continue through to a demanding test exercise in September 2002.

Tercentenary planning is now well advanced and it promises to be a marvellous and memorable weekend

for all those attending. The Regimental Sergeant Major has already started preparing the ground with initial drill rehearsals, and the new stands of colours will be collected and taken to the 1st Battalion at Easter. The 1st Battalion's involvement in Tercentenary events in Yorkshire will be extensive, starting with gaining the Freedom of Sheffield in April.

One of the biggest surprise changes to our programme has been inclusion in the Army's "Whole Fleet Management" (WFM) trial. This envisages units holding training fleets of vehicles with a large central pool of well-maintained operational vehicles held for large-scale training or operations. Needless to say, this has involved a great deal of work for the Battalion, particularly the Second in Command, Technical Quartermaster and REME Light Aid Detachment. WFM will fundamentally change the way in which we do business. In principle, it is a good idea, but we will reserve judgement until this year's trial is over.

Our manning figures continue to be healthy and we remain one of the very few fully manned Battalions in the Infantry. That said, Infantry recruiting has taken something of an upturn recently, which is a good thing for us all. January saw the completion of a Recruiting Group surge, Operation Northern Spirit, which targeted Yorkshire and the North East. The Dukes reinforced the Regimental recruiting team with even more "satisfied soldiers" than usual from the 1st Battalion in order to gain maximum benefit from this initiative. It is too early to say whether we will net many more recruits as a result, but initial signs are encouraging.

By the time these notes are published I will have relinquished command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Bruce will be in the chair. It has been a privilege to have commanded such a magnificent Battalion. Our soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers and Officers are second to none. The Dukes are in good shape as we enter our fourth century.

ALMA COMPANY

Live Firing Gunnery Camp at Bergen-Hohne

Bergen-Hohne is not a glamorous or glitzy training area, in fact for the duration of Alma Company's AFV live firing range package it promised and delivered some miserable conditions. Despite persistent drizzle, cutting winds, bitter frosts and bone-rattling temperatures Alma went about firing its 30mm RARDEN canons and 7.62mm chain guns.

Alma is relatively new to the armoured infantry role for a couple of reasons. First, the Company has been out of its vehicles for nearly 12 months, as a result of the deployment to Kosovo in the light-role to conduct urban patrolling tasks in Pristina. Clearly conducting armoured warfare of any form was going to be a big challenge. Second, much of the command element has limited

armoured infantry experience. However, Alma, being Alma, got on with the business in hand to the very best of its ability, albeit at times riding on the crest of a crisis!

Alma succeeded in qualifying all of its soldiers and officers who had recently completed the Gunner/Commander cadre. All crews successfully completed the progressive shoots up to the Annual Crew Test (ACT) which crews attempted with mixed fortunes. Sergeant Bevan still hasn't forgiven Private Cunliffe for his gunnery performance, nor has Captain Palmer stopped thanking WSM Colquitt for getting their crew through the test. The weather played its part too, making the day of the ACT as unpleasant as possible, in addition to losing a day and a half's shooting to a soup-like fog.

Much of what we did achieve would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of WSM Colquitt and our Warrior Sergeants Bevan (Kings), Kelly (PWO) and Lister (QLR). Mention must also be given to our newest Platoon Commander, 2 Lieutenant Phil Smith, who, having recently completed the Armoured Infantry Platoon Commanders' Course, no doubt saved the blushes of other Range Conducting Officers with his up-to-date knowledge. These notes would not be complete without mentioning our CQMS, Colour Sergeant Foster, who along with his staff provided a

most satisfying (and profitable!) bratty-stand, which undoubtedly boosted the morale (and waistlines) of all ranks.

Without question Alma progressed significantly and is forming up to be a cohesive Armoured Infantry Company. We are relishing the forthcoming challenges in Poland as OPFOR and Exercise Rhino Sword against Burma Company. May the best company prevail - as long as it's Alma!

Lieutenant S. J. Dick

BURMA COMPANY

Blank Firing: Bergen-Hohne

Burma Company deployed to Bergen-Hohne late on Sunday 18 November in order to spend two weeks fine tuning our armoured skills. Preparations had started days earlier with most of the Company involved in getting the Warriors down to the railhead. Once we had arrived at the Bergen-Hohne railhead the assault troops were dispersed to prepare the camp for the week, whilst the vehicle crews got the wagons prepared for the move to the Company harbour.

Our aim was to start at the very basics and progress to the more complex procedures in slow time in order that we, as platoons, were ready to conduct platoon attacks on the Friday morning of the first week. As the mist lifted and the sleep was wiped from the eyes on Monday morning the Company dispersed on to the training area to conduct platoon level training. We started by practising mounting and dismounting from the back of the Warrior and also assaulting positions once on the ground. With some hard work from the Warrior Sergeants, Platoon Sergeants and Platoon Commanders the Company was looking like an effective fighting force after just one day. Well that's what it looked like to me, as this was my first exercise using Warrior, and not far off the first time I had ever been in one for more than twenty minutes! Anyway I

was assured by WSM Elcoate that we were not quite up to the standard required and that there was still a great deal of work to be done!

With a lot of hard work at keeping the wagons on the road by the Burma Fitter Section, the next couple of days were filled with a lot of good training for the whole Company. Captain Lee and WSM Elcoate oversaw proceedings, whilst at the same time organising battle replens and exercises in order to test the skills that we had been practising over the first part of the week. This culminated in a 48 hour exercise in which the Company was put in to a tactical situation, starting with a night time force on force battle co-ordinated by Sergeant Hollis. 4 Platoon were put up against a conglomerate of 5 and 6 Platoons and, with the guile of Corporal Garbutt and the sheer determination of Corporal Hutty the contest was hard fought, with the SNCOs and Officers being the DS (not biased at all!). The outcome somewhat inevitably was a draw, as neither platoon could secure the holy grail, a cylume!

The exercise proper then kicked into action with a Company move to a replen, again at night. With the fog closing in visibility was getting difficult, as a few of the commanders found out when they were navigationally embarrassed; no names! From there we moved in platoon packets to a company leaguer prior to moving



Burma Company leagues in the frost at Gunnery Camp.



Privates Ludlam and Murray get stuck into everyone's favourite pastime - track bashing!

into a harbour for the night; again navigation was difficult, but with a little help from our pocket sized friends, the good old GPS, everybody managed to end up in the right place. Once in the harbour, recon patrols were sent out in order to identify the enemy we were going to attack at dawn, and once back orders were given and the Company was ready to go. 4 Platoon were up first, as always, and kicked off with a smooth move to the FUP and a timely assault exactly on H-hour. The assault was carried out well with the vehicle commanders visibly moving and controlling their individual units much better than they had been doing earlier in the week. The same can also be said of the assault troops who once deployed moved quickly and forcefully onto the enemy positions and destroyed them with maximum aggression and minimal confusion. Once 4 Platoon had finished, 5 and 6 Platoons both went through the same assault with similar success.

Once all had been debriefed by Captain Lee and WSM Elcoate it was time for the move back to Belfast

Barracks. Although that was the exercise finished for the assault troops, the crews were back the next week completing their annual crew tests and individual gunnery tests, mandatory for each crew every year.

The week was designed to get the Company up to a high standard in armoured infantry warfare; this was achieved through hard work from the newest soldier up to the most experienced. Huge thanks have to go out to WSM Elcoate from myself and I am sure Captain Lee, this was to be his last exercise in green kit and he worked as hard as if it was his first. I certainly learnt a lot from him in that week, and the following, and I am sure the same can be said for many a person in Burma. A hard but worthwhile week was enjoyed by all and we look forward to our next foray into Bergen-Hohne with eager anticipation.

Lieutenant E. R. H. Colver
OC 4 Platoon

CORUNNA COMPANY

The tail end of 2001 was to prove every bit as busy as the rest of the year had been for Corunna Company. Although Battalion Gunnery Camp in Bergen-Hohne at the end of November dominated the period, there was plenty going on in and around Osnabrück itself. Indeed, some lucky individuals even got time away adventure training.

Gunnery Camp itself was a massive logistical exercise, which required the entire Company with its fourteen Warriors, one 432 and attached REME vehicles to move by train to Hohne. Largely due to the efforts of the Warrior Sergeant Major and Platoon Warrior

Sergeants, this passed off as smoothly as one might have wished. The Company's dismounted troops then travelled up by coach in order to begin the first phase of the exercise, which was to be 'dry' training. The long period of time that the Battalion has spent away from Warrior showed at first, but everyone worked hard and soon Corunna had blown away the cobwebs. When the time came to 'live-fire', the dismounts not required to crew the vehicles moved, with the CSM, back to Osnabrück. They then deployed to Haltern Training Area to conduct a light role exercise. Vehicle stalking, artillery target indication and occupation of platoon

harbours, amongst other things, were covered to ensure that when we do have to 'debus' from our Warriors, Corunna Company's soldiers are more than up to the job.

Meanwhile, vehicle crews were putting the Company's Warriors through their paces on the ranges. Despite losing one full day to fog, shooting was of a high standard and the Company more than matched the army wide standards required. The best shot on the test day, after some fierce competition turned out to be Private Barnett.

The period before Christmas also saw the completion of the Battalion's first PNCO Cadre since the deployment to Kosovo. It was a Corunna soldier who came up top of the bunch, Private Overend. Consequently both he and Private Raynor, who also performed very well, were each promoted to Lance Corporal. Both have remained within the Company. (See article by Lance Corporal Overend in Iron Duke 247, Winter 2001.)

On the adventure training front 2 Lieutenant Pearce led a Battalion expedition to the Grand Canyon in the USA. Private Winstanley of Corunna Company went along and the expedition is reported elsewhere in this publication. Other adventure training was enjoyed by Lance Corporal Carpenter and Privates Bishop, McKinley et al who completed a basic parachuting course in Sennelager in early November. There are some individuals, however, that shall remain nameless, as the embarrassment of not completing the course might be too much for some. Shame on you.

Though not quite matching the adrenaline rush of parachuting, Corunna's football and rugby teams also performed well in November. The Company five-a-side football team, captained by Corporal Sheehan came second in the Inter-Company Competition, whilst the rugby team finished a respectable third. Special mention here must go to 2 Lieutenant Nelson who, in his first rugby match in three years, had his front teeth smashed! (He is, however, recovering well.) In the Inter-Platoon cross-country 9 Platoon came first in the Battalion with the other two platoons not far behind. The author can, however, take little credit as he was actually in the UK on the day of the competition.

Finally, it would be wrong to finish this article without saying goodbye to some of the Company's longest serving and best-known personalities. Several were bid farewell at the Company's Christmas social, organised this year by Corporals Sykes and McKee at the Osterhaus Hotel. This included Warrior Sergeant Major Hollinshead (to Sennelager), Sergeant Hallsworth (to Hook Company) and Sergeant Smith (to the training wing and hopefully on to Sandhurst). All members of Corunna wish them well in their forthcoming jobs and hope we may see some of them back in the future.

In the meantime the Company is looking forward to a six-week deployment to Canada to act as 'enemy'. This opportunity is eagerly anticipated by all and will be the perfect stage for Corunna Company to show to the rest of the army the high standards to which we operate.

Lieutenant C. D. Adair

SOMME COMPANY

In September 2001, Major Alex Wilson left the 1st Battalion to attend Staff College, temporarily relinquishing command of Somme Company to Captain Mark Tetley, prior to the arrival of Major Phil Wilson in January 2002. Major Wilson returned to the Battalion having completed his post as SO3 G2 at HQ 4 Armoured Brigade in Osnabrück.

Before the Christmas break, Somme Company was heavily involved in the Battalion's Infantry Field Firing Camp. Both Mortar and Milan Platoons supported the rifle companies as they progressed through their live firing attacks. It was the first time since Op Agricola that the Mortars had fired live bombs. Meanwhile the Milan Platoon scored eight out of ten hits with their live missiles, the two 'misses' being attributed to misfires (or so they say!) During the same period the Recce Platoon concentrated on honing its four-man contact drills on a Close Quarter Combat Range and practised bugging out of observation posts in contact. This provided a fantastic live firing opportunity and some extremely realistic training.

With the field firing complete, the emphasis switched back to the armoured vehicles during the Annual Gunnery Camp. Both Recce and Milan had the opportunity to re-learn and then test their 30mm gun drills with great success. Meanwhile the Mortar Platoon had a chance to concentrate on developing its command and driving skills in CVR(T) and AFV 432. The Company was also represented on Exercise Saif

Sareea II in the Oman, with Captain Harford, Colour Sergeant Bottomley and Corporal Rowlands working as Watchkeepers with HQ 4 Armoured Brigade.

We have continued to maintain a presence in Yorkshire with 'Satisfied Soldiers' returning home on a regular basis to wax lyrical about how good life is in the Dukes. Additionally, between 17-30 November 2001, both Milan and Drums sent representatives home to take part in a mini KAPE tour (Keeping the Army in the Public Eye). As ever, those who went enjoyed the opportunity to get home. On a sadder note, Private Oxley returned to the UK to play the Last Post at former Drum Major 'Gaz' Ryder's funeral.

Currently the Battalion is undergoing an internal cadre period and Somme Company is as committed as ever, providing both students and instructors. Lance Corporal Bowe and Private Matthews are in Canada giving assistance to the BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) Winter Repair Programme. We have also provided a number of augmentees to Corunna Company as they prepare for their deployment as OPFOR in BATUS. This should prove to be a wonderful training opportunity, especially for the Milan troops that are deploying. The Battalion should get a chance to complete a MEDMAN in 2004 and experience gained now in Canada should prove to be extremely useful.

Inevitably the programme for 2002 is extremely busy already. The Battalion has been given the opportunity to provide OPFOR for Exercise Prairie Eagle in Poland.

This exercise provides an opportunity for battlegroups in their training year to prepare for BATUS and is conducted on Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area. Whilst this commitment will be met by both Alma and Burma, Somme will provide a large slice of troops to reinforce the two rifle companies. At the same time, the remnants of Somme Company will return to the UK to take part in the Freedom of Sheffield Parade. In May the Battalion will complete both Infantry Field Firing and Annual Gunnery Camps in Sennelager; Somme Company Headquarters will concurrently provide a LOCON for the RDG's CAST. We will then deploy straight onto Exercise Rhino Sword at Bergen-Hohne, where the Company will again provide OPFOR in what will be a high-profile and demanding exercise.

Before we know it, June will be upon us and the Tercentenary celebrations will be in full swing. Drill practice has already started under the close supervision of CSM Brewer and Drum Major Johnson. There will, no doubt, be many more hours of marching up and down the square to perfect the drill prior to the

parade itself. To complete Somme Company's wider commitments, several volunteers and younger soldiers will return to Kosovo as the QRL deploy on Op Agricola. Again this will be a great opportunity for some of the Company's younger members to gain some operational experience and will help maintain our knowledge and experience base prior to our forecast tour in 2003.

After the Tercentenary and a well-earned summer holiday, Somme Company will begin to focus on honing its specialist skills in preparation for the Battalion Exercise in September. 2001 was a busy year and 2002 will be no different. The Company will play a full part in all the Tercentenary celebrations and will have personnel committed to exercises in Germany, Poland and Canada. We will also have the opportunity to develop, practise and test our specialist skills as the Battalion continues to maintain the hard-earned armoured infantry capability.

Major P. Wilson

HOOK COMPANY

All members of Hook Company have begun 2002 with the same enthusiasm, and professionalism they showed throughout a very demanding and varied 2001. The Company said farewell to Major Ken Johnson who departed for a recruiting post in the UK and we wish him and his family well for the future. All the key appointments have changed since the return from Kosovo. They are now as follows:

OC	-	Major A. L. Jackson
CSM	-	WO2 M. Denton
QM	-	Captain B. Thomas MBE
RQMS	-	WO2 M. Birkett
QM T	-	Captain T. Sutcliffe
RQMS T	-	WO2 K. Craddock
MTO	-	Captain J. Frear
MTWO	-	Colour Sergeant R. Mosley

UWO	-	WO2 S. Harvey
RSO	-	Captain S. Humphris
RSWO	-	WO2 M. Lumber

We are lucky to have in addition a very friendly and professional complement of attached personnel, these include various members of the AIMI, LAD, Catering and RAO detachments.

During this year all departments will be heavily committed to supporting the Field Exercises in April and May, and then focusing on supporting the Tercentenary celebrations. Life in Germany has been busy but enjoyable, opportunities for sport and adventure training, as well as Europe on the doorstep, all contribute to a decent quality of life in between training and operations.

We look forward to seeing many of you in June 2002.

Major Andrew Jackson

OFFICERS' MESS

From the PMC's point of view, the social life of the Mess was supposed to calm down in the autumn and winter with only the Rupert and Andy Capp awards to cast their long shadow over the period. How wrong can you be! No sooner had we finished clearing up after the Ball than we were off again, this time the livers-in celebrated the implausible English victory over Germany at "the other ball game" with a sound thrashing of the Sergeants' Mess Dream Team XI, followed by an eventful excursion to the Osnabrück Garrison Mess. I do not feel the urge to expand on their exploits, beyond suggesting that it will be a while before the assorted staff officers and administrators of the garrison forget the impact of an Infantry Mess in full flow on their sedate social occasions. November saw the Mess host the Brigade Commander at a guest

night which was notable for the number of 'runners' caught up (and avoided in one or two disgraceful incidences) and the ferocity of the Mess rugby - will the Field Officers never learn? November also saw the arrival of Colour Sergeant Barratt, who took over from Colour Sergeant Mason as Mess Manager. December, as always, was a busy month for the Mess. 2 Lieutenant Mick Cataldo provided the Christmas Tree despite the best efforts of the Osnabrück Golf Club greenkeeper to apprehend him and the officers' ladies provided the artistic and stylish decorations while improving the Mess bar profits considerably. This was followed by the living in members transgressing a number of local noise pollution bye laws with their expedition around the patch to 'sing' carols and reduce the Pads wine and beer stocks. We also managed to fit in a hugely successful

Ladies' Dinner Night before moving on to the main event of the year.

Rupert's Day will be familiar to most readers, as indeed will be the result of the soccer match (enough said on that). Less familiar will be the news that RQMS Caine actively assisted the Mess in the setting up of the technical aspects of their skits (plugging in the TV) in a belated and ultimately doomed attempt to curry favour and avoid nomination. The latter part of the evening cannot be reported upon as your correspondent has only blurred recollections of it once both Messes had decamped to the Sergeants' Mess. However, he can vividly recall the excellent skits. The Sergeants' Mess was first on with an unusual version of the popular 'Shooting Stars' gameshow which appeared to be almost entirely unscripted. Nonetheless, several high profile targets were hit (including Major Nick Wood who will not be tempted to dance on camera for a while) before Lieutenant Chris Adair walked away with the Rupert to enormous popular acclaim. Captains Matt Palmer and Sam Humphris led the officers' display based in the semi-fictional Osnatraz POW camp. Their costumes and accents may not have been entirely politically correct in these days of European integration and I am certain that the Wehrmacht would not have countenanced two such palpably camp officers in their ranks, however for comedic value they were ideal. Eventually, and to popular acclaim, Colour Sergeant Stannard was pronounced the worthy winner. Through

gritted teeth he acknowledged his award, vowed vengeance and both Messes decamped to the Sergeants' Mess.

The remainder of the Christmas and New Year period was notable for the demise of two more long term singles as Captains Mark Robinson and Dave Worrell (OC LAD) tied the knot to Lynsey and Rhian respectively. The whole Mess joins me in wishing both couples a long and happy married life. The final event of the winter was the long awaited Viking party which saw the Mess transformed into a Viking drinking hall, complete with Longship (amazing what uses MFO boxes can be put to). This was an enormous success and allowed the Mess to repay the hospitality of many of our fellow Messes around the Garrison. It was that rarest of occasions when the Mess invites a vast number of unattached females and they all turn up!

As usual there have been a number of arrivals and departures recently. A warm welcome back to Nigel and Ann (Fitzgerald) Goodwin, Phil and Wendy Wilson and to Mark and Lynsey Robinson and welcome for the first time to John and Petra Killoran (AGC Det Commander) and to Phil Smith and Doug Nelson from PCBC. Best wishes on departure to James and Josephine Bryden (to HQ 8 Infantry Brigade), Richard Sutcliffe (EWRR), Mark Tetley (ITC Warminster) and Matt Stear (HQ 20 Armoured Brigade).

Major D. P. Monteith, PMC

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Over the past three months the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has seen some busy times, with the run up to Christmas and the preparation for Cadres in the New Year to name but two.

The Rupert and Andy Capp awards went extremely well this year, both messes put on outstanding skits. The football match before the main event was a sight to see, the Sergeants' Mess came out victorious by 3-2. The young talents of the Officers' Mess were no match for the old and bold within the Sergeants' Mess. The RSM would like to congratulate Lieutenant Adair for his efforts over the past year that secured him the Rupert award. Commiserations go out to Colour Sergeant Stan Stannard who had the unfortunate luck to win the Andy Capp award.

The Christmas function this year was held at the Kafé Osterhause and was run by WO2 John Elcoate and his merry band of helpers. The function itself was excellent and many thanks go to him and his team. Congratulations go to Sergeant Matty of the REME LAD who through his gambling in the casino won a Porsche for the weekend.

The New Year has brought hope for a steady run up to the Tercentenary, but alas I cannot foresee this

happening. Battalion Cadres will take up a lot of time and, with the Tercentenary fast approaching, drill would seem a likely space filler.

Corunna Company, under the ever-watchful eyes of WO2 (Company Sergeant Major) Paddy Buckingham, has started its preparation for an exercise over in Canada in April.

Congratulations are in order for newly promoted Mess Members Kenny Craddock and Mac McCabe from WO2 to WO1. Sergeants Smudge Smith and Wally Walsh are new Mess members being promoted from the Corporals' Mess.

Farewells go out to WO2 Stu Davidson and WO2 John Elcoate who will shortly be leaving the Army after 22 years of service. We wish them success in Civilian Street and thank them for their hard work and support.

During the last few months the Mess has seen several new arrivals from postings and also seen many Mess members depart on postings worldwide, the RSM would like to convey his best wishes to them and their families.

WO2 Brewer (PMC)

FAMILIES

They often say a sequel is never as good as ...

You'll remember from last year's notes that instead of having the traditional wives' Christmas party we daringly staged our own version of 'Stars in Their Eyes',

featuring talent on our own doorstep. The success of the evening took everyone by surprise and far exceeded expectations. This year we even more daringly decided to remain with the theme, knowing we had a hard act to

follow. Reputations were at stake here but nonetheless Dukes' wives' Stars in Their Eyes 2001 was to take place on 1 December.

During the preparation phase, anything that could be improved from the previous year was acted upon. The stage area in particular with a dazzling curtained backdrop was very effective and, as well as fulfilling the role it was designed for, it played an additional part at the end of the show in ensuring no-one attending the event would ever forget the night.

So confident were we of success that we extended entry of the event to friends of wives from within Osnabrück. A publicity campaign ensured that the night was now a Garrison event not to be missed and the Dukes' wives' social standing was riding very high. (But reputations were still at stake, most of all mine.)

On the night the atmosphere inside Belfast Barracks' Alma Hall was electric. Close to 160 ladies had eaten well, had consumed one or two Bacardi Breezers, the odd wine or two and in several cases, a few John Smiths. They were waiting in anticipation for the show to begin. Now was the time for praying for the show's organisers and nobody knelt more than me. We did have a wonderful stage but our technology did not rank alongside that of TV studios and it was to be tested to the limits, as this year we had progressed from just having solo artists to a duo, a girl/boy band and even had a performer playing his own instrument. In addition there had only been one chance for each act to have a rehearsal, a few hours before the show started. Having listened to them, and being perfectly honest, it had not gone too well. This prompted me to have an escape route up my sleeve should things go wrong and our room full of ladies wanted someone to blame.

Inevitably the worrying had not been necessary. Last year's winner, Marti Pellow, performed first and sounded even better than last year. The acts were then introduced by a short video clip illustrating their every

day environment and announced by our legendary Matthew Kelly, RQMS Kenny Craddock, who sported slightly more hair than the year before and who was probably better than the real thing. Our performers, from Madonna all the way through to Tom Jones, one after another, gave very convincing renditions of the stars they had decided to be. They thoroughly entertained the now ecstatic audience and were all winners to everyone that witnessed this unbelievable show. But on the night it was a local 17 year old NAAFI employee, Glynn Wilkinson, who received most votes and won the coveted trophy, singing Westlife's 'Seasons in the Sun'. (Watch out for his name. It's worth noting that two days later he was invited to sing live on BFBS radio. Dukes' wives' Stars in Their Eyes may well have launched a career here.)

Now all was going too well at this stage and the word stage is very appropriate, because, just as Jane Borwell had invited all the acts onto it to thank them and award them trophies, Lionel Ritchie accidentally fell into the back of our superb curtains, which were suspended from a false tiled ceiling, which promptly caved in onto everyone below. Thankfully nobody was seriously hurt and, amid the dust and debris, a calm Jane ensured that the show went on. The fact that everyone watching had forgotten within two minutes what had occurred is testimony to how magnificent the night had been. We literally brought the house down.

I, along with many of the revellers, enjoyed the rest of the night, which included a psychedelic rock spectacular from our drummers (this was all for only DM30 by the way). I was in no hurry to get home as I knew that babysitting for me was the QM who only days before had stressed the importance in ensuring that the Alma Hall was returned to the state we had received it in. I had some explaining to do...

Captain J. Frear



Mrs Jane Borwell presenting Glynn Wilkinson with his trophy.

THE DUKES RFC

Perhaps the most unpleasant feeling I have ever experienced is the only way I can describe the sensation of losing the British Army (Germany) Rugby Cup Final to the RRW. So much hard work had gone in to preparing the team for that game and those beyond it and on the day we came up short, when, as ever is the case, the game was there for the taking. It was a bitter disappointment that was felt across the whole team, but at least it will remain ingrained on the hearts of all as an incentive to excel next year. The game itself was quite a spectacle. The RRW, who had had the game delayed by 48 hrs, claiming to have all caught the flu, came out of the blocks like fifteen charging bulls (without flu!). They knocked our inexperienced side onto the back foot with constant driving in and around the edges of the breakdown, sucking in our back row, and their fly half made the best of his excellent boot to eat up territory. The Dukes conceded an early try and penalty before Lieutenant Pete Lee replied with a penalty of our own. Then just before half time came a devastating blow. The RRW kicked for goal but the ball drifted wide of the posts and dribbled off towards the corner, the officials began to return to the touchline for the expected 22 drop out, when shouts were heard from the RRW side. The referee inquired as to the commotion, to be confronted with the RRW skipper claiming a try had been scored. The Welsh's Fijian wing had charged in to the in-goal area and touched the ball down before it could be collected by any Duke. It was clear that whilst none of the officials had seen the touchdown, which in the light of day was probably a fair try, they still saw fit to award the try. Coming just before half time, and being the combination of a soft try and a refereeing travesty knocked the team hard. We changed ends 15 - 3 down, and initially the second half didn't look much better, we let in another well worked converted try and penalty and got a penalty in return bringing the score to 25 - 6 with about 30 minutes to go. Suddenly it all clicked into gear, coincidental perhaps with the arrival of Army hooker, Captain Finlay Bibby, bringing a cool and experienced head in to the front row, and for about 20 minutes we were unstoppable, we ran in two great tries through Lieutenants Ed Colver and Chris Adair and brought the score back to 25 - 23. However we couldn't keep it up, the odd pass began to go wild, decisions started to go against us and heads dropped slightly. The Welsh finished as strongly as they had started and notched up two more tries before the final whistle leaving us utterly dejected and on the wrong side of a 35 - 23 score line.

Other than the Cup Final defeat, the season so far has seen the Dukes' RFC play a number of good games with wins against the Durham County Development XV, the Dutch Combined Services XV and 4 Regt RA and a frustrating but hard fought draw against the RLC (Germany) XV. We have also put 2 RTR to the sword on two occasions, but lost twice to the RRW and a German side from Hannover known as 1878. Unfortunately every Hindoostan XV fixture has been cancelled so far by the opposition sides so they have yet to take to the park, but there are still several games to come. We have still to play last year's German Cup winners Deutsche Rugby Club Hannover and of course we have five fixtures lined up against quality New Zealand opposition on our tour.

The rugby tour to New Zealand will take place in March and will present a real challenge to the squad of thirty players travelling. We are due to play one civilian side and four military sides with the climax being a game against the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment (the equivalent of our REME and RLC combined), second only to their Army side that was considered to be a little too strong for us. The tour will cover both North and South islands and last for three weeks and will of course be covered in the next edition of The Iron Duke.

There are many people who deserve an MID (Mention in Iron Duke) for their hard work so far this season, but I would like to highlight just a few for my particular thanks, WO1 'Willy' Williams and Staff Sergeant Gaz Allcock, REME, for their efforts in coaching the side, 1st XV Skipper Captain Jim Kennedy for his leadership on the park and at training, and perhaps most of all, for his outstanding contribution towards running the club, and for which he has been rewarded with the post of Club Captain, Corporal Phil Beetham. This season has seen The Dukes' RFC cement a very talented, if inexperienced, squad, with many rising stars for next season. With the likes of immense hitters Privates 'Tyson' Wainiqolo and 'Oscar' Nakanacagi competing for a slot in the back row and the controlling influence of Captain Pete Lee at outside half developing all the time, I feel next year's cup run, if it can survive the pressure of the system, will be a very close run affair and this time "If the Welsh want the Cup, they had better hurry up 'cause the Dukes are taking it away!"

Major N. M. B. Wood
OC Rugby

BATTALION FOOTBALL

At the time of writing the football squad finds itself in a transitional period. Currently the oldest member of the squad is 27, apart from Lance Corporal Max 'Ratboy' Atherton who just doesn't know when to hang up his boots, but he will get the nod shortly.

So it is a young squad which has put in some good performances this season. We lost in the Army Cup 5 - 4 on penalties to 7 Signals which was a bitter blow against a quality side. We are however still in the

Infantry Cup, in fact we play the Irish Guards in the quarter final on 20 February, in the last round the Dukes defeated (demolished) 2 RGJ 8 - 1.

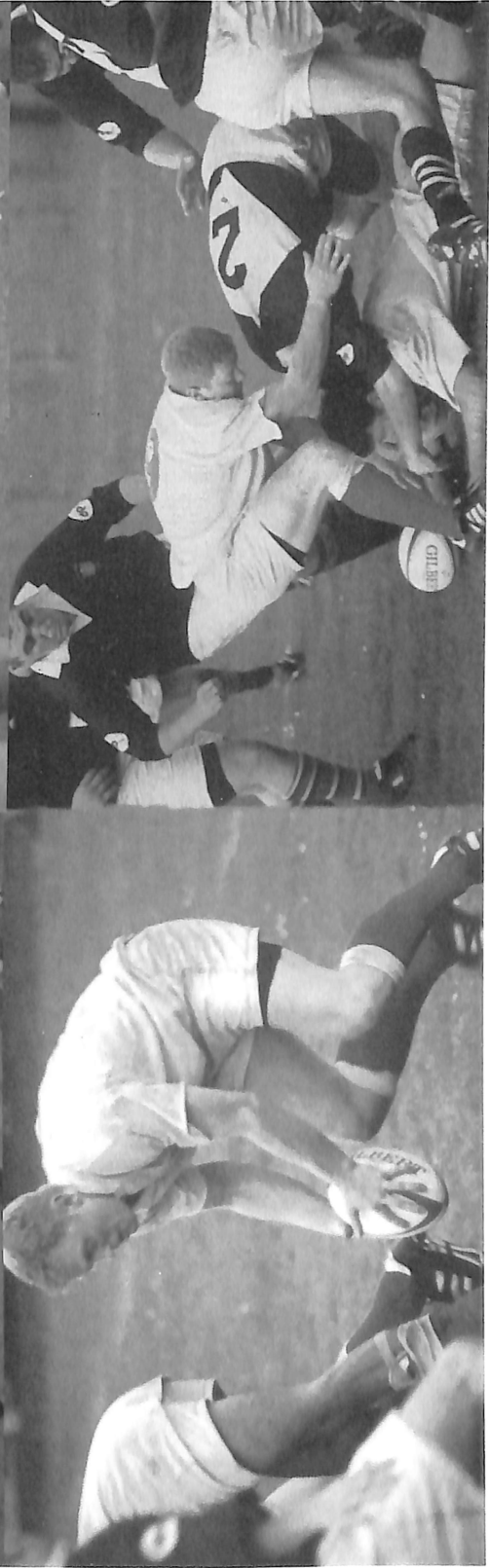
Privates Cutts, Hird, Jennings and Tomkin have all been selected to represent BAG Infantry and we have a few more knocking on that particular door. So all looks rosy and, if we can retain all the members of the squad, we could reap the benefits in the future. The sons of former Dukes Eric Adamson and Ken Shinn are gracing

1st XV vs DURHAM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT XV. Won 21 - 17

Lieutenant Chris Adair spreads the ball wide.



Lieutenant 'Tongan Dave' Fitu, Tongan Exchange Officer, scores beneath the posts.



Captain Pete Lee collects from the back of the scrum.

Major Nick Wood, Club Chairman, gets a ragging whilst attempting to secure loose possession.

the hallowed green turf and, if I do say so myself, doing it much better than their fathers ever did! Major Jackson is really enjoying the task of Football Officer, as the Battalion side is currently more successful than Derby County. Corporal Gav Hind has taken on the coaching side of team affairs although the squad wishes that he would lose his cones and ladders and actually let them kick a ball every now and then! RQMS (Tech) Kenny Craddock manages the team, conducts the team talks

and sends them out to play (all of which is forgotten when the first whistle is blown). This is probably because the squad knows that he cannot lose any more hair!

So, on a final note, bring on the next three hundred years because the Dukes are coming up the hill and we will carry the Infantry Cup away. STOP PRESS

RQMS (Tech) K. "Vialli" Craddock

LAD ADVENTURE TRAINING

It seems like a very distant memory now, but immediately after returning from Op Agricola 5, the LAD was very keen to carry out some form of adventure training. The Adventurous Training Group, based at Sennelager, is dedicated to organising the whole package for any Germany based unit requirements. This system is a massive improvement to the days when individual organisers had to source all their own funding and transport etc. So the arrangements were made and dates were finally set for Exercise 'Dodgy Diamond', which covered the period 4 September to 4 October 2001.

The exercise was for a total of 24 personnel, made up of seven Dukes and 17 LAD personnel in and around the Bavarian alps - accommodation being Haus Magnus in Wertach. This is a typical Bavarian village with very picturesque views and lots of cows with those annoying bells hanging around their necks.

On arrival we were greeted by the House Manager and Chief Instructor. After settling in to our more than comfortable rooms, the rest of the evening consisted of signing out training kit for the week's activities and briefings on house rules by the manager. The house boasted a reasonable bar in its basement, where the group managed to unwind most evenings.

On the first day of training, our group, along with a small group of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, split into the various activities of our choice. The main activities were trekking, kayaking and rock climbing. The trekking was the most popular, with two groups carrying out basic navigational skills, before tackling some of the more arduous routes. This mountain range offered short and quite easy routes as well as very arduous and multi-day walks. Needless to say, nobody opted for the overnight walks. On some occasions, a lot of individuals started out in the mornings a little worse for wear. However, the trekking soon sorted the men from the boys, and after a few hours of huffing, puffing and sweating from every orifice you can imagine, your hangover seemed to clear (or was it just that you were so knackered you forgot about the hangover?) The views from the mountains were spectacular and gave everyone a sense of achievement. On one occasion, myself and AQMS Jim Grant had a little competitive challenge with Captain Lee and his young group of Dukes. We were given a route with five triangulation points on. The two groups had to start at opposite ends of the route. Needless to say, Captain Lee's group ended up racing us oldies to claim as many triangulation points as possible. We ended up running most of the way, to the amazement of the Germans, who

must have thought we were crazy, especially in the heat. Captain Lee's youth team looked so disappointed when we oldies came over the brow of the third triangulation point which they happened to be sunbathing on - looks like the Dukes lost this one!



Left to right: Cfn Hayes, L'Cpl Mosely, Cfn Hustwaite, Capt Lee and L'Cpl Gallacher

The rock-climbing group had similar challenges to see who could climb the highest up the rock face or carry out the most dramatic falls. After a few days' tuition, the group were carrying out multi-stage climbs and a few individuals managed to lead certain climbs. The kayaking group had more of a challenge than all of us, as they had to brave the icy mountain waters each morning. They started off learning the basic techniques on a local lake, which took about two days, before the group moved onto rivers and weirs. The majority of the group progressed at the same rate, apart from one, named 'Big and Daft' (Craftsman Danson), who had problems just sitting in his kayak listening to the instructor. One of the key incentives for this level of adventure training, apart from the obvious recreational opportunities, is that everyone is given the opportunity to gain formal qualifications.

After the mandatory five days of our chosen activity, we were then given time to carry out additional adventure activities. The majority of us decided to spend a day white water rafting on a river just over the border to Austria. The day was organised by a well-established extreme sports company. Our instructors

were all British ex-pats, who were all mad on trying to keep us out of the boats, as we did not need much encouragement to try and empty them of their contents! For those who decided not to go white water rafting, mountain biking in and around the local hills was the preferred choice. On many evenings, the local swimming pool became the popular venue for a relaxing swim after a hard day's training, though some of the lads used this opportunity to terrorise the local children on the water slides!

On our final day, we all went go-karting, where we block-booked the karting centre. We divided up into four teams and conducted a mini Grand Prix. Captain Worrell decided to use ramming tactics to get past the better-skilled drivers. One of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment guys became the overall winner; our excuse was that he goes karting regularly in Fallingbommel! This final day ended with a barbecue back at the lodge. This was when we were presented with our qualifications and had our debrief, then we celebrated the past activities with a few drinks.

Staff Sergeant Mark Portas

REGIMENTAL CAREER MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Some ten months ago the Infantry adopted the principle of having an LE Officer who would assist the Commanding Officer in all aspects of Career Management. This idea had been adopted from the Royal Armoured Corps which had been employing a Regimental Career Management Officer (RCMO) for some years. It was agreed in March 2001 that the Dukes would appoint their own RCMO, after HQ Land had established the post. With the Battalion about to start its tour of Kosovo, it was agreed that I would take up post on the Battalion's return.

In September 2001, after handing over as HQ Company CSM to WO2 Denton, I moved along the corridor to establish an office. Somme Company was not best pleased when I had to relieve them of their conference and briefing room facility. The task was going to take some time, because, as with all new jobs, there was a great deal of "suck it and see". After a CO's interview, the idea of what the job would involve began to take shape. The CO had some definite plans and the then brand new RCMO job specification from Land added some flesh to the bones. I have to say though, I was most surprised when the CO told me to liaise with the 2ic to write my job specification. It's not quite the same when you have a handover/takeover and you know pretty much what has to be done from the off. "Not to worry" the 2ic said "I see you as very much the Human Resources Manager for the battalion", what a grand title I thought. This was not new ground to the 2ic; I could see that he had done this sort of thing before. At the end of the session we came up with what seemed to be a mixed bag of tricks. This included: assisting the Unit Retention Officer; interviewing all soldiers wishing to leave the battalion; managing the transfer of all soldiers in the battalion; becoming the point of focus for all soldiers at E posts. I wished

that this appointment was around when I was at E. It included establishing the induction of soldiers into the battalion and launching the Personal Development Record (PDR). This worried me slightly as I knew that we were a little bit behind the curve because of the Kosovo tour and, what with this being the point of focus for all personal development issues, I was to become a teacher as well. It included assisting the Equal Opportunities Officer, Captain Crowther, with all EO related matters. I was also to become a lawyer, as I read: "be able to offer non-legal advice on the implications of employment legislation", I thought: "what!". Last on the list was Investors in People (IIP); this was something I did have some experience with as I had assisted in the last re-accreditation of the battalion a few months earlier.

Like all good soldiers I cracked on with what seemed to be a massive task. Much of the above had been done in some shape or another before, IIP, Equal Opportunities Retention interviewing, this meant that there was some information around. However, there was still a large part of the job which had to be started from scratch. With a little luck and some good time management I was sure that I could do what was being asked.

Some four months into the job I have managed to get a reasonable grip of the main aspects. The Battalion is now up and running with the PDR and more and more of our soldiers are taking up IT and other related courses. Numeracy and literacy training has been well supported throughout the Battalion, all with the help of 35 Army Education Centre. All of this is having a positive retention spin off. Communications have been established with individual soldiers at E posts and they now have a point of contact. In addition, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Recruitment, Retention and

Resettlement Database have been established. With this it is hoped that we will be able to keep a sharp eye on all aspects of manning for recruiting purposes.

There is still a long way to go with a number of projects to tackle, I do feel, however, that the appointing of a Regimental Careers Management Officer is, and will continue to be, an asset to the Battalion. If best practice can be made better this can only be good for our soldiers.

Management Team Leader Award

Lance Corporals Anthony Dooley, Jamie Sykes and Peter Hirst of 1 DWR and other NCOs from the King's Division successfully completed the NEBS Management Team Leader Award whilst attending the Army's fifteen week Section Commanders Battle Course at Brecon, Wales. They join the half a million civilian managers throughout the UK who currently hold NEBS Management awards.

The NEBS Team Leader Award is a nationally recognised Level 2 management qualification and a

stepping stone to further awards in this field. The comprehensive sixty hour programme has been designed to develop leadership skills and the ability to apply these skills to the Infantry's working environment thus producing performance improvements and developing personal effectiveness.

The success of the pilot course has ensured that the qualification will now be available for all future students and will form a keystone in the Infantry's plan to achieve civilian accreditation for knowledge and skills accumulated throughout a soldier's career.

WO2 M. Kennedy

CLOSE RECCE COMMANDERS' COURSE WARMINSTER

"You don't have to press your nose up against the glass to see through the window" - General Patton

Late in November of 2001 I found myself preparing to jet off back to the UK to be educated in all things reconnaissance. This course takes place at the recently formed Reconnaissance Division in Warminster Training Centre.

It is a demanding four-week course, which attempts to equip recce soldiers and commanders with the necessary skills to provide the Battle Group Commander with 'timely and accurate information by day or night in all weather conditions in all phases of war' - for that is the role of close recce. The course itself is in many ways unique as it spans both the Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry, and it is also an all ranks environment with Officers, Senior NCOs and Junior NCOs all being taught and tested in the same setting.

The first week was a mind blower for all concerned. It began with a series of tests covering NBC, Map Reading, Battle Group Characteristics, Armoured Fighting Vehicle and Aircraft Recognition and a night navigation exercise. This was followed by a seemingly endless series of lectures and presentations which deliver the background information that is necessary prior to deploying anywhere in the field and getting 'hands on'. It was a very long week and, for those who still had the remaining mental capacity to order beers in the pub, the weekend came as a welcome relief.

Just before the off though, with the bright lights of London within grasp, all officers were pulled to one side and told the good news. At Warminster they run a system whereby if somebody isn't doing very well they can be put on a notice to fail, ensuring that at the end of a course at least they would have had the

opportunity to acquit themselves suitably. In this instance there were more officers on the course than was the usual amount, this meant that there would only be one command appointment each, which was met initially with smiles all round, however it was then pointed out that given this there would be no time for any re-tests and therefore we were all to be put on a notice to fail. Deep joy!

Monday Week Two began with a larger than usual helping of the Monday morning blues, as the 'death by power point' continued, to add to our woes at this stage we were also introduced to Major Mahoney. Major Mahoney is the US exchange officer at Warminster and lectures in GENFORCE - the generic enemy force that we as the British Army use to train against. It is based around Eastern Bloc weapon systems and echoes some of their tactics, the lectures themselves were actually very good, but as a recce soldier the amount of kit we would be coming up against and its efficacy compared to our own, was all just a little bit sobering.

As week two developed the course took its first steps out into the fresh air to do some 'proper' soldiering, and this was a welcome relief - at least for the infantry element of the course! Close target reconnaissance was covered along with four man contact drills and some elementary movement with the vehicles. Week Two ended much the same as the first with some very tired soldiers all in need of the solace of the bottom of a pint.

Weeks Three and Four were focussed on the mounted aspect of the recce soldier's job, and culminated in two short exercises. Armoured recce platoons are equipped with eight Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance Tracked

Scimitars or Sabres - CVR (T). The tactical employment of them was the central theme to these two weeks. As with any armoured vehicle it takes a while just to learn how to live comfortably in them, so it was all a bit daunting to begin with, particularly with the pressure of a single command appointment waiting.

Predictably the final exercise began with digging of OPs (Observation Posts) which at minus eight on Salisbury Plain was not much fun! After a short period of time occupying the OP positions the battle began to hot up as the enemy's lead forces began to appear. The exercising recce platoon was tasked with effecting a withdrawal whilst maintaining contact with the enemy forces, and then to hand over to the lead elements of the battle group at a predetermined point. I can assure you that it all sounds a lot easier than it actually was. It was at this phase of the course that the oft-quoted phrase from Patton which heads this article became clear, as the tendency to get too close to the enemy is very difficult to overcome. There is so much information to process and you also have to ensure that the vehicles are employed tactically and stay out of range of the

enemy, but see him at the same time, that unless you heed General Patton's words it becomes very difficult to stay alive!

After the withdrawal phases there was such an information overload, it hurt to think, but the battle moved on. This time with the recce screen leading the battle group in an advance. Happily the enemy locations and enough assault locations were found for the battle group commander to plan with. Recce elements led the way in and the ground troops unleashed death and destruction upon the enemy troops and the MFO box bunkers!

I can safely say that the course was demanding but extremely worthwhile, it is hard work and my small mind did feel pressured on more than one occasion, but it was extremely satisfying in the end when things began to work well.

The Recce Platoon is now in a rebuilding phase and will be running its cadre January - March 2002, where I look forward to passing on much of my new-found knowledge!

Captain J. A. Kennedy

EXERCISE SAIF SAREEA 2

(Swift Sword)

It was during the warmer months of Kosovo when at the end of an 'O' group Sergeant Proxy Smith asked if anyone was interested in going to the Oman for a few weeks. Having served there in 1997 under the watchful eye of Major Holroyd, I found myself shouting "Yes, put my name down!"

No sooner had my name been jotted in his notebook than the voice in my head started: "What are you doing? you've just done four months in Kosovo and you want to go away again?". With the wrath of Mrs Graham hanging over me, to the phones I went to confess my stupidity, "No problem" she said, "We'll talk about it when you return".

Needless to say, after four weeks' leave Mrs Graham was helping me pack my new desert combats and ushering me out of the door. The rest of the Dukes consisted of the following: Captains Harford and Payne, Lieutenant Peters, Colour Sergeant Bottomley, Sergeants Malone and Rowland. So with big grins all round off we went. On arrival we were briefed on the perils of driving in the Oman. After two hours of receiving information we all came away with the same thought "Hit a camel in a land rover and the thing will come through the wind screen and kill you". "Not if I reverse over it!", nice one Rolly.

The following day we were driven to Camp Rat which was in effect 4 Brigade Headquarters. As there weren't any tents for us, we were shown to a cam net and told to chill out under there for the time being. We all settled down for a couple of hours' shut eye, however three hours of sand storms and the Dukes had been turned to something which looked like a palaeontologist had just unearthed (seven fossils).

We were then given our own tent and became very comfortable. We were soon told of our duties; whilst Sergeant Rowland and myself were thrown into the

world of combat service support, the remainder were to work in the hectic world of G3 Ops, that is with the exception of Lieutenant Peters, as he was chosen from a cast of dozens to be the Brigadier's driver (Soft-Tac).

Once the watch keeping duties were up and running Colour Sergeant Bottomley and I set to work destroying anyone and everyone who would play chess with us. After dishing out a thrashing we would openly discuss how the game of chess reflects one's tactical awareness of the battlefield. This didn't go down very well with some individuals who were under the impression that infantry soldiers weren't that clever!

Eventually the first of the exercises started; talk about fast and furious! I must admit it made a nice change to see staff officers running round with arms full of maps, with the Brigade Commander snapping at their heels. I really didn't envy them, sixteen hours on eight off, mind you that's why they get paid a stupid amount of money.

With things being in full swing, everyone's mind was on the arrival of the CSE gang, Steps, Gerri and of course the legendary Bobby Davro. On the night of the show the atmosphere was electric and an outstanding night was had by all.

Next came the move to the northern training area which involved ten hours of driving in some very testing temperatures. The convoy, which was commanded by the Brigade Engineer, Major Simon Parsinson, said that the blow out which I had at 100 k/hr was very well controlled and could I do it again so that he could get it on cam-corder? Sorry sir, no can do!

As soon as the division was deployed on the second phase of the exercise, which involved integration training with the Omanis, I was approached by Major Paul Buttery and asked if I would like to go and stay in a hotel for ten days and run the bar for the R&R package. A cloud of dust and I was gone.

When I returned to the desert after my ten days off, the first friendly face I saw was that of Major Wilson 1 DWR. The flack I received was relentless, from 'part-timer' to 'deserter' I was branded by all, however, through their abuse I could see the green eyes of envy at a glance.

With the exercise drawing to a close I managed to find myself within the medical chain getting passed

from location to location. Something I am still receiving flack for. Before this article comes to a close I would like to thank all the staff at 4 Brigade Headquarters for making our time in Oman enjoyable. If you ever need watch keepers in the future, don't call us we'll call you.

Sergeant H. M. Graham



Wadi Al Shab. Exercise Saif Sareea 2, Oman 2001.

EXERCISE ARID DUKE DIAMOND

Midway through the operational tour of Kosovo it was decided that the Battalion should have an adventurous training expedition. This would provide eight members of the Battalion with the opportunity to escape from "Osnatraz". Lieutenant Ogilvie conjured up the original plan; he decided that the expedition would venture into the arid lands of the Grand Canyon. However, due to his posting to AFC Harrogate he was not able to fulfil his plan. I then took over the running of the expedition, with plenty still to do to get it off the ground.

With the basic plan for the expedition already decided, the next step was to find an instructor to accompany us to the US. A signal had been sent out to all units and it wasn't long before someone jumped at the chance to accompany us. The eventual choice was Sergeant G. M. Evans from 264 Signals Squadron. He was easily the oldest of the applicants at 50 years old; however, his CV and logbook definitely proved that he was more than capable enough.

With consent from the relevant authorities given, it was now the time for some begging letters to be sent out to enable us to fund the trip. This was not the easiest of

processes because the whole system was fraught with red tape and standing orders etc. Due to the funding we did manage to achieve, the expedition cost each individual £300.

Who to take? A wide selection from the companies was chosen with Burma being the only company without a representative.

Having booked all the flights and collected all the specialist equipment required for the trip all we could do was wait until the departure date. Highlights from the expedition diary are as follows.

Friday 19 October

0630 saw eight of the group meet at the guardroom ready to depart for Monchengladbach and ultimately America and the Grand Canyon. When we eventually got away, Lance Corporal Hoyle set off as he meant to go on by arriving late. Traffic jams led to some serious flapping by all concerned. However, we arrived and flew without any problems, save for Corporal Hawcroft's batteries looking like a belt of ammunition on the X-Ray machine.

Once in London the accommodation was taken over and meet times were set for the next two days.

Sunday 21 October

With all the last-minute kit purchases completed and stories told about the nights before, the group set off for London Gatwick. On arrival at the check-in desks we met Sergeant Evans and promptly had our individual med kits handed out to us.

Introductions were completed and after a delay of over an hour we were up and away towards America. This delay meant that we were to spend the night in Atlanta, as we had missed our connecting flight for Las Vegas. Other airlines and hotels were informed and were very helpful, more than can be said for Delta Airlines.

Monday 22 October

We flew from Atlanta early in the morning. Due to security levels in the airport there were lengthy queues throughout the check-in process. However, with the relevant tips issued, we were able to make the departure gate in time. Due to the previous day's delays we now had to have a night in Las Vegas. Those who didn't gamble their money away spent the time on roller coasters. We were to return to Las Vegas. However, there were some amongst us who would have rather avoided the place. Their opinion was "Nice to see but wouldn't come back".

Tuesday 23 October

The bus picked us up at 0830 to take us to the airport for the next phase of the journey, the flight to Tusayan. To the locals the group was a novelty, i.e. we were going to actually walk in the canyon rather than ride a mule or a bus around the park. When we eventually arrived (an almost sideways landing), we witnessed how eager the

tourist trade was to dip into our pockets. We had been led to believe that the flight price included a bus ride to the canyon. However, we were mistaken and had to pay through the nose for a ride to our campsite.

The campsite was the setting for the next phase of operation rip off. Despite the copious amount of space around each pitch, we were limited to three tents and six people per pitch. However the site was well positioned and had easy access to shops, showers, laundry and the free shuttle bus around the canyon. That night we decided to begin our visit with a gentle stroll around the canyon rim to get rid of the cobwebs.

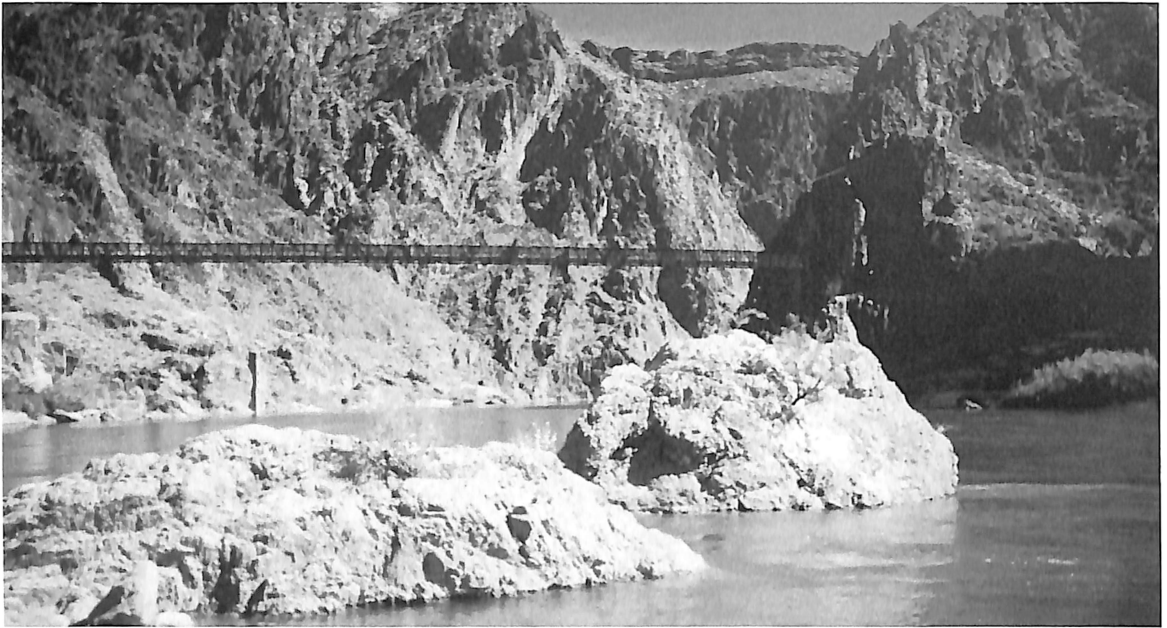
After plans were made it was off to the general store for supplies for the next day. The animal threat meant that only a limited amount of food could be stored in the tents during the day which restricted us to buy food only one day in advance.

Wednesday 24 October

Waking at 0730 everyone had some form of breakfast. We then set off for the south rim. The first sight of the canyon is awesome and plenty of pictures were taken. We then proceeded to walk along the south rim taking in all the major viewpoints along the route. At the Bright Angel trailhead we took a quick detour down towards the river. This enabled us to recce the route we were due to take the next day. We then caught the shuttle bus to Hermits Rest. Rest we did not, and we walked down towards Santa Maria Springs. After half an hour's walking we turned around and Sergeant Evans led a "gentle" pace up which had everyone breathing heavily. This demonstrated to everybody that it wasn't going to be a doddle and that the 50-year-old instructor was certainly capable of taking us to the pain room.



The team in Las Vegas before venturing into the Grand Canyon. From left to right: Private Runciman, Private Nelson, 2 Lieutenant Pearce, Private Winstanley, Lance Corporal Scott, Sergeant Evans, Lance Corporal Hoyle. Front: 2 Lance Corporal Davison and Corporal Hawcroft.



The Colorado River at the end of the South Kaibab trail - definitely not for swimming in.

Thursday 25 October

Some nervous gentlemen woke up this morning and the cholesterol boys were now thinking twice about their greasy breakfasts. We set off on the bus for the Bright Angel trailhead. Once there we had to start quickly in order to beat the mule train down. To plateau point and back was supposedly an 8-12 hour trek, five hours later we had finished it. The views were fantastic once we reached the point, however we wished we had ignored the advice and gone straight for the river. This was a good introduction to the canyon walking conditions and reminded us that we were going to need to carry plenty of water in order to avoid dehydration.

Due to campsite costs etc, it was at this point the group began to pay for their evening meals, which, I hasten to add, no one had any problem with.

Friday 26 October

The target for today was the South Kaibab trail, which finishes at the Colorado River. All local information suggests that two days is taken to complete the route, we finished it in seven-and-a-half hours. This was a more interesting trek than the previous day's, as the views were constantly changing. We lost Privates Winstanley and Runciman half way down due to injury. Once we reached the bottom and cooled our feet off in the Colorado River it was back up to the top. Private Runciman missed his opportunity to swim in the river, however, he would have (a) died of hypothermia, and (b) been swept away at a rapid rate of knots.

It was on this trek that we saw the foolhardiness of some of the tourists in the canyon as they attempted to walk to the river and back with 1 litre of water to share between them. Members of the group took at least four litres on each trek and were constantly re-hydrating by using camelbacks.

Saturday 27 October

A rest day, which gave everyone enough time to recover before venturing forth into the canyon once more. It was at this point we decided that going for an overnight trip in the canyon, with a limited amount of campsites available, would have been worthless. It was therefore decided we would hire a minibus and venture on to Mount Zion and Bryce Canyon.

That evening a few ales were sank in a local sports bar whilst watching the world series baseball; and people say that cricket is boring!

Sunday 28 October

Today's target was the Hermit's trail, which ends at the Hermit Rapids. Unfortunately, an under estimation in the time that it would take to reach the trailhead meant that we started late and were not able to reach the river. It is an achievable goal but in the interest of safety we turned around at 1330. This trail is not used as much as the previous two and it is not as glaringly obvious. When it was steep it was very very steep, and when it was flat it went on for a "long while". The Hermits trail has some awesome views and rock formations along it, more importantly there are no obese Americans on mules.

Monday 29 October

We departed the Grand Canyon for Bryce Canyon in our new fifteen-seater minibus.

The journey was quick and the scenery was straight out of a western film. The approach to Bryce Canyon through the breathtaking views of the Red Canyon only slightly prepares you for Bryce, but that was to come tomorrow. Again camping fees were ridiculous and the majority of facilities were shut for winter.

Tuesday 30 October

We began the trail from the campsite. This national park is not as massive as the Grand Canyon; however, it is beautiful and even has some hills for Sergeant Evans as well! The trails that we followed, when we followed them, are well maintained and marked, however they are not as steep as the Grand Canyon's trails. Once we met up with the guys with the transport (who had split half way round), we did some sightseeing along the edge of the canyon.

Wednesday 31 October

The day began with an early reveille and breakfast, followed by the departure from Bryce Canyon for Mount Zion. This is a relatively short journey and as you drive through the Zion national park you are just dumbstruck by the sheer size of it all. Upon arrival we quickly set off for a couple of short hikes, one up the Narrows and one up to the Emerald Pools.

The Narrows has a lot of potential. We only walked up 300m of it whereas with a permit you can walk the entire 16km. If you have the chance to do this walk, jump at the opportunity. The Emerald Pools are best visited in the early spring, as they were more like puddles than pools due to a very dry summer.

That evening we had to have a few light ales to see how the Americans celebrate Halloween. As Utah is America's Mormon state, the answer is not very well, so we went to bed early in preparation for the next day.

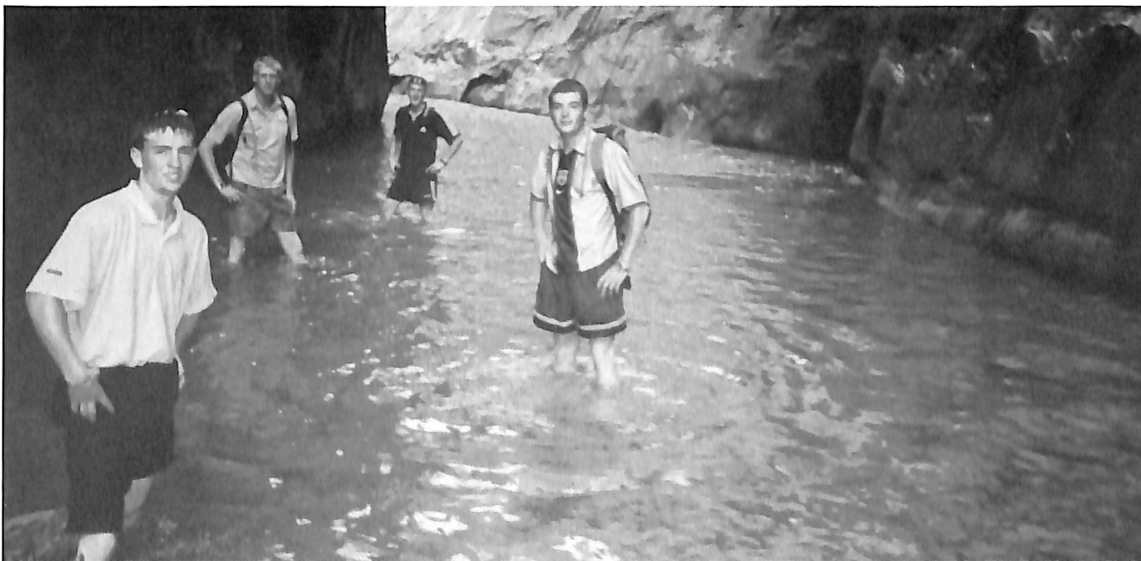
Thursday 1 November

Today held the best trek of them all, although Lance Corporal Scott would not have agreed half way up, but most definitely would have afterwards. The route to the beginning of Angels Landing is up a reasonably steep paved trail, which tends to take away something from the first phase of this trek. Once we began the climb it was a case of grabbing onto anything solid. There are chains put in to use for grips. This ridgeline makes Crib Goch look like a walk in the park. The views at the top are stunning and the drop off the edge frightening! Once we were back on the pathway it became easier to run down than to fight the slope, so we did.

After packing up at the campsite we departed for Los Angeles for some R&R. This phase of the expedition was left open for individual action. Some spent time in LA, followed by a couple more days in Las Vegas. Whilst others visited Los Angeles Universal Studios, Santa Monica and China Town. I found LA to be a massive anti-climax, I would even go so far as to say a smog-ridden atrocity. Generally everybody enjoyed the R&R phase and were ready to depart from Las Vegas on 6 November.

Overall the expedition was a thoroughly worthwhile experience, enjoyed by all who took part.

2 Lieutenant Pearce
Expedition Leader



Left to right: Lance Corporal Davison with Privates Runciman, Nelson and Winstanley in the Narrows.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 2001 - A BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY?

A trip to your CO's office can be something of an ordeal, as I have found in my illustrious career, and I now always try and live by the maxim "time spent on reconnaissance is seldom wasted", in order to be fully prepared. Thus, when I was informed that the CO wanted to see me, I went through the normal process of

frantically reviewing the last 24 hours before asking someone what it was about. Fortunately in this instance my recce did not require SAS-like skills, as the messenger was able to provide additional details. "It's about Long Look". Now choirs of angels could not actually be heard, nor was there a blinding ray of light,

but none the less it was sounding pretty good. And so it was to be, two months of our operational tour in Kosovo, followed by four months in New Zealand. I like to think it was a reward for all my hard work as Burma 2IC, others just thought I was a lucky git and told me so. I just smiled, I was going on Long Look!

The stories surrounding Long Look are legendary and no doubt most should be served with a salt cellar, but having now been on it I realise just what a great scheme this is. Long Look is probably not the most demanding or intensive exercise the British Army participates in, but therein lies much of its strength. Nor is it the sangria-sipping, slipper-wearing, holiday that many believe it to be. It really is what you make of it, and is truly a once in a lifetime experience.

My exchange was with the 1st Battalion the Royal New Zealand Infantry Battalion, 1 RNZIR, with my counterpart joining Burma Company in Kosovo as a Platoon Commander. However this in practice meant a posting to Alpha Company 1 RNZIR, as the Battalion itself deployed to East Timor a few weeks before I arrived, and Alpha Company formed the rear detail. This in itself was something of a disappointment, 2IC of a rear party not being a much sought after job, and it was made clear that the chances of getting out to East Timor were slim at best, and eventually they reduced to zero. This was the same situation for the entire NZ based contingent, including a number who, like myself, were posted to operationally deployed units, a fact which is to be addressed for subsequent Long Looks.

Serving with the New Zealand Army required the mental shift that an American would have to make coming to serve with us; you've got to think small. The NZ Army has only one infantry regiment, which consists of two battalions, 1 RNZIR at Palmerston North on the North Island, and 2/1 RNZIR based at Burnham on the South Island. Currently the NZ commitment to East Timor is a battlegroup and given

the Army is around 6,500 including territorial personnel, one can immediately see the pressure the system is under, and at times it shows. The focus has shifted totally to operations, but to the detriment of training and this is a problem that is now being addressed, as course qualified personnel were becoming alarmingly scarce. Manning each battlegroup now draws from across the entire Army as opposed to only the teeth arms, which, while it eases some problems, it inevitably creates others. The build time required as a result is rather long, for example the command element (section commander upwards) for the battlegroup which deployed in November '00, formed up in June '00 with the soldiers beginning theatre training in July '00. This is explained by the Kiwis as being partly due to their lack of operational experience, but I sometimes sensed a lack of confidence in their soldiers, which was in contrast to what I saw. Whilst we may take operations for granted, I sometimes felt that it was held to be a bigger challenge than perhaps they were really faced with, especially as the UN force is now well established there.

Alpha Company was very much a composite company in the way that rear details often are, but the amount of low level training that was conducted surprised me greatly. For example within my first fortnight the Company had deployed to a training area at Waiouru (Sennybridge's twin miserable hellhole in NZ) for a shooting camp and navigation course. The sole purpose of both was simply to improve the shooting or navigation of the junior element. No trying to meet ITD 302, or complete upgradings, or fire a Tickle test, but simply trying to improve basic soldier skills. Imagine having the time or resources to do that with your Company?! Each week a full and detailed training programme was run, with PT three times a week. Whilst I accept that they don't have vehicles to maintain or LSI after ECI after OPEVAL to prepare for,



Captain Rob Palfrey on Exercise Long Look.

there is a lesson to be learnt. Kiwis as a nation pride themselves on their resourcefulness and initiative, and this is very evident in their attitude to training. They may not have all the kit they need, it may not be great, training space may be limited, but with imagination on the part of both instructor and student, some good and worthwhile lessons are conducted. It is important to note that the attitude of the private soldier was equally important here. I was involved in a number of activities that soldiers at home would have considered laughable and unrealistic, but were given full attention in NZ. I was somewhat shocked when a number of soldiers actually admitted to having enjoyed a day's training, although admittedly this may be because I am only used to working with Dukes, who, as we know (and love), live to moan!

My biggest input into the Company training was running a two-week MOUT (Military Operations in an Urban Terrain) package. Given the state of the Company and direction from the OC I focussed mainly on Peace Support Operations within an urban environment, although we did touch on FIBUA itself. I was able to tap on some useful experience from two Kiwi Corporals who had been to Bosnia in 1994, and was ably assisted by Corporal Heath PWRR, a fellow Long Looker. After a week teaching phase in camp, we moved to the Urban Training Facility (UTF) at Waiouru. This facility is still being developed but at the moment consisted of ten houses, all one storey, i.e. not Copehill Down! However, due to the enthusiasm and flexibility of the Kiwis, we conducted a very useful week in the village, with each platoon completing a 24-hour exercise, run by yours truly. I found that many of the lessons that had been taught the previous week, such as the 4Cs, search techniques, ROEs etc, had been well absorbed in principle, and given another 2-3 weeks all would have been capable of conducting team patrolling in Kosovo for example. On a personal level this was the most enjoyable training I have conducted in my short career. Given only general direction and free reign from my OC, who obviously expected a worthwhile and demanding package, I was able to direct the training towards what I considered valuable. It reminded me of the sort of training that, whilst at Sandhurst, I was told would be demanded of a subaltern, but sadly never was.

As mentioned, there is another side to Long Look, the slightly more controversial side, and let's be honest, the more fun side. Kiwis are fiercely proud of their country and are keen to give Long Lookers every opportunity and assistance to see it. I was extremely fortunate in that my Company Commander was a strong believer in this and was extremely generous in his allocation of leave (discretion forbids me from revealing how generous). However this is where Long Look moves into its own, and how much individuals make of their time is a truly worthwhile exercise in itself. My greatest triumph was the negotiation of a car for the duration of my stay; a deal struck with a Kiwi subaltern over a beer. This gave me so much more freedom and ease of travel that I was able to achieve a great deal more that I would have otherwise. Whilst no one is interested in exact details I'm sure, suffice to say I went from never having scuba dived before to Advanced Diver. I skied, black water sledges, jet boated the shotover rapids and sea kayaked.

I swam with dolphins, sat with seals, ran from sea lions, laughed at penguins and stared at sperm whales. I tramped, watched rugby galore, walked on glaciers, soaked in thermal pools and, yes, sank a few sangrias! You can't get bored in NZ, especially when you're earning British pounds, which were laughably strong throughout. I visited every major city on both islands and a number of more rural locations. Driving around NZ is an experience in itself with a golden Kodak moment presenting itself every five minutes.

Kiwis themselves are incredibly honest and generous bunch. If they invited you to something they meant it, and the invitations were pretty free-flowing, such as the memorable mid-winter barbecue where I learnt how to barbecue in the pouring rain! They talk to you in the street, discuss the weather even more than the British do, and love it if you want to be rude about the Australians, which given the Lions tour I did! And that really is their number one love, rugby, not being rude about Aussies which is a distant second. I was fortunate to catch a number of major rugby games as well as countless games on the local domain on a Saturday afternoon. I can only liken their passion to football within Britain, but without the blind ignorance of the British football fan. Countless times I was told how pleased they were that the Lions weren't in NZ as we would beat them at the moment, and when they lost the Bledisloe cup, as devastated as they were, they admitted they were beaten by a better side. When I was deep in discussion with a fellow officer's mother about injury problems within the All Black camp, I realised just how universal their passion is. I was fortunate to attend the ABs against France in Wellington and against South Africa in Auckland. I also flew to Sydney where I caught up with Captain Liam McCormick, currently serving with 5/7 RAR in Darwin. He had secured us tickets for the final Lion's Test, an awesome occasion, if heart-breaking result. The Aussies could learn a fair bit about sporting spirit from their Antipodean cousins; enough said.

Perhaps the starkest contrast about Long Look with any other exercise is that everyone dreads the words Endex. For me it wasn't so bad as I was granted a couple of weeks leave and was able to make my own way home. I went via Cairns, with three days' diving on the outer Great Barrier Reef, and then flew onto Darwin to see the newly wedded Liam and Christina McCormick. From Darwin I visited Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kakadu National Park, where I was convinced I was going to be eaten by a saltwater crocodile, but evidently wasn't! Finally, even I had to surrender myself to a decent day's work and returned to the Battalion in Germany.

Overall it was a fantastic, once-in-a-lifetime, opportunity. Critics of the scheme need to look beyond simple military gains and look at the personal development of the individuals that are involved. Not everything that is worthwhile has to be painful or involve being soaked to the skin, if I learnt one thing from the Kiwis it is the value of perspective, and how cold beer can taste good. Now I wonder if I could get on next year's exchange to Australia...

Captain R. J. Palfrey

EXERCISE LONG LOOK: THE KIWI EXPERIENCE

Peace support operations in Pristina could not be more different from the desert oasis that is Waiouru, New Zealand. I left Kosovo after two months to deploy on Exercise Long Look and Waiouru in the North Island was to be my new home for the next six months, where I would be a troop corporal with the Queen's Alexandra Mounted Rifles (QAMR).

En route to New Zealand I managed a stop-over in Singapore and Sydney, with the Sydney nightlife living up to its reputation, as I found myself still partying in the numerous bars and cafes well into the early morning hours. Having earned a well-deserved headache, the onward travel proved quite an ordeal. However, no respite was going to be given to the new Limey in town as my hosts broke the good news: I was deploying straight onto an exercise. Waiouru training area is very similar to the Brecon Beacons, only it is three times larger with an abundance of snow. Imagine my delight! During the exercise, live firing of the .50 Cal on the M113 APCs was conducted along with some jungle lanes (in the snow!). After taking a lot of banter about our own SA80 I was able to put their Steyr rifle through its paces. The Steyr can be fired either left or right-handed and has short and long barrel variants. Their infantry use the long barrel version. Throughout the three week exercise the snow hampered visibility and at times morale, but it was a great opportunity to get to know the guys that I would be working with, albeit remembering some of the Maori names took a bit of time.

Back in camp, physical training is given a very high priority, with daily regimental PT with the Commanding Officer. Other 'highlights' included combat swimming sessions and their assault course that took over an hour to complete without kit. Imagine my

pleasure when we did it with webbing, bergen and a log between our team of six. I don't think I'll miss that much.

On return to the field, I found myself in charge of the enemy party for their troop sergeant's course, which essentially involved tearing around the area in V8 Land Rovers, as well as using speedboats on the reservoir for amphibious assaults. Following this, the QAMR deployed on a test exercise for Captains for promotion to Major, which pitched armoured and infantry regiments together. This was cut short due to the prison officers going on strike and for a couple of weeks the army was required to take over the running of the prisons.

Away from work I managed to grab some of the sights of Australasian region. This involved a journey to the capital, Wellington, and then down to the South Island, taking in some breath-taking scenery en route to Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown where I got some skiing in. Later on I headed off to Surfers' Paradise on the Gold Coast of Australia for a couple of weeks where the sun was shining, the surf was strong, the Aussie beer was ice cold and this Duke could have happily stayed for a lot longer.

During my time in New Zealand I played rugby on a number of occasions and was shocked at how aggressively the game is played out there. Kiwis seem to live for rugby and watching the All Blacks beat France convincingly in Wellington was very memorable, although that evening isn't so clear. Exercise Long Look has given me a new insight into a different way of life, I've learnt a great deal and made some good friends. This Limey is keen to go back!

Corporal I. R. Lockwood



Corporal Lockwood behind the NZ Minimi MG, Exercise Long Look.

The East and West Riding Regiment

Commanding Officer's Introduction

The last few months of 2001 saw the Regiment end on a high note of activity and achievement. First, we ran two highly successful cadet competitions in October which will be repeated in a centralised format this year. Remembrance Weekend recorded the largest turn out from the Regiment since I assumed command and we were well represented in all our key towns and cities. This was followed by an outstanding field-firing weekend at Warcop where we were the first users for eight months! Range work included live firing by Sheffield's SF Platoon and throwing the new HE grenade. Our Christmas weekend at Strensall was a fitting and seasonal end to the year with inter-company sports, Christmas dinners and a Regimental carol service in the Garrison Church.

Ypres Company remains one of the strongest in the Regiment, despite having three soldiers deploying to Kosovo and the prospect of another 'magnificent' seven deploying from Keighley to Cyprus in April. The OC, Major Hughes, has also been on his travels, taking part in a battlefield tour to Spain and deploying as range staff to the Falklands. Closer to home, congratulations are due to the novice team led by Colour Sergeant Mallas which earned a certificate on its first attempt at Cambrian Patrol.

I am also pleased to report that Fontenay Company is going from strength to strength with manning and attendance both increasing, especially in Sheffield. Despite a disappointing shoot in the SF Match, morale is high following victory in the inter-platoon competition where both of the Company's teams were in the top three. More recent good news includes the commissioning of 2 Lieutenant Steel in February and the successful completion of PCBC by Lt Huddart.

As I write both companies are busy preparing their teams for Martial Merlin (the Brigade Patrol Competition) followed rapidly by the Freedom of Sheffield, the Havercake March and our OTX in Belgium in the summer. Finally, on behalf of all ranks of the East and West Riding Regiment, I offer our congratulations and our very best wishes to all Dukes in this your Tercentenary year. Happy 300th birthday!



Left to right: Privates Simon Kenyon, Ranvir Singh and Karl Flowitt. All have left Ypres Company to spend four-and-a-half months in Kosovo.

We are grateful to the Huddersfield Examiner for permission to publish this photograph

YPRES (DWR) COMPANY

Cambrian Patrol

The Location: Sunny Brecon **The Team:** Colour Sergeant Mallas, Lance Corporal Dawson, Privates Bradwell, Dudman, Flowitt, Kenyon, Lythe, Woodcock.

The vehicle screeched to a halt on the gravel. The driver looked at me. "Right, this is the drop-off point, you can debus!"

The rear doors burst open and out dived the lads with their bergans, dashing for cover as practised over and over during the past few weeks. The white transit that had just dropped us off, was now speeding off into the distance, leaving us all in the middle of nowhere.

"Right lads, close in. This is where we are..." I pointed to the map. "...And this is where we're going." "Doesn't look that far", someone piped up (obviously someone young and new to the game). "No...but it's in that direction" - I pointed to one of the highest, well, mountains, looking deceptively picturesque and welcoming, with a waterfall running through it. "Oh" came the reply. Silence.

We set off for the "hill". It didn't look too bad as we approached it, and the terrain looked quite firm. Wrong! It turned out to be a very steep, a very unforgiving kilometre-and-a-half of boggy ground, due to the previous four days of heavy rain. What started off as a quite enthusiastic climb, was soon reduced to a slow crawl - with many mutterings of joy at the task in hand (not).

After a solid two hours of climbing, we finally reached the top. And yes, the downhill was to be just as demanding - if not worse! Not really helped by a not-to-be-named team member going head over heels and somersaulting several feet with a bergan on. He ended up in a sprawled heap to everyone's amusement - except mine, due to the fact that it was me who fell!

The valley bottom was now severely flooded with a quite fast-flowing stream running through it. It proved to be very treacherous, and crossing the stream with full bergans was quite amusing at times (well, we can laugh about it now, anyway!) - especially watching Private

Dudman practising his breaststroke with a full bergan on. After a very long hour, and many comments along the lines of "sick of the sight of water, mud", it was time to take a well-appreciated turn up another hill into the woods. We eventually found a track (what a luxury!), and it was now to be the final dash to meet the agent.

"Welcome - my name is Agent X" (how original). "Well done on completing the insertion phase. Many teams have pulled out before reaching here - and one team is eight hours overdue! You've done the hard part now. Here is your first task to recce an enemy-held bridge at Grid 123456. Well done lads. Keep your heads up - you've done well so far." Then Agent X disappeared from whence he came. After all we'd been through so far - and we'd only done the first part of the competition! However, after that first six-hour tab, the next 48 hours we hoped could only be less demanding...Oh no - how foolish and naive we were.

Over the next 48 hours we were constantly tabbing from one location to another, carrying out various tasks. These included testing our river crossing, first aid, NBC, weapon handling, map reading, AFV, recce and patrolling skills. Not to mention pushing our stamina, fitness and determination to the very limits. It all became a blur.

The end was eventually nigh ... although we didn't know it at the time. Our (final) task was to meet an agent who was going to give us our next task.

As we climbed over the stile, and came out of the woodline, we saw a wondrous sight (one which we won't forget in a long time) - in the unlikely form of a blue transit, a red minibus, WO2 Ward, Corporal Morgan and Lance Corporal Wilkinson. They have never looked so attractive!

As we approached them, they clapped and shouted us aboard, congratulating us on completing the competition - believe me, a very emotional moment, not quite sure if this was some cruel sadistic trick being played upon us.

"No lads - you've finished! Really!" WO2 Ward laughed. "Quick lads - get in the minibus before he changes his mind!" - they didn't need telling twice.

No sooner had we collapsed into the minibuses - whisked away for the luxury of a shower and hot breakfast - when snoring was heard. Tiredness, relief, pain - all felt at the same time. But we'll be back in 2002 to do it all again! (Why? I don't know, but we've all said the same.)

With a young team, on our first Cambrian Patrol we achieved a certificate of completion. Next time we have to strive for a medal.

Colour Sergeant Nick Mallas

FONTENAY (DWR) COMPANY

The Match '83 Competition 2001 - 17 October

This year Otterburn Ranges in Northumbria was the in place to be for any machine gunner worth his salt. Why? Because this was the venue for the annual GPMG SF Match '83 Competition.

This competition consists of a series of practices designed to test all skills of a gun team while engaging a variety of targets at different ranges.

At the beginning of each practice targets are indicated to the gun controllers by one of the directing staff who is in control of the shoot. The targets are ranged between 500 and 1100 metres and it is up to the controller to judge the distance accurately and direct the gunner on to the target. The targets are of an interesting mix, with tank hulks being engaged one moment and then fire being switched to piles of tyres or maybe just on to a geographical feature next.

The targets are engaged by using both the iron sight and the C2 sight. The C2 sight is used to mark the position of the gun when 'laid on' to a target, so that it can be re-engaged if it becomes obscure. In fact during one of the practices a hessian screen is put in front of the gun to test the teams in the use of the C2 sight. The gun team is also tested in dismounting the gun and then reoccupying a position, so the skills in marking the tripod position and recording C2 sight information needs to be first class if accuracy is to be maintained.

This year Fontenay Company carried out a considerable amount of build up training for the match and competition for a team place was high. The build up training consisted of two full weekends at Otterburn and a day on Toley Range, Sheffield, with all the dry drills being practised on Tuesday nights.

The main aim of the first training weekend was to balance and zero the guns and select four best gun teams. Six guns were taken to give everyone available a chance to compete for a team place and after a full day's shooting on the Saturday we had a good idea of who would be making the final eight. This turned out to be a good move as foul weather on the Sunday precluded any further selection. The second weekend gave us the chance to get in some live firing and work on the application of the C2 sight. This time the Northumbrian weather favoured us and we managed to get in two good days of firing. The scores weren't that good, but important lessons were learned.

The final teams selected for the competition were:
Gun 1: Lance Corporal Paul Beeley and Private Seth 'The Chicken' Alderson.

Gun 2: Officer Cadet Glyn Steel and Private David 'Wavy Davie' Thomson.

Gun 3: Corporal Philip 'Max' Wall and Lance Corporal Gareth Rees.

Gun 4: Lance Corporal Mark 'Wedge' Ellis and Private dean 'My Mate Primate' Williamson.

The weather on the day of the competition turned out to be dry and overcast and Fontenay began the day by sharing the practice range with teams from the Tyne Tees Regiment. Working in pairs our gunners practised iron sight engagements to get their eye in before moving up to competition range.

Tyne Tees had the honour of firing first so the Fontenay teams were shepherded into a tent to keep them from 'spying' on the proceedings and on the completion of the Tyne Tees engagements we finally got underway.

All our teams had an excellent start, although Corporal Wall and Lance Corporal Ellis were experiencing problems with the feed mechanism of their weapons. This along with a few silly mistakes resulted in our team being narrowly beaten into second place by the Tyne Tees Regiment.

After the competition the platoons drove to St George's TAC, Sandford, Newcastle to clean up and sort out the administration. Two team members, Private Williamson and Lance Corporal Rees, were both celebrating their 21st birthdays and they were presented with a cake by the platoon, along with a very suspect Hungarian drink supplied by Colour Sergeant Johnson.

To top off the competition the platoon was treated to a guided tour of the finest drinking establishments in the area by the stalwarts of the Tyne Tees SF Platoon. Newcastle lived up to expectations, and a good night was had by all. On behalf of Fontenay's SF Platoon I would like to thank the Tyne Tees Regiment (and certain female members of the Newcastle population) for their hospitality and a thoroughly good weekend. Both units had trained really hard for the competition and it was a complete success, well done to both teams, especially Tyne Tees - we'll beat you next year!

Officer Cadet G. Steel
SF Platoon

Presentation of Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal and Presentation of the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal

On 30 October 2001 seven soldiers of Fontenay (DWR) Company the East and West Riding Regiment received awards for their long service from the Mayor of Barnsley. Councillor Catherine Evans presented Sergeant Mick Hattersley with the clasp to his Territorial Efficiency Medal, marking his eighteen years' service with the Company. Warrant Officer Richard Yates, Sergeant Mick Johnson, Corporal William Butterworth, Corporal Sue Hutchinson, Corporal Richard Whitehead and Lance Corporal Robin Hutchinson each received the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal in recognition of their ten years' service.



**Corporal Butterworth Sergeant Hattersley Sergeant Johnson WO2 Yates
The Mayor Councillor Catherine Evans
Corporal Hutchinson Corporal Whitehead Lance Corporal Hutchinson**

TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR

THE HAINES DIARY

We continue to compare Albert Haines' diary entries with those of the War Diary of 1/4 DWR in 1918.

Albert Haines' Diary

1/4th Battalion War Diary

1918, July

15th - 16th

16th - Got relieved for five days.
Went to Siege Camp.

16th - 23rd

21st

23rd - 24th

23rd - Proceeded up the line at Ypres. Made a big gas attack. Pushing nine trains containing 2,500 gas cylinders of turpentine gas 300 yards out into No Man's Land where they were all discharged by electricity. Attack, I think, was successful as Jerry made no reply. We then had to proceed to Goldfish Chateau to do nine days in the reserve trench.

24th - 31st

24th - Acted as guide to 117 American Rec C Company bringing them from the front line to the right of Ypres to Siege Camp.

1918, August

1st

1st - 2nd

1st - Proceeded up the line with some US soldiers on the right of Ypres, Zillebeke Lake.

2nd - 7th

4th - Jerry strafed us at 11pm until 4am.
5th - Jerry strafed us again at 10.30pm until about 4am.
6th - Jerry strafed us again at 11pm.
7th - Was relieved by Americans, went down the line to Goldfish Chateau to do over 16 days.

Ypres Left Sector (Right Sub-Sector) Siege Camp

The Battalion was relieved in the Ypres Left Sector (Right Sub-Sector) by the 1/4th Battalion York & Lancs Regiment. Everything went off smoothly & after relief the Battalion moved to Siege Camp where it was in Div Reserve. Details as per Operation Order No.195.

Siege Camp

Time was occupied as follows:-

1st Day: Interior Economy & organisation.

3 Days: Working Parties - 3 Coys wiring & 1 digging.

3 Days: Training. Last Day: Rest.

GOC II Corps presented medal ribbons to about 90 Officers & O.R. of 147 Infantry Brigade, including a large number from the Battalion. Part of the Guard of Honour for the ceremony was provided by the Battalion.

Ypres Right Sector

The Battalion assisted in a Gas Attack which was carried out N. of the Menin Road. After the Gas Attack the Battalion relieved the 1/6th Battalion West Yorks Regiment in Brigade Reserve in the Ypres Right Sector. The relief was not complete until well after dawn & the men were very exhausted after their exertions. Details of relief as per Operation Order No.196.

The Battalion was in Brigade Reserve. Much work was done in the Support Line of the Right Battalion of the Brigade (S. of the Ypres-Roulers Rly) & on a line of posts from the Laundry (inclusive) to the V2 Defences (inclusive).

Additional Appendices:-

5. List of Decorations, etc. during July 1918

6. List of Casualties during July 1918

A. L. Mowat, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding 1/4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (WR) Regiment

Ypres Right Sector

The Battalion was in Brigade Reserve in the Ypres Right Sector.

Ypres Right Sub-Sector

The Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion, 118th Regiment American E.F. in the Right Sub-Sector of the Ypres Right Sector. Details as per Operation Order No.197.

The Battalion was holding the Right Sub-Sector:-

American Attachment. Two Companies of the 117th Regiment A.E.F. were attached to the Battalion for instruction, each Company for 3 days. Attachment was carried out as follows:-

1st 24 hours. One American Platoon was attached to each British Company, the Officer & men of this platoon were each attached to their "opposite numbers"

2nd - 7th

& did all duty with them. American Company HQ was attached to B Company HQ.

2nd 24 hours. One platoon of each Company was relieved by an American platoon & was withdrawn either to the Moat Defences or the Brielen line. The American platoon took over all duties of the British platoon which it relieved & worked under the orders of OC British Company.

3rd 24 hours. The American Company relieved B Company (Centre) which withdrew to the Brielen Line. The American Company worked under CO 1/4th D of W (WR) Regiment. During the greater part of the six days Major Callen (CO 117th Regiment) & his Adjutant were living at Battalion HQ. Details of relief etc. as per Operation Orders Nos. 198 & 199.

Work was much hindered by the nightly reliefs caused by the American attachment & by the order that men of the FL Coys should take up positions in front of the wire between 1am & dawn. Some work was done in the FL & a good deal in the Reserve Line.

Patrolling. Not much was done N of Zillebeke Lake; A Company captured a prisoner of the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Dragoons, 5th Cav Brigade, 6th Cav Division near Moated Grange on early morning of 7 August. Our patrols were more active S of Zillebeke Lake & more attempts were made to secure identification but without success. The nights were very dark.

The enemy was distinctly more active than when the Battalion was on the same front in June:-

Artillery. The dugouts at the W end of Zillebeke Lake were heavily shelled with 15cm HE for three hours one evening & more lightly on several other occasions. Frequently our wire & No Man's Land near it were shelled in the early morning before dawn & it was suspected that the practice of lying out in front of the wire had been discovered by the enemy.

Enemy machine guns were very active at night S of Zillebeke Lake.

Casualties: Killed:- 1 OR. Died of wounds:- 2 OR. Wounded:- 1 Officer, 16 OR.

The Battalion was relieved in the Right Sub-Sector of the Ypres Right Sector by the 3rd Battalion 117th Regiment AEF. Details of relief as per Operation Order No. 200 attached. On relief the Battalion moved to accommodation the Brown (Brielen) Line.

7th - 8th

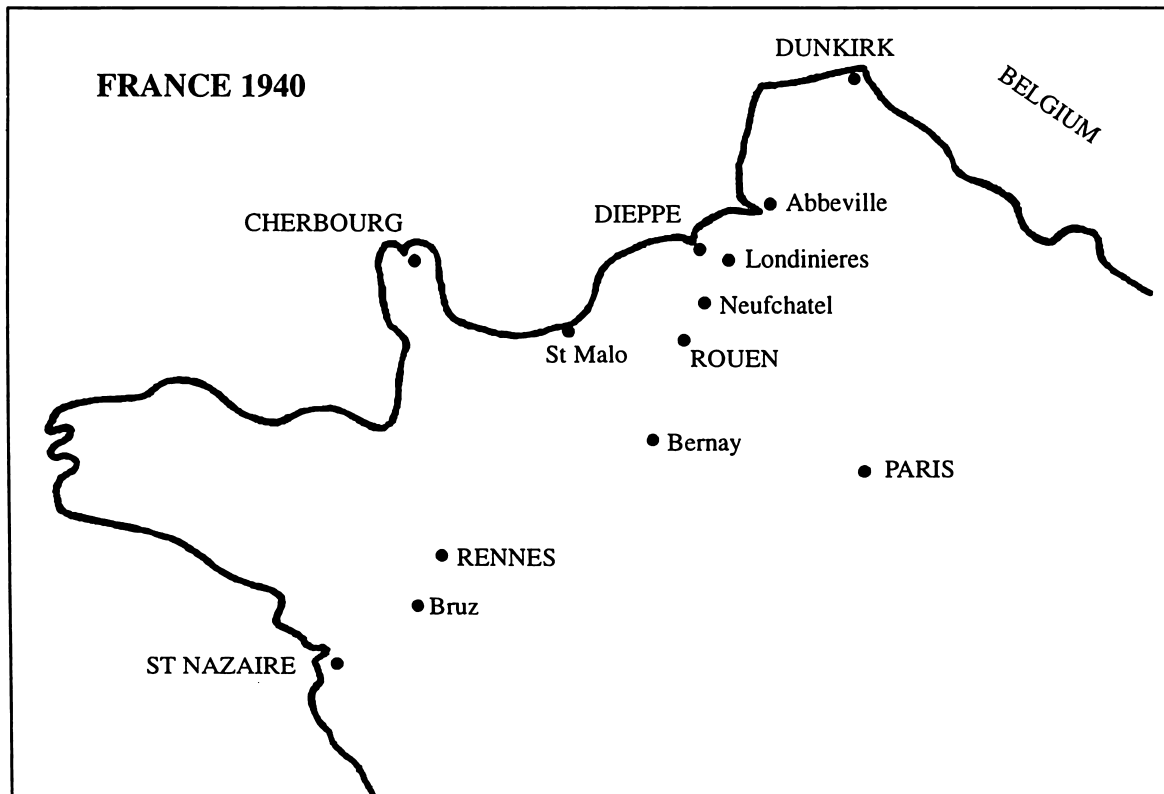
8th - Went to Siege Camp for our 8 days' rest.

THE WAR YEARS 1939 - 1945

*Major Peter Knight continues his story as he commands
A Company 2/6 DWR in France in May 1940*

The German invasion of Belgium and Holland commenced on 10 May, once again, as in the invasion of Poland, with a brutal bombardment by air. It was soon apparent that the British Expeditionary Force was in for some 'hard pounding' as the first Duke would have said. On 17 May we learned that the 46th Division, to which we belonged, had been offered in a defensive role. "The 46th Division" the telegram to the C-in-C, General Lord Gort, is reported to have said "is willing and fit to fight", a statement which was greeted with a degree of scepticism having regard to our almost

complete lack of adequate training for active warfare and shortage of weaponry. However the Dukes were about to give a good account of themselves in well nigh impossible circumstances. On 18 May we entrained once more at St Nazaire; but at this point I must digress a little. Until then life had not been too unpleasant and often great fun. We had been entertained by ENSA. The troops had been entertained by the local lasses, some of the officers too, I believe, for one morning Denis Riddiough, Captain of C Company, told me of a visit to the local 'establishment' and of the intriguing way in



which some of the ladies had behaved. He concluded his account by saying that it would have been very unsuitable for me to have seen!

All this was to change dramatically. At the station in the countryside outside the city we waited for what seemed like many hours for the train. When it arrived the officers travelled in communicating coaches, but the men had to make do with rolling stock designated: "hommes 40, chevaux 10". The journey was to have taken us to Bethune via Amiens but two days later, after much stopping and starting, shunting and changes of direction and the occasional bomb aimed at us - a cow in a field was the only casualty - we were deposited early one evening in the midst of the Somme marshes just short of Abbeville railway station, which at that moment was being invested by the enemy. The train in which we travelled was preceded by our Brigade HQ (137 Brigade of the 46th Division) in company with the 2/5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment. When we had left St. Nazaire they had been in the train behind us but during the night's shunting in Rouen we had changed places - they simply disappeared into the blue and were likely captured. Operation orders were given in the corridor of the train; no maps were available; there was no communication with any other unit apart from the 2/7th Battalion of the Dukes who were in the train behind us and there was no contact with Brigade or any other HQ and no one was certain where we were. We could only guess at the presence of the enemy from the sound of nearby gunfire and the crump of shell or bomb ahead of the train.

Precise orders could not be given other than to de-train, take up defensive positions in the flat fields around us and look to our front. It soon became apparent that we were in a ridiculous position; in fading light; with no fields of fire; no position from which to view the enemy; the nearby roads, as far as one could see, choc-a-bloc with refugees and retreating allied troops. The order, sensibly, was given to re-entrain and we backed up the line to a better position. The manoeuvre was fraught with difficulty; the train drivers had to be 'persuaded' to stay with the train; the trains had to be coupled together and the couplings kept breaking; there was a shortage of water for the boilers and we were bombed once more - again with no casualties. Finally we halted on higher ground and after a conference with the CO of our sister Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel G. Taylor, in the adjoining train we laagered either side of the railway track much as depicted in wild-west films with wagon trains and red-indians. I remember well the stillness of the night, the fragrance of the countryside and the oft repeated song of the nightingale, as if to emphasise the supreme folly of it all; nature at her best, man at his worst. Early next day a composite patrol from the two battalions returned from the outskirts of Abbeville to report that the Germans were in possession of the town. The 2/7th Dukes Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant K. Smith, was killed and Private Cocker of our Battalion was wounded. The CO called a conference of company commanders and gave orders for companies to move independently towards Rouen, pointing, as he spoke, in

a southerly direction down the railway track. We were warned to expect enemy tanks on the roads. No maps or compasses were available, nor were there any radio sets for communication, neither was anyone familiar with the terrain and I had no notion how far or where Rouen might be. I then led A Company down the railway track, back the way we had come. The track supplied both a sense of direction and, I supposed, some protection against tanks. Thus began the great trek and, as it turned out, hunger march, for we had not eaten for some time and we did not have any rations. We followed the track for some miles and when it branched unfavourably to the general direction I supposed was our quickest route we went across fields, avoiding roads, as far as possible, which were filled with refugees and often strafed by the enemy air force, the dreaded 'stuka' dive bombers.

The expression 'strafe' was coined by the Germans in 1914, 'Gott strafe England' - 'God punish England' - was their cry then, but now it was these pitiful wretches fleeing from their homes who were the victims of their venom. As soon as I found suitable cover, a thick wood, we rested and thereafter slept away the day and travelled by night for several days. It was not possible to avoid all roads and at each village we took up defensive positions and sent patrols forward before proceeding. We got very hungry. Water was no problem as water bottles were filled regularly at passing farms; but we had nothing to eat apart from a very welcome egg-nogg, less alcohol, we made at a deserted farmhouse. Cows long past milking time were relieved of their burden and a plentiful supply of fresh eggs were beaten up in a large cauldron. Of the farmer and his wife there was no sign, gone, no doubt, to swell the ever-growing tide of human misery strung along the roads leading from the north, their mattresses atop their motor vehicles or carried on carts or, more often, on foot; their pitiful possessions littering the road with the carcasses of horses, the general flotsam of a population on the run. We passed successively through Lemesnil, Reaume (night 21/22 May), Fresnoy, Londinieres (night 22/23 May). It was here that we had a bit of luck. Wafted on the early morning air was the indescribably welcome smell of newly baked bread and in the village we found the local baker in his bake house stripped to the waist kneading his dough against his ample stomach. He refused to supply us despite the money proffered. A different persuasion was needed. I ordered the CSM to form the company up and fix bayonets. We then brought the baker out to see what the form was. A Company was not only fortunate in having such an outstanding Company Sergeant Major in Alfred England but also a splendid company orderly clerk in the person of Private Harry Thomas of the Halifax Building Society, Bradford, in premises in Bank Street just below the offices of Sampson, Horner & Co. Solicitors, the firm in which I was the junior partner. He spoke fluent French. Their combined efforts were irresistible and we marched on with a fresh loaf between each two men. So on to Neufchatel where we found some of the Battalion transport and a huge store of food, sweets, cigarettes and alcohol apparently abandoned by NAAFI and in the process of being pillaged by the local population. Again we fixed bayonets, restored some sort of order and

handed out the goodies in modest proportions. I am indebted to Harry Thomas for this reminiscence. He adds: "Part way through this operation, I saw a couple of nuns trying, with dignified courtesy, to attract my attention in order to secure possession of a mattress for a very sick lady in their care. Needless to say they had their wish."

The transport we had was then loaded to the wheel arches with the remains of the store but upon arrival at Battalion HQ we were ordered to hand over our haul and sure enough the next day our indefatigable Quartermaster, Lieutenant Hardisty MM opened a Battalion canteen for cash. It was business as usual!

My next clear recollection is of the camp at Rouen, where the rest of the Battalion assembled (26 May) along with elements of many other units of the British Army. I remember several incidents, some not without humour. The first was of officers who had just completed a meticulous toilet at the outside wash basins, diving for cover as Jerry planes came over. Fortunately no one was hurt, but there were a lot of hurt faces and black looks as we recommenced our ablutions. Then, one evening when I was taking a stroll, I met one of my oldest friends, Bill Holroyd, then, I believe, a sergeant, in the RASC (Royal Army Service Corps). He was a bit skint and I was happy to lend him a fiver in circumstances in which neither of us could have anticipated its repayment two years later in a joyous re-union at the Piccadilly Hotel, London.

Our part of the tented camp was close to some tents occupied by a unit of the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps) who complained that some of their property had been stolen. Their finger was pointed at us. The company was paraded. I addressed the men in strong terms. I knew that the overwhelming majority of them were good fellows and had a shrewd idea of the culprits. The CSM had no doubts. The property was surreptitiously replaced; the culprits were not named; the honour of the Regiment was restored. How the CSM brought this about I did not enquire. At another parade I inspected the men and found some had eaten their emergency rations during the long march back to Rouen. I was very cross as I singled out the offenders. I said "In future I will tell you when you are hungry!" I was a hard task master. Some days later (30 May) we were transported to Bruz, near Rennes, some 160 miles to the west for further training and fired some of our weaponry. Prior to that the only occasion upon which we had opened fire had been with our Ack-ack gun whilst passing through Rouen on our way north twelve days previously. Whilst at Bruz, on 4 June, I was listening to the BBC whilst sitting with my feet in a bucket of water when I heard the suave announcement that the whole of the BEF had been safely evacuated from Dunkirk and that there were no further British troops in France! In the event it was to be two weeks before we were safely home after several days of bitter fighting. On 6 June the CO was informed that the Battalion was to become part of C Brigade of Beaumont Force and the following day we re-traced our journey almost to Rouen where we were ordered to take up defensive positions on the River Seine to the north-west of Paris between the bridges at Les Andeleys and St

Pierre de Vouvray, a front of twelve miles, a seemingly impossible task as, apart from the distance involved, there were innumerable crossing places in between. A Company was ordered to take up a position at Venables, a small village on the south west of the large bight formed by the river at that point and on high ground

with a commanding view of the terrain. When we arrived the day following it was a beautiful summer day as it had been for many days since our arrival in France five weeks before. Venables was a rural paradise though now quite deserted save for the birds that still sang - but not for long.

to be continued ...

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

Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Bennett

We start this issue's news with a very sad announcement. Lieutenant Colonel Dougie Bennett, who served as our Company Commander from 1989 to 1993 and then as Assistant Commandant until 1995 died in November 2001 at the age of 72. He was one of the longest serving members of the Yorkshire Army Cadet Force and will be sadly missed. His obituary is on page 51.

Christmas Weekend 14 - 16 December

This weekend saw us taking 150 cadets and 30 staff to the Cadet Centre at Strensall for our annual Christmas weekend. The weekend's training was the usual mix of APC training and on the Saturday evening the staff served the cadets' evening meal in fancy dress, and as usual, most of the staff had gone to town with hiring the fancy dress. The senior cadets sat down to a full formal mess dinner served by the staff, with Cadet Sergeant Major Bobbie Williams presiding. She appointed a PMC and Mr Vice, and their dinner was run on full formal lines, with all the senior cadets "dressing" for dinner. After dinner, the usual cadet entertainment started, which once again involved quite a lot of water, with both cadets and staff getting wet. The evening was rounded off with a disco, which was provided by Sergeant Instructor Chapman, of Spen Valley Detachment who is a professional DJ.

Cadet Inter Company Shoot, 8 December

The results of our annual inter company shooting competition were: Senior Winners - Halifax; Junior Winners - Huddersfield. Both these teams now go through to the County Finals in February to represent D Company at the County Shoot.

Staff

Since last writing, we have had a few new members of staff join us. They are: Sergeant Instructors J. Townend and Eddie Park, both at Huddersfield, Sergeant Instructor Helen Swain at Mirfield and Sergeant Instructor Tracy Chapman at Spen Valley. We also said goodbye to Sergeant Majors Andrea Brazil and Mick Waldron who have both left us to move further north into A Company's territory. Andrea is now Detachment Commander at Northallerton Detachment and Mick is Detachment Commander at Catterick Detachment.

Adult Training Weekend and Dinner

This is the weekend where the staff are trained by our County Training Team and brought up to date with training methods. We also requalify on the Cadet GP Rifle and brush up on other military skills.

On the Saturday evening we held our annual full company dinner night and took the opportunity to dine out Colonel Stephen Ashby, who retired as our Commandant in November 2001, and we presented him with a gift and a D Company plaque to remember us by. Sergeant Majors Andrea Brazil and Mick Waldron were also guests at the dinner, we presented them with a matching pair of dress watches and a D Company plaque. We welcomed our new Commandant, Colonel Philip Bowden, who dined with us for the first time.

We also had guests old and new at the dinner and for the first time we had the pleasure of the company of Lieutenant Colonel Graham Whitmore, Commanding Officer of the East and West Riding Regiment and an old friend of D Company, Captain Andy Pigg, OC of 124 Army Youth Team.

Captain S. A. Marren

RECRUITING IN THE ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE

Before being disbanded a little over ten years ago the Junior Leaders' Regiment produced what have become some of the best SNCOs and LE Officers to serve with the Regiment. The fact that the Scottish Regiments used to be made up of 48% Junior Leaders may explain why they have suffered such a manning crisis since. The Army Foundation College at Harrogate has undergone a £60,000,000 rebuild and seen the rebirth of the Junior Leader in the form of the Junior Soldier (JS).

These individuals are selected from the top three of seven grades at recruit selection and undergo a 42 week

training programme for those wishing to join the Royal Artillery, the Royal Armoured Corps or the Infantry. The programme not only covers the Common Military Syllabus but also a leadership and initiative training package culminating in a four-day expedition which goes towards the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Two nights a week the junior soldier takes part in sports and skills, which, apart from the more obvious activities, includes horse riding, car maintenance and American football. Several expeditions a year are mounted by the college to destinations all over the globe.

The AFC receives considerable funding on the basis that it is a college and a large amount of time is spent on education. The JS covers Application of Number (Maths to the uninitiated), Information Technology and Communication Skills. All the teaching is given an application to the work of a JNCO, for example the JS will create a spreadsheet to calculate a platoon's fitness test results, or see the logic for being back in the classroom, which for most is what they joined the Army to get away from. At the end of the package they each give a presentation on a recent conflict involving power point and video. Having seen both, some of them are more professional and delivered with more confidence than those of full corporals on Education For Promotion 1. Ultimately the JS aims to achieve the qualification of the Foundation of Modern Apprenticeship. This includes an NVQ Level 2 qualification in IT and Level 2 in the Key Skills of Application of Number and Communication Skills, which is ideal grounding for the requirements of a JNCO in the modern era.

The JS arrives at the college with no cap badge loyalty, even if he has a Regimental Committal Card. The reason for this is that at sixteen an individual has no real knowledge of the Army and will have taken in whatever the Recruiting Sergeant has told him. The aim of the college is to achieve a twenty-two year return from the time and money invested in each individual JS. If he is tied to joining the regiment that recruited him, when, having learned more about the Army as an organisation, he wishes to go elsewhere, then he may leave the Army altogether or leave after the minimum engagement of four years.

The JS does not make his selection of cap badge until the six month point, until then there is a no poaching policy in the college on pain of RTU. There is migration between original choice of Arm and cap badge within Arm, but each one is scrutinised by both the College Headquarters and the individual Arm's representatives within the college. JSs join another regiment for many reasons, such as their best friend in their section is joining that regiment. The Assistant Regimental Secretary is a classic example of someone from outside the recruiting area who joined the Dukes because of a friend. The movement in general balances out. Obviously the JS is at a very impressionable age and that is why only the highest quality instructors should be sent to the college. Major General Watt of the Household Division has recently issued a decree to his regiments that the AFC is to be rated second only to RMA Sandhurst in order of priority for quality instructors and is to be used as a proving ground for potential academy staff. Once the rest of the Infantry takes up this quality line, the correct role models will ensure retention and even recruitment by pure example. At present the Regiment is represented at the college by Corporal Lockwood, Lieutenant Ogilvie, WO1 Dowdall and Major Mayo. (Captain Hall arrives in May as Adjutant.)

It would be wrong to claim that every JS graduating from the college is a budding RSM. However the development that they receive does ensure that they have the best start to their military career possible and the resurrection of the JS can only be a positive move for the future of the Army.

Major John Mayo

THE RECOLLECTIONS OF MR. P. SENTSI RENGMA

Introduction

I am much delighted at being privileged to donate a few of my recollections from my time with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 76th Column, 14th Army, and time towards the evening of the British regime in India.

I would like to start by quoting of the time the English Political Mission stepped into India. The history said that during the reign of King James I of England, Sir Thomas Roe came to India to seek permission from the Mogul King in 1607 (approx) for English merchants to trade with India. The Mission's approach was successful as after three decades the English East India Company was set up in 1644, since then the British rule started in India was transferred to the Crown in 1858. The Crown continued to rule and developed India till the declaration of its independence on 15 August 1947. Therefore, the British period in India was 303 years and within this period in the 20th century when the two global wars were fought, 1914-18 and 1939-45, Nagas were partakers who stood with their master, the Crown. Nagas deserve their identity.

Service in British India Government

I entered the British Indian Government service on 16 July 1938 as a clerk in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills District (now Nagaland) in

Assam Province. The World War Two broke out in 1939 and came to an end in 1945. Sir Charles Ridley Pawsey, MC, ICS, CIE, KCSI, was then in charge of the district and was the last British officer, he left Naga Hills District in December 1947 for the UK. Throughout the days of my service I was in his establishment, with him and his officiating officers as well.

The Japanese invaded and captured Burma in 1942 and their first bomb dropped on Indian soil was in Imphal (Manipur State) the same year. It panicked outsiders, especially businessmen, because many had left their firms without proper permission from the district authorities. And flocks of refugees from Burma, mostly of Indian blood, rushed onto the Nagas' soil and continued for days, nights and months. Many died on their way for various reasons. Captain Leing, Mr Arthur Long and Mr Weymes who reached Kohima from Burma some time in 1943 were assigned to refugee work by the Deputy Commissioner, in addition to the local workers.

In the following year, 1944, the Japanese entered the Nagas' soil and the first fight was started at Jessami, Manipur border village, in March, then at Kohima from 3 April. The Japanese target was to attack the stronghold of Kohima. Although the enemy was very near, the Manipur State being threatened yet we were regular in

our daily office duties, only in a couple of days time we were instructed to move out from the station and help the British Army wherever we might be.

I left Kohima on 2 April 1944 with my brother Kegwaga and cousin Ronga. They were police. With their other comrades we all marched together as fast as we could by night and reached home, Tseminyu, the next morning at sunrise, covering 31 miles. The Battle of Kohima was then started on the day we got home, 3 April, and by this time the Japanese were already at Lazami (Sema Village). On 7 April they had conquered Tseminyu area, occupying the British Inspection Bungalow, Tseminyu. The Indian National Army were with them. The Inspection Bungalow is still standing today - a historic building.

My time with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 76th Column, 14th Army

We were all eagerly waiting for the arrival of the British fighting force, as we learnt that they had reached Wokha (Lotha Station). They steadily and cautiously moved towards Tseminyu. On 24 April, by noon, they reached and attacked the Japanese at the British Inspection Bungalow, under the leadership of Major Henschman. On this day most of the Japanese were out, only six of them in the British Inspection Bungalow were outnumbered by Major Henschman's party. They fought in and around the bungalow. On the side of the Japanese three were killed, one captured and two escaped, wounded. Soon after the event the other Japanese and the Indian National Army returned and in retaliation two British were wounded and one local scout killed. The Japanese and INA retreated from the Rengma area this day and never returned. The following day the Duke of Wellington's Regiment fully covered the area, making Tseminyu their headquarters and the local people were wholeheartedly and enthusiastically in cooperation with them. Henceforth the British force easily pushed off the Japanese towards the south of Tseminyu covering Angami villages Tophema and Gariphema so forth and on the south-east direction - we covered Sema village, Lazami area and thence entered Angami village, Kijumetouma on 9 May and when the Japanese, seeing our party's arrival, hurriedly left their camp which we had occupied without a single shot from either side. But the next day, by night, we were badly attacked and along with their attack accompanied bitter showers of rain, which was untold anguish. In the attack two British were badly wounded. One of our local comrades, guide Tugi, received wounds and I too, but

we were not serious. Our exposure in the rains and the long dark night could never be forgotten in life.

Our timely aid from Tophema and Gariphema arrived on 11 May. T. Haralu, a local educated young man, as their interpreter. I was indeed exceedingly happy for his arrival with the company. I had suffered badly from bronchopneumonia the year before and had relapsed again due to the night long exposure in the rains. I was much thankful to the medical soldiers and our officer, 2 Lieutenant Coll, who did their best to comfort and cure me. I being in such condition had moved back home with the help of fellow villagers. But Mr T. Haralu was happily with them and guided them advancing towards the front to the east of Kijumetouma, since then, meet no more. I was taking rest at home till further news from the Deputy Commissioner Naga Hills, Kohima.

Come back to Kohima

Immediately after the Japanese evacuation from Kohima, in responding to the order of the Deputy Commissioner, I came back to Kohima again in the second week of June. On reaching Kohima, hurried to my house but to my dismay it was found blown into pieces in action. Where to spend the night was the pitiable problem. With fellow comrades we went round and round and at last went up to the Kohima village, which was of the same fate as the town was. We luckily met our intimate friend, Shurholoulie, sheltering in his half-destroyed residence. He kindly asked me to stay with him there for days till I arranged my accommodation in the town. It was our anxious desire to see all places and wherever we went, found dead bodies and a few unexploded bombs too. The fierce Battle of Kohima that took 66 days was a horrible nightmare to us.

We started our office anew in the war-torn, dilapidated Sahitya Sabha house from the middle of summer.

It is 57 years today. I have met neither officers nor fellow office staff of my time. They had belonged to the ages past.

The historic battle that was fought at Kohima in 1944 has the total number of 2,838 deaths commemorated at Kohima Cemetery.

P. Sentsi Rengma

21 December 2001

Member War Fund Committee, Naga Hills
Guide and Interpreter Duke of Wellington's Regiment,
76th Column, 14th Army.

SPORT IN THE REGIMENT

Team spirit and fitness, two essential requisites of the soldier, are rapidly developed under active service conditions. However, looking back over the previous three hundred years shows that, although there have been many wars and campaigns, there have always been long periods of peace. And it is during peace time that sport plays an essential part in building up and maintaining the esprit de corps of a regiment and, moreover, in keeping everyone fit to fight. In all

branches of sport the Dukes have always been a force to be reckoned with but, in rugby football, the Regiment has established and is the possessor of a particularly fine record.

Rugby in the Regiment stems from the Cardwell Reforms of 1872, which linked the 33rd and 76th Regiments of Foot and resulted in the establishment of the Depot in Halifax in 1877. In those far off days rugby league, the 13-a-side game, was played in all the

elementary schools of the West Riding of Yorkshire and thus a steady stream of recruits who had played this game joined the Dukes. Because of this rugby ability it came about that the 2nd Battalion was the initiator of serious regimental rugby, for, when stationed in South Africa from 1893 to 1896, they succeeded in winning the two open challenge cups for three years in succession. Meanwhile, not to be outdone, the 1st Battalion in India during 1903 and 1905 won the prestigious Calcutta Cup. Success and the gaining of more rugby fame continued when, back in the UK the 2nd Battalion was the first unit to win the newly instituted Army Challenge Cup in 1907. A feat repeated thirteen times since then, in addition to no fewer than eight occasions as beaten finalists - the last being in 1999.

Throughout the years since 1907, eleven players have gained international honours, three have represented the British Lions and over fifty players have been capped for the Army. "Which position do you play?" has long been the first question asked of recruits and aspiring candidates for the Regiment. In these modern days of professional rugby it must not be forgotten that, at the time of National Service, in the 1950s and 60s, the Regiment was blessed with a large influx of some great players from the rugby league who contributed in a significant measure to the Regiment's best post-WW2

rugby years, especially when, stationed in Northern Ireland, and there amongst other important victories, no less than a XV from the mighty province of Ulster itself was beaten. 'Horsey' Brown of Ireland, Faithfull, Shuttleworth and Hardy of England, Gilbert-Smith of Scotland; Mike Campbell-Lamerton and Charles Grieve both of Scotland and Jeffrey Reynolds of England - all three Lions' players in their time; Turnbull, Scroby, Davis, Field, Curry and Renilson from the Rugby League; some fine Fijians headed by Waqabaca and many others over the years, perhaps especially CSM G. O. W. Williams, a fine wing forward with seventeen Army caps, are still famous names to be conjured with.

Whether rugby was played in the Regiment before the Cardwell Reforms is not known, as no records exist in the archives at RHQ. Yet, it is known that the earliest recorded game of army rugby was played by two "Elevens" of the Guards and Cavalry at Balaclava on 27 March 1855 - right in the middle of the Crimean War! So surely the Dukes must then have been playing the game, albeit at eleven a side?

Sadly there is no record of early ball games in the archives but many accounts of hunting and big game shooting. Polo too, in both India and Malta, figures large with a splendid photograph of the Dukes' team which had beaten the 12th Bengal Cavalry in 1888.



Regimental Football Team

2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, winners of Army Rugby Cup, season 1906 - 7.
 Back row: Corporal Finnigan, Private Swift, Private Davey, Lieutenant Thompson, Lance Corporal Garside, Private Martin, Sergeant Flaherty.
 Middle row: Lieutenant Egerton, Lance Corporal Ramsden, Drummer Gilgallon, Sergeant Denton, Drummer Curtis, Private Godding, Private Lister, Josn. Front: Private Lister, T. Private Brown.

An Iron Duke cartoon of Colonel Charles Pickering 'supervising subalterns at practice in preparation for the move to India from Singapore' in 1927 shows, perhaps certainly, that the game had its serious side. As an aside, the father of our Colonel is remembered for telling of how when in Malta Lord Louis Mountbatten, in all seriousness, wondered why the Dukes (all with little or no private income) did not possess more ponies in order better to play the game! Many years later in the early 1960s, but in the same unworldly vein, the National Service subaltern and All-England player Paul Withers suggested, when B Company shared a Mess with 3 RHA, that the Dukes too should take up polo. Within the writer's service memory, 1946/47 saw the last scratch game of polo played by the Dukes against officers of the Sudan Political Service on the Omdurman battlefield in the Sudan. In the archives is a copy of a picture of the Royal Calpe Hunt at La Linea painted in 1838 and presented to the Mess (now lost?) showing HRH Prince George of Cambridge along with two officers of the 33rd then stationed in Gibraltar. It is said that the Calpe Hunt was descended from the pack of hounds kept by the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War. Hunting with hounds is not a current pastime of officers, but since WW2 beagling has occupied not a few officers and soldiers, notably the late Douglas Jones-Stamp with his kennels at Strensall in the 1950s and Jim Pell. Pig sticking was popular both before and after WW1, as was big game shooting and the game books of both 1st and 2nd Battalions make mention of some notable bags - panther, tiger, bison, antelope and for good measure one wolf, under the various' column, all falling to regimental guns in India.

Amidst all this nostalgia other traditional sports such as cricket, soccer, athletics and boxing have also flourished and the Regiment has produced some notable

personalities: 2 Lieutenant Peter Hoppe, who became the first officer ever to win the Army Championship when it was opened to all ranks. Truly he was a formidable boxer at light-heavyweight, but he followed some equally great exponents of the noble art - 'Horsey' Browne of rugby fame, Boy Tucker and Private Mills in the Army Championships of 1929, Jack Dalrymple, 'Bull' Faithfull and Sam Robertson in later years all made their mark as great fighters. At cricket the Regiment has produced some excellent players and results. Major C. H. B. Pridham, captain of the 1924 2nd Battalion XI in Cairo writes of a delightful game entitled "The 76th score 76" when 76 runs were needed to win the All Egypt Command Cup. Three Dukes have won Army Caps and many have played for the Free Foresters, while Private Brian Stead had the odd game for Yorkshire. Soccer, too, has always been popular but, apart from some good performances in the Infantry Cup, it is as long ago as 1931/32 that the Regiment was beaten in the final of the Army Cup and our sole recipient of an Army soccer cap is Private M. Hawthorn who played against the Royal Navy in 1932.

This then for our Tercentenary year is an all too brief review of some of our sporting memories but, of course, there are many more which, perforce, must go unrecorded. Some of us will remember particularly great and significant games where regimental pride and prestige were at stake, but others will recall, with equal intensity of feeling, some tremendous inter-platoon or inter-company games, whether they be of rugger, soccer, cricket or of competition in the Battalion athletics meetings, all imbued with that friendly competitive rivalry which is a hallmark of true Dukes, past and present.

D.E.I.

SPORT IN THE REGIMENT

by

Colonel M. J. Campbell-Lamerton

John Greenway (no mean rugby player in his day) approached me with a suggestion I write a few words about my international rugby experiences in the 1960s with an emphasis on Lions Tours. It is difficult to know where to begin, but logically it seems appropriate to mention how I began and what set me on my way.

Joining a regiment with a profusion of rugby internationals (both Union and League, plus two British Lions and three Great Britain Rugby League Tourists), made me realise right at the start of my service with the Dukes what a strong rugby heritage we had. Becoming an International or a Lion was considered no big deal in the Dukes - it had all been done before.

I have never forgotten my first regimental dinner night (held a year after I joined because of Korea). All the silver was laid out in a rather splendid officers' mess called Arengo's Palace (Gibraltar). When I sat down to dinner, there right in front of me was the original "Calcutta Cup" (won outright in India by the 2nd Battalion). I thought to myself what an omen and what

an incentive - especially for one who had dreamt of winning a bonnet on the rugby field.

During this period, the early 1950s, the gentle ribbing and rivalry of Messrs Gilbert-Smith, Hardy and Shuttleworth plus Charlie Grieve quietly chuckling in the background, further fuelled my motivation. All had already made the magic leap to international honours. So the seed was sown and the ambition fired; all one needed was hard work to develop skills, with opportunity and luck.

My luck came in two different ways. First, by a chance encounter with a superb orthopaedic surgeon in Cyprus, who managed to put together my ankle without using any screws (both my leg and ankle were badly broken as a result of a helicopter roping accident in Cyprus). After seven months in hospital I was sent to Headley Court - a marvellous rehabilitation centre - to learn how to walk again. Second, four years later on Boxing Day 1960 at Twickenham - the Combined Services v South Africa match. This was a very exciting

and hard fought match; although we lost 14-5, it was a truly creditable performance by the Combined Services, especially the pack. As a result I was carded by the Scottish Rugby Union for the second trial at Murrayfield. Two weeks later I was playing for Scotland.

You always vividly remember winning your first cap. The thrill, the fear, the excitement, the apprehension and that nauseating feeling in the pit of the stomach - it is all-consuming, especially on the morning of a match (The nearest parallels I can think of are my first patrol in Korea, and when I was conned by Sam Robertson into boxing in the Commonwealth Division Championships in Korea during our relief period, against the Welsh Coal Board Heavyweight Champion, Corporal Trigg - I was laid out in the second round!) As you leave the dressing room, walk down the tunnel, bagpipes full blast and step out to the famous Murrayfield roar, is a moment of true exaltation. Even now some 39 years on, as I scribble these notes, I get that same feeling in the pit of my stomach.

I will not reminisce about Four Home Rugby Union rugby because the editor wanted me to concentrate on Lions Tours. 1962 was a tour year. I had never really considered a Lions Tour, I was happy playing for Halifax, Yorkshire and Scotland and being Adjutant of 5/7 DWR with Walter Robbins as RSM and being with my wife Christine and the children. In those days playing international rugby and club rugby cost a few pennies (Army pay wasn't very good in the sixties); the only thing provided at international level by Scotland was the shirt! The player had to provide everything else. Travel expenses, 2nd class, were closely scrutinised. Just to give you an idea how it was, the SRU sent a bill for 9 old pence pertaining to a reverse charge telephone call to Christine from the team hotel! The cost of a Lions Tour under those financial conditions would require very serious consideration; hence not thinking very much about the Lions.

To cut a long story short, the Scottish pack had a very good 1961/62 season and the press started mentioning some of us as potential Lions. Towards the middle of the season I received a letter from the Four Home Union Tour Committee asking if I would be available for possible selection for the 1962 Lions Tour to South Africa. What should I do? After consultation with the ARU and MOD to ensure I did not have to go on half pay, the Regiment, my wife (who was very supportive) and my Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Gadd, I replied saying I was available. My CO was tremendous and he and Walter Robbins put plans afoot to cover my absence if successful. I really appreciated their support and kindness.

In March 1962 the Lions Team was announced (I first heard the news on the radio) and there to my surprise and delight was my name. I was now going to emulate Charlie Grieve (Scotland) and Jeff Reynolds (England) who were both on the 1938 Lions Tour of South Africa, as the third Duke to become a Lion. I had a long chat with Charlie to glean all I could - he felt it would be much changed from 1938, especially the 1960s vigour in rucking, tackling and lineouts.

The 1962 Lions all met in London on 12 May where Lilywhites fitted us out with blazers, grey trousers, two

ties, two pairs of stockings, two shorts, two shirts, two towels and a small touring kit bag. We had to provide everything else, i.e. tracksuits, boots, white shirts etc (a far change from today - when my eldest son Jeremy told me about the kit he was provided with by Scotland for the first World Cup in New Zealand, I was amazed). I took three pairs of boots as I had been told they wear out quickly on the hard grounds. Halifax RFC presented me with a new pair of boots, but we had to get special permission from the SRU because they were valued at £11 (anything over £10 would have contravened the amateur guidelines!).

After 24 hours we moved to Dover College for a week of intensive training and getting to know one another. Us rookies were immediately indoctrinated with the ethos and ways of the Lions by the senior players, who were the old hands of the 1955 and 1959 Lions Tours - such names as Dickie Jeeps, Bill Mulcahy, Syd Miller, Bryn Meredith, Nial Brophy, Gordon Waddell and Captain Arthur Smith. You shared a room with a different team member every time you changed location. There was a duty Lion each day as the Manager and Captain's runner and duty baggage Lion to look after the kit. The most impressive thing of all was the gelling of four nations into one cohesive unit, each taking the strengths and ideas from each other.

Training was taken by the Captain and senior players, we did not have a coach - the admin set up was just the Manager (Commander Brian Vaughan) and the Secretary, really Assistant Manager (Harry McKibben), no doctor, no physio or technical adviser. When you see the support staff provided today for internationals and tours you can see how thin on the ground we were by comparison. The Manager monitored and kept a special eye on proceedings, we worked extremely hard three hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. By the end of the second day most of the forwards could only walk up the hotel steps backwards because our hamstrings were so tight!

In the evenings we had discussions about style of play, tactics and what to expect. To say the least, our masters were a little naive in accepting the SA Board itinerary, because it involved constant changes of venue from sea level to the high veldt (7,000 feet above sea level) and seriously tough games just before test matches. The Manager explained how we would operate within the team: on arrival in South Africa we would be joined by three South African members - a liaison officer, baggage master and physio. This caused us some concern as it was highly likely the South Africans would learn what our injury state would be. He then explained how team and test team selection would be done; the selection panel would be the Manager, the Captain and a senior player from each country, less the Captain's country. If there were any selectorial difficulties the Assistant Manager would arbitrate, notwithstanding this democratic ideal the Manager had a major say. I thought this was a very fair and sensible system. The panel was the Manager Commander Brian Vaughan (England), Captain Arthur Smith (Scotland), Dickie Jeeps (England), Bryn Meredith (Wales) and Bill Mulcahy (Ireland) - a pretty good and balanced selection panel.

We left the UK on 18 May with the first port of call Bulawayo. In those days Rhodesians could play for the Springboks, so we were up against a fairly strong and rugged side. Fortunately we had three days to acclimatise because we were 5,000 feet above sea level and our lungs were pounding away during training. The match was a great occasion with a very large crowd and the Rhodesian Rifles Band playing Colonel Bogey when we ran out on to the pitch. The ground was hard and the play furious, with tackles coming in from everywhere. Sadly within fifteen minutes Sam Hodgson our hooker broke his leg and we were down to fourteen men (for younger readers, replacements were not allowed and we did not have neutral referees - they were all from the host country). I moved up from 2nd row to prop and Kingsley-Jones (Wales) moved across to hooker. The front row was agony and it took nearly 24 hours before I could straighten my back. My admiration for the front row went up a thousand fold.. We won the match thanks to some brilliant threequarter play.

Our next stop was Johannesburg and a vast crowd of well wishers greeted us at the airport led by the legendary Dr Dannie Craven (President SARU). For a new Lion it was incredible to see such passion and enthusiasm for the game of rugby. This was maintained throughout the tour, you could not venture outside the hotel without being asked for an autograph, photograph or just a chat. The only real sanctuary we had was the hotel team room, our bedroom and the team bus to matches, even at training you had 300 or 400 spectators.

South Africa is a beautiful country and the people so kind and welcoming with lots of invitations to their homes, deep-sea fishing, small game shooting and so forth. Apart from rugby and travel there were matches every Wednesday and Saturday sometimes including journeys of 500 miles, every Thursday and Sunday (except Test Match week when the mid week match was Tuesday and we stayed in the Test Match location for that week). We had other duties which the Manager allocated, such as visiting schools, hospitals, universities, old people's homes, orphanages etc, these were black, cape coloured and white institutions and we made a point of favouring the poorer areas. In the little free time we had we were allowed to pursue our own interests. Richard Sharp, Mike Weston, Tom Kiernan and myself followed the exploits of Shaka Zulu and some of Cetshwayo battles including Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. I also managed to visit Paardeberg Drift and saw what difficult terrain the Dukes had had to advance over in the Boer War.

As you can see, life was full and varied. The rugby was fierce and competitive with some pretty brutal rucking and tackling. Every match was virtually a test match, with the local hard man out to make a name for himself. The Test Matches were quite special; the grounds were large, picturesque and packed to overflowing with up to 85,000 vibrant and expectant spectators. Many had been camping in car parks 24 hours before the match. Before the big one they watched three or four warm up matches. After these matches the fire brigade came on to the pitch to water it down, hopefully to make it a little softer but primarily to keep the dust down! When you came out on to the

pitch the roar was awesome and the volume and passion of the SA national anthem spine-tingling to the opposition. We did not need any form of motivation, we were up for it from the word go.

The first Test Match was at Ellis Park Johannesburg, at 7,000 feet above sea level. We needed every moment of time to get our altitude breathing right during the five days we were up on the veldt. The Manager and the selection panel had selected me at No 8 which was a surprise, but thank God much better than prop! I had already played three times at No 8 on tour but I did a lot of extra training with my back row colleagues Alun Pask and Budge Rogers with Dickie Jeeps, scrum half, being the maestro. The day of the test I was very nervous, this was a big moment, a Lions Test Cap. Waiting in the tunnel with the two teams side by side, I was next to Moff Myburgh - a 20 stone man - mountain of a prop (I was a mere 18 stone) - I thought I would say something, "Not much grass on the pitch"; no answer. In my innocence, I said it again, he looked at me and in a heavy Afrikaans accent said "I haven't come here to graze!"

The match was titanic, ebbing and flowing this way and that; the pace of the game was seriously fast and the Springbok punting in the rarefied atmosphere was phenomenal with incredible distances. Our pack more than held their own despite on occasions when our hooker Bryn Meredith had to hook the ball with his head due to Messrs Myburgh (my friend) and Khun bringing the front row down so low. The match ended in a draw 3-3, which on the whole was a fair result. After the match I met Jeff Reynolds, our second 1938 Dukes Lion. I met him many times throughout the tour; it was fascinating talking to him about soldiering and playing rugby in the Dukes during the 1930s.

As the tour progressed our injury list grew at an alarming rate, at one stage we only had fourteen fit players, one player had to start injured to make up the fifteen. The Manager sent for some replacements, because matches were getting more physical as provisional teams were out to soften us up for the test matches. Two particular matches come to mind - the Battle of Potchefstroom against SA Combined Services (which included the police and the team had six Springboks in the side); the match was seriously combative with the crowd baying for "Brit blood". We had to use the 99 call to deal with certain offenders! Although bruised and battered we won 20-6 and gave a strong signal for the 2nd Test. The other match was against Northern Transvaal where Richard Sharp was brutally tackled and had to go to hospital - he was out of action for four weeks and was much missed because he was a lynch pin in our attack.

The 2nd Test in Durban was a close run match; we lost 3-0 having had a try disallowed because the referee claimed he was unsighted! Similarly in the 3rd Test the referee's decision did not go our way and we lost 8-3. Despite these setbacks our morale and team spirit were high. We had an excellent mid tour break in the Kruger National Park, which allowed us all to relax and repair ourselves, but the physio was on the go all the time. The journey to the park was magical; it was springtime with birds nesting, scarlet poinsettias, foaming purple and



Jeff Reynolds and Campbell-Lamerton, South Africa 1962.



**Battle of Potchefstroom (SA Combined Services v Lions 1962).
Background Keith Rowlands (Wales) getting a left hook.**

pink bougainvillea, almond blossom and aromatic lemon and orange groves. All totally idyllic with campfires at night and exaggerated stories about the wildlife we had seen during our day safari. It was a great experience and brought home to me the uniqueness of the Lions' brotherhood.

We carried on with the rest of the tour in good heart with some excellent attacking rugby. Richard Sharp was coming back into form after his injury. Unfortunately we lost the last Test rather heavily 34-14, we were just too battered and bruised. However, with five minutes to go I managed to score a Test try as a last gesture of defiance.

The tour statistics were: played 25 matches, won 16, drew 4 and lost 5 including Test Matches (it is at the moment a Lions' tour matches record for a single tour). As a reward the Manager made me Captain for our last match against East Africa in Nairobi. I felt like the prodigal son because it was not so long ago I had been there with the Dukes. The tour was over and despite an unprecedented number of injuries, loss of the Test Series (two Tests could have gone our way but for the rub of the green); it was a very happy tour.

One's first Lions Tour is the one that remains pre-eminent - many years later I asked Willie John McBride the same question (he was on five Lions Tours) and he said 1962, our first tour.

Arriving home I was very tired, what with the Lions and a full season before the tour playing club, Dukes, Army, Yorkshire, Barbarians and Scotland I had clocked up to 63 games! I had a three day break and was back in

the swing of things with 5/7 DWR. Some weeks later, Halifax RFC gave me a celebration "Haggis Dinner" with a welcome back speech by John Golding. It was a great evening, with the unveiling of the "Battle of Potchefstroom" photograph - how they got hold of it I do not know. I presented the club with my Lions' Test shirt, which I felt was a fitting home.

I have spent too long on the 1962 tour but as you can gather, it made a big impression on me, primarily because I never thought I would go on a second tour. Before I say something about the 1966 Lions there was another short rugby interlude which proved to be equally inspiring. In 1964 I received an invitation from the South African Rugby Union to be a member of the World XV to celebrate their 75th anniversary. This was a great honour and I took ten days' leave to go, I was paired with Colin Meads in the second row. The World XV pack for the first match was - front row: Wilson Whineray (New Zealand), Ronnie Dawson (Ireland), John Thornett (Australia); second row: Colin Meads (New Zealand), Campbell-Lamerton (Scotland); back row: Alun Pask (Wales), Gavin Davis (Australia), Ronnie Glasgow (Scotland). The backs were equally sparkling. We were so strong in the first match the SARU mixed us up with South Africa for the two other matches. It was hard work, three matches in eight days, but it was an enlightening experience training under Wilson Whineray and John Thornett respectively New Zealand and Australia Captains - I learnt a lot.

to be continued

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: 155 Long Lane
Attenborough
Beeston
Notts, NG9 6BZ
Tel: 0115 9259776
11 February 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Sir,

Having served throughout the war of 1939-45 with the Dukes, mainly in India and Burma, with the 2nd Battalion, I feel that there are a number of points that I wish to make, even after this extended period of time.

I point out that after 58 years, the Regimental Archivist, Mr Bill Norman, has been invaluable in his help and assistance, especially with dates etc, in the moves that the Regiment made, the incidents mentioned are mainly regarding the campaign of 1944.

After the intensive training that we had, late in 1943 and early '44, we moved and made a rather different approach to that of '42, we did after all have to enter from the northern end of the conflict, which at the time was taking place in the northern parts of Burma.

I believe it appropriate to mention some part of the journey, which took place on the vast waters around Bengal, some recollections are now vague, after this period of time, however the journey on the river Brahmaputra was an experience in itself.

I think it was probably a port near the mouth of the holy river Ganges, where we embarked "Balikandi" is the nearest name that I can attach to it, it will be appreciated that a massive amount of water comes not only from India, but from the Himalayas, and of course from Assam, as well as the country which is now the impoverished state of Bangladesh.

These parts are flooded on an annual basis, and this was the situation as I recollect in April '44. Areas of vegetation as big as small towns just floating down toward the sea. To a soldier some 22 years of age at that time it was a situation that stays in one's mind.

The length of time aboard the vessel on the rivers I am unable to remember, but probably 36 hours or more before we disembarked and continued by train to end up, eventually, at Mariani, which is situated close to the Naga foothills.

My previous contribution, Iron Duke Winter 2000, describes some of the events that followed, and of the interception of an enemy foraging party, face to face with the Japanese Officer IC. What I did omit on that occasion was that ten members of the foraging party had stayed overnight in the same village where we were and showed themselves the following morning. This was in addition to the amount of equipment that had been left behind by others in their hurry to leave; they were of course picked up by other units.

My own platoon commander, Lieutenant E. R. Harris, was in a quandary what to do with the prisoners, there was no way we were equipped to deal with them, or look after them. After consultation it was decided that two of my own section, armed with a rifle each, would escort ten of them back to Brigade HQ. Fortunately they were a mixture of Anglo-Indian and Burmese and were not belligerent. My two section members rejoined us after two days, having safely delivered the prisoners.

The above does illustrate how ill-equipped we were for dealing with outside elements, such as prisoners. The operations we were on meant that we had no real contact except by air, for air drops.

One item which I have not noted in books etc, during the training for the '44 campaign, I myself had attended a week long course on chemical warfare, i.e. the Lifebouy flame thrower, and this equipment was in fact taken with us when we commenced the campaign. Two mules were required, one to carry two spare containers of fuel.

As events were to show, it was not called into use. On the very steep inclines we had to negotiate the apparatus fell off a mule and was badly damaged in the process. So we had no option but to discard and destroy same, in order that it would not fall into enemy hands.

Over the years I have given thought as to what may have happened had the item mentioned been brought into use, "One will never know". But as events turned out, although we did have our fair share of problems, things did turn out reasonably well. Over a long period of time I have conversed with many veterans of Burma, but, almost without exception, they have always been under the impression that the Long Range Special Force

was flown in behind enemy lines, intact. Hardly any were aware that the 23rd Infantry Brigade had in fact marched into the campaign, behind enemy lines. Not only that, but my own platoon under Lieutenant Harris, had taken part in a reconnaissance, from Mariani to Mokochung and beyond, and returned prior to the start of the campaign. Covering more than 200 miles it was probably the longest recce of the campaign, and that was before we followed the 33rd and 76th Columns which had already started out on the long journey.

Sincerely

George H. Wragg, Ex Corporal, DWR

From: 9 The Braid
Chesham
Buckinghamshire
HP5 3LU
8 November 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a photograph of the WOs of the 1st Battalion in September 1945, just before the majority of those shown came home on demobilisation.

It is unfortunate that I was not able to catch the RSM too, since that would have made a better group, but he was probably too busy.

I hope that some of your older readers might be interested in this picture taken in camp near Haifa.

Yours sincerely
Geoffrey Bullock



WOIs of the 1st Battalion in Palestine, September 1945.

Left to right: CSM A. J. Selway MM, CSM E. Green, RQMS C. Dinsdale, CSM J. Dodds, CSM R. Callaby MM, CSM G. Hall MM.

From: P. Sentsi Rengma
c/o P. Atuo Angami
Group Supervisor
Kohima War Cemetery
Kohima 797001
Nagaland, INDIA
21 December 2001

Major David Harrap
RHQ DWR

Dear Major Harrap,

Your letter DWR/CK1 dated 14 November 2001 addressed to my grandson, Mr Joshua Lorin, and a copy of it was sent to me for information by him. I am indeed very much grateful to you as, through him, understood that a piece of my recollections of my time with your Regiment and the British be furnished for your records. I should express it is a rare boon to me, thank you. The recollections jotted down in separate sheets are herewith enclosed along with recent photographs of ours which may I hope serve the purpose. (*See page 35 - Ed.*)

Best wishes with Christmas greetings and New Year to you and all Staff.

With regards, yours very sincerely,
P. Sentsi Rengma



Mr Sentsi Rengma, here pictured at home, has very generously presented the shawl he is wearing to the Regiment. It is now in the Regimental Museum.

From: 48 East Witton
Leyburn
North Yorkshire, DL8 4SL
31 January 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

On 21 November 2001 the funeral of Miss Peggy Gibbs took place in Ealing W5. She was the last surviving daughter of Colonel J. A. C. Gibbs CMG.

Those who have read *Battlefields Revisited* in the last issue of the Iron Duke (No.247) will know that Colonel Gibbs commanded the 2nd Battalion at Mons and was wounded at Wasmes. Thus one of the last, if not the last, direct connection with the 2nd battalion of 1914 has gone.

At the funeral in addition to my family I was fortunate enough to get into contact with Peggy's niece, Mrs Jacqui Drayton (nee Simmonds) who is the daughter of the late Major D. N. Simmonds of the Regiment. She is also Goddaughter of Brigadier Tony Firth.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Le Messurier

From: 51A Flemming Avenue
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex, SS9 3AN
November 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I attended the Gallantry Medallists' League Muster on 14 and 15 September 2001. This year it was held at Royal Hospital Chelsea, followed by our dinner at the Victory Services' Club.

The Inspecting Officer was Field Marshal the Lord Bramall KG, GCB, OBE, MC, JP, who said to me: "You have a nice row of medals". Asked what Regiment I served with when awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, I was proud to tell him The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The Field Marshal said he knew all about the Dukes as at one time he was Army Chief of Staff.



Douglas Emery DCM, BEM

I gave my camera to a person watching the parade, but I was very disappointed to be told when I went to collect the used film that they all turned out blank. But the daughter of a friend I have known at the League since 1994 had taken some photos and sent me a nice one with a row of us on it. Thanks to the advanced photo system of Kodak, they were able to take off one of me. So I am pleased to have one to keep in my Muster collection and I enclose a copy.

I hope to see you at the London Branch Dinner.

Yours sincerely,
Douglas Emery

From: 7 Aultmore Court
Kingswood Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent, TN2 4UF
27 November 2001

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I am writing to give you a little bit of information on Dukes WWI headstones I have recently encountered.

Etaples ("eat apples" as the tommies called it!) is situated just north of Le Touquet on the stretch of coastline that effectively formed the logistical and command bridge-head for the British forces in WW1. I believe Field Marshal Haig and staff were headquartered at Montreuil just east of Le Touquet. Up to 100,000 troops were apparently billeted in the sand dunes along the coast waiting to move up to the line.

What stimulated my interest was researching one of my great uncles who fell at Passendaele in November 1917 whilst serving as a private with 50th Canadians. We believe he was shot by a sniper whilst stretcher

bearing, casevac'd back down the line to the coast to 22nd General Field Hospital at Camieres where he sadly died of wounds to the face/head ten days later, on 10 November 1917. I have visited Ypres, the Menin Gate and the ground at Passendaele where Tom Wood was mortally wounded. Between July and November 1917 over 700,000 young men perished in the third battle of Ypres. My other great uncle, Lieutenant Norman Wood, served with 27th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and was seriously injured having stepped on a German stick bomb near Arras. He survived the war.

Having researched through the Canadian records office and got a fix on where Tom Wood was buried, we visited the Commonwealth Cemetery site at Etaples and found his grave.

I have to say that whilst not necessarily the biggest WWI cemetery by any means I was truly moved by the aura of the place. It has a magnificent cloister-like entrance, set on a hill, which overlooks the field of white headstones.

I had a look around row upon row of headstones and the incredible cross section of commonwealth troops buried - Anzacs, South Africans, Sikhs, Canadians and, of course, the many British Regiments of the day. I was interested, naturally, to find several Duke of Wellington's Regiment graves and took some pictures (rather unprofessionally I fear) of six headstones as well as planting some bulbs in front of their graves. Those included are:

Major A. N. Wheatley	-	5 July 1916
Lieutenant H. R. Thelwell	-	8 July 1916
6895 Serjeant W. Bird	-	18 May 1918
33812 Private J. Aldridge	-	21 October 1918
13502 Private G. Pashley	-	20 May 1918
29469 Private L. Dennis	-	13 October 1917



The grave of 29469 Private L. Dennis.

I was very pleased to have had an opportunity to have a little thoughtful time with each of these members of the regimental family. They may, quite possibly, have *never* had a family visit from anyone since the day they perished in the most unimaginable circumstances. As you may know, the French had such a problem with NOK arriving in the field to reclaim corpses that it was decreed that all casualties would be buried in situ. From

a British standpoint, whilst a logistical nightmare as well, only the financially well off would have been able to afford repatriating the deceased and so burial in theatre became policy.

I thought you might find this mini report of interest.

Yours sincerely,
Jonathan W. Wood

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 14 July and 22 Sept 2002.

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

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

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

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

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

Skipton: 8.00pm second Thursday of each month at The White Rose Club, Newmarket Street, Skipton.

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

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

Secretary: Mr F. R. Parkinson, The Cottage, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent, East Yorks, YO41 4BN.

TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE BATTALIONS' OCA

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

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

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

* * * * *

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL SERVICE

Readers should note that this year's Regimental Service, to be held on Saturday 2 November 2002, will be held in Halifax Parish Church. This is a change to the venue published in the Regimental Calendar. It was to be York Minster, but at the request of the Vicar of Halifax that in our Tercentenary year the service be held in Halifax, it has been agreed that this change is most appropriate. More details about the service will feature in the Autumn edition and by a letter to you from RHQ in August.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The attention of branch members is, very naturally, beginning to turn towards our Tercentenary celebrations later in the year. However, normal branch events have continued to take place, as witnessed by photographs from York and London branches.



York Branch members on parade, Remembrance Sunday, 11 November 2001
 Left to right: Leo Taylor, Fred Bean, Tony Nichol, Alan Fawcett and Frank Parkinson.



The London Branch meeting at the Union Jack Club on 27 January 2002
 Left to right: Brian Nash, Kath and Ken Walker, Tim Nicholson, David Blood, John Kelly, Jim Paine, Tom Harper, Fred Richardson, Peter Chester, Judith Greenway, Evelyn and Keith Jagger.

MAKING YOUR WILL?

Please don't forget the Regiment

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

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

CHARITY COMMISSION

The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association Fund

Reference: 234616

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the 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>



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 REG No.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM

MY NEW ADDRESS WILL BE

.....

TELEPHONE FAX E.MAIL

DATE SIGNED

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr B. Bowyer, 305-106 First Avenue North, Airdrie, Alberta, T4B 2M5, Canada.

Mr R. D. Bramham TD, 9 Elsham Close, Bramley, Rotherham, S65 3XZ.

Mr R. J. Douthwaite, 22 Castelnau Gardens, Barnes, London, SW13 8DU.

Mr T. G. J. Golding, 22 Cicada Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2NW.

Mr F. C. Green, 40 Lightwood Road, Marsh Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S21 5RG.

Mr G. Hunter, 5 West View, Skipsea, Driffield, YO25 8SY.

Mr D. Knowles, 25 Crossmoor Close, Silsden, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 0B7.

Mr C. Russell, 413 Myers Grove Lane, Stannington, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S6 5LA.

* Mr D. T. Cockroft, 1 Dartmouth Street, Hill Top, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD7 5EW.

* Mr M. J. Harris, 11 The Avenue, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight, PO39 0DH.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...**e-mail Addresses**

CP O'Keefe patrick.okeefe@ntlworld.com

JP

The discerning may have noticed that "JP" has been removed from behind your Editor's name on the first page of this journal and assumed, logically, that he had ceased to operate as a magistrate. On the contrary, he has recently been elected Deputy Chairman (one of two) of the North East Hampshire Bench. JP has been removed because the Lord Chancellor (a shrinking violet himself!) has directed that the suffix may not be used outside judicial circles, lest it be thought that the individual using it might be seen to be trying to win friends or influence people. As if...

Still Shooting Straight

We are delighted to hear that our Regimental Archivist, Bill Norman, despite the competition growing steadily stronger, is maintaining his winning ways. We congratulate him on managing to win three Gold and two Silver Medals at Bisley in 2001.

British Expeditionary Force

On page 26 of Iron Duke issue 245 we notified readers of Mr Hugh Sebag-Montefiore's intention to write a book focusing on the rearguard actions of the BEF in France and Belgium in 1940. He would still like to be in touch with those who served in our 1st, 2/6th and 2/7th Battalions at that time. His address has changed and is now: Hugh Sebag-Montefiore, 37 Tanza Road, London, NW3 2UA. Telephone: 0207 4351035.

World War 2

Mr P. W. Laycock, who is conducting some research into certain events in World War 2, would like to get in touch with those who served in the 1st Battalion in 1940-45 who are willing to assist him. His address is: 11 Av de la Ferme Rose, B-1180, Bruxelles, Belgium.

Iron Dukes - Various

Michael Ralph, who told us of his travels as an international athlete in Iron Duke issue 245 of Spring 2001, seems still to be travelling. He reports finding no Duke of Wellington pub in Melbourne, but he did find this one outside Sydney.

**Golden Jubilee Military Medal**

Mr G. E. Harris, an ex-Royal Engineer, has designed a commemorative jubilee medal for British Forces' Veterans who do not qualify for the official medal. This is both to recognise their service and, at the same time, raise funds for SSAFA Forces' Help. The medal design has been approved by the Lord Chamberlain's Office and has been praised by those veterans who have already acquired it, raising £3,496 in the process. For further information send a stamped, self addressed envelope to: Mr G. E. Harris, 124 Haven Park Crescent, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1DS.

Telephone: 01437 768668

E.mail: george.e.harris@amserve.net

(if e.mailing please give address and telephone number)

Gorazde - The Peacekeepers' Tale

Gillian Sandford, who has covered the Balkans as a newspaper and magazine reporter for several years, has now, as reporter and co-producer for GMS Media, produced a double CD album telling the story of: "Britain's most dangerous Balkan peacekeeping mission: that of three infantry battalions consecutively to be besieged "safe area" of Gorazde".

The military listener will find these CDs both fascinating and frustrating. Fascinating because they consist almost entirely of oral, first hand, reports of the tense times in Gorazde in the period April 1994 to August 1995 and frustrating because they do not provide sufficient politico/military context for the listener to appreciate in full the tale being so graphically told. Nor are any speakers actually identified.

That said, it is fascinating to hear the first hand tales told very succinctly by officers and non-commissioned officers of the Dukes (disc 1) and the Royal Welch Fusiliers (disc 2). For Dukes, certain personalities can be deduced and the names Santa-Ollala, Newton, Borwell, Mills and Fisher are mentioned in passing, but

several voices, all speaking with great clarity and good sense, remain unidentified.

Natural modesty and a degree of British understatement makes some extraordinary incidents seem merely ordinary (including the action under fire of Corporal Mills which we now know earned him the award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross). In the context of general war, as experienced in World War 2, or Korea this is probably appropriate. But, in the context of the frustrating circumstances of Peacekeeping, this tends to underplay the demands and the stresses of operating amongst heavily-armed aggressors.

CD 1 must be held by the Regimental Archives and by the Regimental Museum. It is more difficult to recommend it for private ownership, largely because this reviewer finds it difficult to see himself wanting to dip into a CD as much as he would dip into a book.

J.B.K.G.

Gorazde: The Peacekeepers' Tale is for sale @ £10.99 (including post and packing for UK and BFPO orders) from GMS Media, 1st Floor Flat, 20 Thurlow Hill, London, SE21 8JN.

Or by credit card at www.gmsmedia.co.uk

Further details are available from fax: 0208 670 8463.

Friend and Foe

The Army Benevolent Fund has published a third collection of Sustainer's amusing tales of service life. It is available for £10.95 (plus £1.45 p&p), or all three for £32.00 from:

Sustainer Books

Freepost LON 18568

London N19 4BR

Telephone: 020 7263 5854

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Army Benevolent Fund'.

The web site is at: www.sustainer.co.uk

Obituaries

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

Mrs E. M. Kennedy

Mrs Eileen Maude Kennedy, who was the widow of James Kennedy, who joined the 1st Battalion as a bandsman in 1921, died in Esher, Surrey, in December 2001. Her death now breaks the final link of the Kennedy family with the Dukes, which started with Sergeant Michael Kennedy, who enlisted in 1854 and was followed into the Regiment by his three sons and two grandsons. Her late husband, James, was the elder of the two grandsons. The strong family connection was recorded in Iron Duke issue 25 of June 1933, which shows that its members served in the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, the Abyssinian Campaign, the South African War and the Great War.

Major C. L. Newton-Thompson MC

Major Christopher Newton-Thompson, who died on 28 January in Johannesburg, South Africa, displayed his leadership qualities from an early stage. He captained the Cambridge University rugby team and was a candidate for international honours before war intervened in 1939.

He joined the Dukes and was posted to the 8th Battalion, which was one of the first infantry battalions to be converted to an armoured unit, becoming 145 Regiment RAC, equipped with Churchill tanks. It also became part of 21 Independent Army Tank Brigade, which trained in Scotland before the invasion of North Africa in Operation Torch in 1943.

He won his MC in Italy at an engagement on San Fortunato Ridge, near Rimini, the last defensive line before the plains of the River Po could be taken. At this time the Regiment was in support of the 2nd Canadian Brigade and there were several abortive attempts to take the ridge in some of the heaviest fighting of the Italian campaign. At dawn on 20 September 1944, C Squadron,

with Major Newton-Thompson in command, moved forward to support the Loyal Edmontons and the Seaforths for the final attack on the San Fortunato feature. The enemy put up very stiff resistance and Major Newton-Thompson was severely wounded when he pushed forward in typical fashion to try to locate some enemy tanks which were holding up the advance. (See Barclay History p292.)

Major Newton-Thompson lost the use of one of his legs permanently, which he bore throughout his life with fortitude. After the war, he joined Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, prominent in the marketing of steel products worldwide (his aunt was a Miss Nettlefold). He had always been active in politics and he and his wife were to the fore in African political life supporting the parties against apartheid. He was also South Africa's representative on the Rugby Football Union Committee.

He leaves his wife, Phillipa, and daughter, Charlotte, and he will be sadly missed by his legion of friends worldwide.

Major F. B. Murgatroyd

Bruce Murgatroyd died peacefully at home in Lancaster on 28 October 2001, aged 84. Bruce was born in Haworth and educated at Keighley Grammar School and then later at the Textile Department of the University of Leeds. He joined the Army immediately after university and on completion of his officer training was posted to the 8th Battalion (145 Regiment RAC) with whom he served throughout the war including service with them in North Africa and Italy.

After the war he returned to the woollen trade and was first manager of a mill in Halifax for Courtaulds Ltd, later moving briefly to Braintree, Essex, to manage another mill for them there.

In 1958 he became managing director of Harvey Lister and Sons of Pudsey, which shortly afterwards became part of the Courtaulds group as well. In due course he rose within Courtaulds to become Chairman of Courtaulds' Woollen Division. He was also very active outside the company within the textile industry, where he was a leading figure holding positions as President of the Woollen and Worsted Trades Federation, Vice Chairman of the Wool Textile Delegation, Vice President of the Confederation of British Wool Textiles and Chairman of the International Wool Textile Organisation Cloths Committee.

After his retirement Bruce led an active life golfing and gardening. He also continued to give his full support to the Regiment through his work as a trustee for the Regimental Association Fund from 1980-95 and he always found the time to attend the annual Association Reunion Dinners until he was unable to do so through ill health.

Bruce married Marjorie in 1941, with whom he had 60 years of happy married life. He leaves her, his two children Tony and Vivian and six grandchildren. The Regiment was represented at his funeral by Brigadier Dick Mundell.

Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Lloyd Bennett

Douglas Lloyd Bennett died on 5 November 2001, aged 72. He was born in the Bradford area and attended Bradford Grammar School, where he served in the Cadet Force, attaining the rank of Cadet Sergeant Major. His National Service was served with the Green Howards, and this fostered a life long interest in shooting. In 1959 he joined Halifax Detachment 'F' Company, West Riding Army Cadet Force (badged Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the badge which he wore for the remainder of his service). He spent most of his Cadet service alternating between Skipton and Keighley Detachments. In 1987 he was promoted to Major and moved to Leeds area to take command.

In 1990, following another Yorkshire (N&W) county re-organisation, he moved to Huddersfield to become 'D' Company Commander and he served here until 1993, when he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and became an Assistant Commandant. He remained in this post until his retirement from the Army Cadet Force in 1994. He held the Cadet Forces Medal with two clasps, serving a total of 35 years with the Army Cadet Force.

He was a dedicated and enthusiastic pistol and rifle shooter, who represented the company and county at various shooting events and he also shot at Bisley on many occasions. He was an active member of the Leeds Service Rifle Club.

He was Chairman of the board of Governors at Beckfoot School in Bingley where he achieved much on behalf of the school, and as a lasting memorial to Douglas, the foundation stone of the new gymnasium at Beckfoot school bears his name. He was also a Police Lay Visitor and made a number of suggestions for reforming the practices at the time, to the benefit of both the police and prisoners.

He leaves a wife Joan, and three sons Simon, Andrew and Matthew, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Lord Ingrow OBE, TD

Lord Ingrow died in February 2002 at his home in Keighley, aged 84. John Aked Taylor was born at the Knowle Spring House, Ingrow, beside the brewery that he was later to run for 45 years. His grandfather, Timothy Taylor, had founded the business in 1858 and he soon discovered the excellence of the water that welled up from deep below the Pennines at Knowle Spring, which is still used today.

John was educated at Shrewsbury, having attained 100%, 98% and 97% in his common entrance papers. His aptitude for figures was to serve him well during his long career in business and politics, as well as steering the course of his wartime service.

On leaving school in 1935, there was no university for him. He was expected home to learn about brewing, typical of the many family businesses in Keighley at that time. He joined the essential local "clubs" which were to cover his lifelong interests - the Conservative Club, the Craven Gentlemen's Cricket Club and the TA in 6 DWR, into which he was commissioned in 1939, then being called up the same year.

His ability with figures soon saw him transferred to Royal Signals and he dealt with coding and decoding (including Ultra) throughout the war. He served in Norway, North Africa, at Middle East HQ, Sicily, Italy, Normandy with XXX Corps and, finally, Burma.

Returning to the family brewery after the war, he embarked on what became a lifelong involvement in local politics. In 1945 he was elected to Keighley Town Council as a Conservative, serving for the next 21 years, including as Mayor of Keighley in 1957. He was also a magistrate for 38 years, serving as treasurer to the Magistrates' Association for ten years. A stalwart of the Tory party, he was at various times Chairman of Keighley Conservatives and West Yorkshire Conservative Constituency Council, as well as Chairman (1971-76) of the National Union of Conservative Associations.

In the early 1950s the death of his cousin caused a crisis for the business, with the need to find a large sum for death duties. With the help of his stepfather, John Taylor managed to raise the money and save the brewery. At about the same time, his own father also died, propelling him into the joint posts of Chairman and Managing Director, which he retained until his retirement in 1995. Over 45 years he combined shrewd financial management with the best traditional brewing practice to ensure that his family company not only survived the crisis, but moved on to win most of the major brewing awards.

He was knighted in 1972. Ten years later he was created a Life Peer, as Lord Ingrow of Keighley. He was Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire from 1985 to 1992. Thus, by "doing his duty", he had served his family, Timothy Taylor's Brewery, his local community and the Conservative party at local, county and national levels.

In 1949, he married Barbara Stirk, who died in 1997. Their two daughters survive them.

Although his wartime service was with the Royal Signals, he also remained very much a Duke and was a good friend of successive Colonels of the Regiment and commanders and officers at the Halifax depot for over 40 years.

SSM Harold (Gary) Hall

Gary Hall died in February 2002, aged 88 years. He joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in March 1933, before being posted to the 1st Battalion in June 1934. Up to the outbreak of war he served in Malta, before being posted, as Sergeant Hall, to the Regimental Depot to form part of the nucleus of regular soldiers for a new service battalion - the 9th Battalion DWR.

The 9th Battalion became 146 Regiment the Royal Armoured Corps and Company Sergeant Major Gary Hall became Squadron Sergeant Major Gary Hall. After formation in England the new regiment saw service in India and Burma. Gary was always proud to be a Burma Star Veteran.

When the Regiment returned to England Gary was posted to the RTR Training Centre at Barnard Castle, where his regular army career ended in October 1945, to be followed by four years in the TA (Royal Engineers). Throughout his army service he was a popular, effective and efficient NCO.

On leaving the army he was employed by British Railways where, as a member of the National Union of Railway Signalmen, he became their Chairman. Gary was Mayor of Batley during 1967-78 and successfully fought off Dr Beeching's plan to close Batley Station and sever the lines with Leeds and Manchester.

Throughout his civilian life he was an active member of the British Legion being a founder member of the Batley Branch. Until his last two years he was an active and regular attender of the 9th Battalion DWR annual reunion, which started in 1947 and is still running.

His funeral took place on 15 February and was attended by members of the Royal British Legion and many of his friends and colleagues, by whom he will be sadly missed. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

WO1 (RSM) Geoffrey Corke

Geoff Corke died on 12 November 2001, aged 79. His funeral took place on 16 November at Birtley, Northumberland.

CSM Bill Norman writes: "I first met Geoff in early 1943 when he joined the 2nd Battalion. It was at Lohardarga in India, and the unit was reforming in an experimental role. On his second day in the Battalion the CO, Lieutenant Colonel C. K. T. Faithful, promoted him to Sergeant and he joined the Intelligence Section. From the first we became good friends and I had the privilege of introducing him to the Sergeants' Mess.

In March 1944 the Battalion went on long range penetration operations. Geoff was CSM of 33 Column under Major Sam Hoyle and earned his first Mention in Despatches. By this time I had been repatriated.

We next served together with the 1st Battalion in 1951. By now Geoff was Drill WO and much feared on the square. But he was not without a sense of humour and very fair. Despite being a close friend, I got it in the neck just the same as the rest. He was an outstanding soldier, who was absolutely devoted to his job and to his Regiment. In Korea he was again Mentioned in Despatches.

One of his outside interests was music, of which he had quite a good knowledge and he would readily accompany me to, and enjoy, a symphony concert. Most of the soldiers of Geoff's time were Yorkshiremen

and I meet many of them. Most, National Servicemen in particular, ask what happened to "Old Corky" and, when I say I am in touch with him, they say he will not remember them, but give him regards all the same. It was surprising how many he did remember. Such men as "Uncle Geoff", the only nickname I can recall, and many others like him were the pillars of our Army who sought little reward.

Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier writes that when Adjutant in Korea Geoff was an exceptional Intelligence Officer. He was assiduous in collating all the intelligence material the CO needed to plan his defence for the Hook Battle. He brought to the role all his past experience in battle and the utmost dedication. Later, in Gibraltar, he became RSM and in a short time he, with the help of Harry Randall as Drill Sergeant Major, had the Battalion in fine form to troop the colours in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the capture of The Rock. This was no mean feat following the deployment in Korea and it earned a congratulatory letter from HE the Governor, delivered the same day. He was a remarkable man.

Mr R. Harrison

Ex-Corporal Ronald Harrison, who joined the 1st Battalion as a bandsman in Gibraltar in 1955, died on 17 January, aged 63. He also served in Northern Ireland, the UK and Osnabrück. After his discharge from the Army in 1969 he continued to live in Osnabrück until his death. Appropriately, his funeral service was conducted by the Padre of the 1st Battalion which is once again serving in Osnabrück.

Mr J. Smith MM

James Smith, who was a Corporal in the 7th Battalion, died on 22 February 2002. He was awarded his Military Medal in recognition of his gallant and distinguished service during actions at Haalderen on 2 April 1945, in which he commanded a section of D Company, which led the breakout from the Nijmegen Salient (see Iron Duke No.62, October 1945, page 146). His funeral took place on 1 March, which would have been his 80th birthday.

Corporal 'Willie' Crabtree

Corporal Bill Crabtree died on 17 October 2001 aged 83. Bill served with 2/6 DWR from 1939-45 as the Battalion butcher in the QM's department. Up to his death Bill maintained a keen interest in the fortunes of the Regiment and remained a keen reader of this journal. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family of whom his grandson, Corporal Phil Beetham, still serves with the 1st Battalion.

Notification of recent deaths

The following deaths have been notified recently.

Mr Frederick Arthur Swain who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea, died on 28 October 2001.

Mr Stanley Revill (Ex-7th Battalion in WW2) died on 4 January 2002.

Mr Uewin Jenkins MM Royal Engineers, attached 1 DWR, in Korea in 1953, died in February 2002.