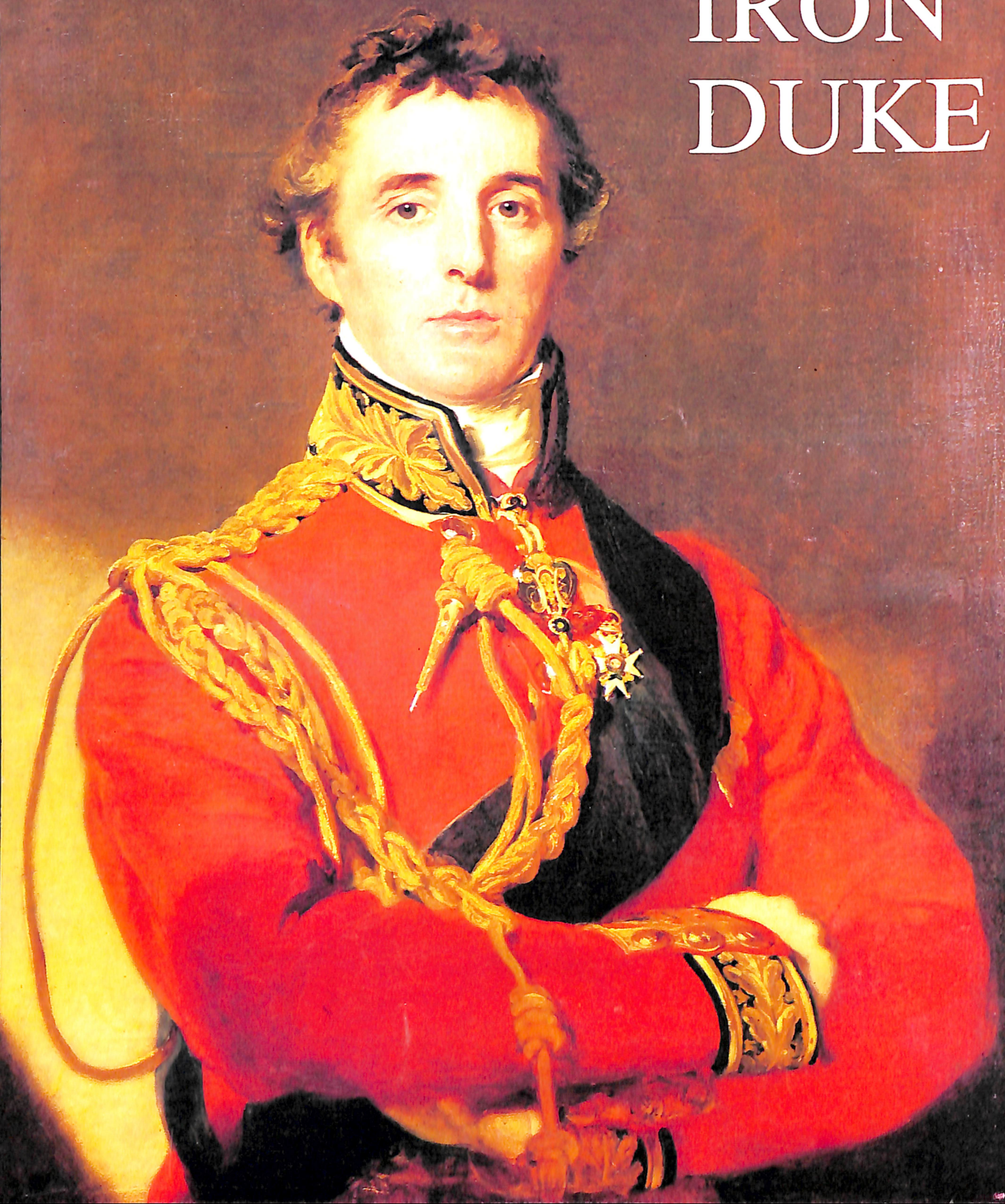


AUTUMN 2002  
No. 249

# THE IRON DUKE



# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

Vol. LXXVII

Autumn 2002

No. 249

### BUSINESS NOTES

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**Editor:**

Brigadier J. B. K. Greenway, CBE, Starbarrow,  
35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7AT.  
Telephone: 01252 514786

**Business Manager:**

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

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## REGIMENTAL ITEMS FOR SALE

The following items may be purchased from the General Secretary of the Regimental Association, RHQ DWR, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA.

Item	£	Add p&p
Blazer badge	11.00	.50
Bow tie - silk	8.50	.50
Buttons, regimental, medium	.55	.50 per set
Buttons, regimental, small	.55	.50 per set
Cap badge	1.50	.50
Cuff links - elephant (on card)	26.00	1.00
Cuff links - elephant (presentation box)	29.00	1.00
Cravat	7.00	.50
Horse brass	4.50	1.10
Jersey - wool/acrylic mix (cap badge)	26.00	1.10
Ladies brooch - silver gilt (combined badge)	25.00	1.10
Lapel badge, (pin or clutch fastener) brass finish	1.00	.50
Lapel badge, (pin or clutch fastener) coloured enamel finish	2.00	.50
Officers' Dinner Club tie - silk, hand made	22.00	.50
Paper weight	6.50	1.10
Regiment magazine	2.00	.50
Regimental History 1702 - 1992	23.00	5.00
Regimental tie	5.00	.50
Regimental tie - silk	11.00	.50
Regimental tie - silk, hand made	20.00	.50
Short History of the Regiment - 2002 edition	3.00	.50
T.A. History	18.00	3.85
Tercentenary brochure	5.00	1.20
Tercentenary plate	30.00	5.50
Tercentenary trinket box	75.00	5.00
Wall plaque	14.50	1.10
Zippo lighter	9.50	1.10
Also - Fine art prints (size 28.5" x 20.5")		
Alma	12.50	
Waterloo	12.50	2.50 per set
Sittang Bridge	12.50	
Signed copies: (limited editions)		
Alma/Waterloo (signed by Colonel in Chief and artist)	60.00 pair	2.50 per set
Sittang Bridge (signed by survivors present at the unveiling and the artist)	30.00	2.50

**Cheques/postal orders to be made payable to: RHQ DWR**

# THE REGIMENT

## *The Colonel-in-Chief*

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

### *Colonel of the Regiment*

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE

#### **Regimental Headquarters**

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

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

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major R. Heron

#### **1st Battalion**

*Belfast Barracks,  
BFPO 36.*

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel 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 L. Whitworth

#### **Fontenay Company (South Yorkshire)**

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

Officer Commanding: Major D. Baird

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

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

D Company Detachments

OC: Major P. Cole

Halifax

Huddersfield

Spen Valley

Keighley

Mirfield

Skipton

Thongsbridge

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

C Company Detachments

OC: Major B. Bradford

D Company Detachments

OC: Major A. Hudson

Barnsley

Darfield

Birdwell

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



## THE FREEDOM OF SHEFFIELD



The Colonel receives the scroll.



The Colonel-in-Chief speaks on behalf of all units on parade.



# THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CROWN 1702 - 2002



## THE SECOND HUNDRED YEARS 1803 - 1902

1803	1st/2nd Mahratta Wars	<b>Ally Ghur, Delhi 1803, Leswarree, Deig</b>
1808	Peninsular War	<b>Corunna, Nive, Peninsula</b>
1809	Walcheren	
1810	Mauritius and Isle de Bourbon	
1812	2nd American War, Plattsburg	
1813	Holland	
1815	Quatre Bras, Waterloo	<b>Waterloo</b>
1854	Crimean War	<b>Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol</b>
1857	Indian Mutiny	
1867	Abyssinia Campaign, Magdala	<b>Abyssinia</b>
1881	The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) formed	
1896	Rhodesia	
1899 - 1902	Boer War	<b>Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, South Africa 1900-02</b>

### GOLDEN JUBILEE

Whilst we have been absorbed by our Tercentenary, we should, bearing in mind the heading to this page, also record that our own anniversary coincides very happily with Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Many of us have had the honour to hold the Queen's Commission, or Royal Warrant and we have served, and completed, our respective terms of service within her fifty years on the throne. All Dukes have served her as our Sovereign and we are glad to celebrate her anniversary too. Long may she reign.

### FREEDOM OF SHEFFIELD

Readers will know that our Tercentenary is being celebrated in a variety of ways during 2002. One high point was the conferral upon the Regiment of the Honorary Freedom of the City of Sheffield on Saturday 13 April 2002. A measure of the importance of this occasion was the attendance of our Colonel-in-Chief, the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Charles Huxtable, Major General Isles and Brigadier Mundell.

On 7 November 2001 the Council of the city of Sheffield resolved 'That, under and by virtue of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Honorary Freedom of the City of Sheffield be conferred by the council on The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) in recognition of the eminent service rendered by them to the nation and their friendly associations with the City'.

Consequently, on Saturday 13 April, Somme Company had the honour of representing the Regiment, alongside Fontenay Company, as we were granted the Freedom of the City of Sheffield and for the first time exercised the privilege by marching through the City 'with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed'. This was a significant event for the Regiment, as it confirmed the strong bond with the City and effectively started the Tercentenary celebrations. Both the Colonel-

in-Chief and the Colonel of the Regiment attended the parade and many other DWR personnel, both serving and retired were invited. The Lord Mayor, Councillor David Baker, held a pre-parade reception in the Town Hall for the principal guests, while the parade marched off from the forming up point at the City Hall. The dais area was in Pinstone Street and after the Lord Mayor left the Town Hall to a fanfare of trumpets, it was here that the Parade Commander, Colonel C. G. Batty MBE, invited the Lord Mayor to inspect the parade. With the inspection complete the Chief Executive, Mr Bob Kerslake, reported the Resolutions of the City Council conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City upon the Regiment, as well as upon:

The Chestnut Troop, 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery  
106 (West Riding) Field Squadron (Air Support) (Volunteers)  
38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)  
212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital (Volunteers)

The Lord Mayor then presented to each of the Representative Colonels illuminated scrolls embodying the Resolutions of the Council. Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, accepted the scroll on behalf of the Dukes. The Colonel-in-Chief then responded on behalf of all the units with a memorable and moving speech. The Drums Platoon added to the ceremony of the day with an outstanding Victory Beating that was well received by all the spectators. With the official ceremony complete, the Parade Commander requested permission for the Units to exercise their Right to Freedom and the Parade then left Pinstone Street to march through the City with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed. Having moved to the Town Hall with the Representative Colonels to sign the Roll of Honorary Freemen, the Lord Mayor then took the Salute from the parade in front of the City Hall.



After the March Past and Salute, all guests and parade troops were invited to join the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at a buffet reception in the City Hall. The buffet was superb and was very much appreciated by all those involved in the parade. During the function the formal ceremony was completed when the Lord Mayor presented each unit with a gift to mark their admission to the Roll of Honorary Freemen and each unit in return presented the City Council with a gift. We were presented with a hallmarked sterling goblet commissioned by the Assay Office and bearing the Golden Jubilee hallmark. The goblet was designed and made exclusively by Mr Brian Asquith, a silversmith and industrial designer from Derbyshire.

It was a great honour to be involved in such an important event, the City of Sheffield went to great lengths to make us feel welcome and all those who took part appreciated it.

Major P. J. Wilson, OC Somme Company

### **THE HAVERCAKE MARCH SETTLE TO SHEFFIELD 25 MAY - 8 JUNE 2002**

The Havercake March gave the Regiment the opportunity to celebrate the Tercentenary within the boundaries of our home recruiting area, thus allowing those members of the Regiment who were unable to travel to Germany the chance to get together, reminisce and share the odd ale.

As well as celebrating, our aim was to raise the profile of the Regiment, to recruit soldiers for the 1st Battalion and the East and West Riding Regiment Companies and recruit adult instructors, as well as cadets, for the DWR Cadet Detachments.

The participants came from far and wide and included representatives from the following units and organisations:

- The 1st Battalion
- The East and West Riding Regiment
- The Regimental Recruiting Team
- 124 (DWR) Army Youth Team
- The Kings Division Recruiting Team
- The Infantry Recruiting Team
- The Drums Platoon
- The Kings Division Normandy Band
- all DWR Cadet Detachments
- Giggleswick School CCF
- The 33rd of Foot Re-enactment Society
- The Heritage Centre
- Lord Cornwallis' Company
- The 33rd of Foot
- World War I and World War II enthusiasts

Over 200 personnel took part, albeit not all on the same day and they were split into four separate groups for the march period:

The Marchers - sixteen soldiers and cadets under the command of WO2 Chris Scott (SPSI Ypres Company) and the watchful eye of Sergeant Harry Graham (Alma Company) who was dressed as a Recruiting Sergeant from 1814.

The Ceremonial Team - all of the Drums Platoon and occasionally the Band, under command of WO2 Carl Murten (124 AYT) and Drum Major John Johnson.

The Recruiting Team - most of the remainder, controlled by Sergeant Andy Duffy (DWR RRT).

The Admin Support Team - based in Huddersfield TA Centre with Colour Sergeant Maurice Crossley (QPSI Ypres Company), WO2 Steve Padley (Fontenay Company) and Colour Sergeant Pat Brennan (DWR RRT).

On Saturday 25 May the marchers formed up in Settle, along with the Normandy Band, representatives from all of the re-enactment societies and cadets from Giggleswick School, all present, along with the wind and rain, to add to the send off.

The Havercake March route took in Skipton, Silsden, Keighley, Cullingworth, Hebden Bridge, Todmorden, Ripponden, Halifax, Cleckheaton, Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Penistone, Barnsley, and Chapelton before finally arriving in Sheffield, in the sunshine, on Saturday 8 June. A total distance of 140 miles.

Each leg of the route allowed time for the marchers to stop, marry up with the Ceremonial Team, and conduct a short ceremony at all of the main Town Halls and numerous Parish or Ward Council offices. During each ceremony an inspection was conducted by the local Council representative, a presentation was made on behalf of the Regiment and finally the drums performed Victory Beatings before continuing with the March. In all, 37 pictures of the Havercake Recruiting Sergeant were presented, which did much to raise our Regimental profile.

The ceremonies were well attended by members of the public, as well as Dukes both young and old. They were all impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism shown by those taking part and the extremely high standard of drumming from the Drums Platoon. I should point out that one of the ceremonies was not so well attended, that being the one in Hoyland, but as it was held at 1400hrs on Friday 7 June 2002 this was understandable. (For those who have already forgotten, this was the 75th minute of the England vs Argentina World Cup game.)

As the marchers set off each day the Recruiting Display team set up either a show or recruiting stand at a suitable location along the marchers' route. Of particular note were the displays in Halifax, Huddersfield, Brighouse and Rotherham, all of which had a very high attendance from the local public. These shows also allowed the team to display as much of the military kit and activity stands that we had available. They included an aerial ropeway, mini assault course, paintball range, and military vehicle stand, including Warrior and Saxon, as well as allowing the re-enactment societies the chance to set up tented camps and conduct musketry drill.

During the fortnight Nicholson's Bakery near Keighley provided the marchers with a daily ration of Havercakes that were distributed during the presentation ceremonies. On more than one occasion Sergeant Graham was seen replacing the one on his sword as he had been nibbling away at it on route.

Timothy Taylor's brewery brewed special Havercake Ale, which was on sale in numerous public houses along the route. Charles Dent the Managing Director and Honorary Colonel of Ypres Company and his head brewer Peter Elles deserve a vote of thanks from all who tasted the ale. It was first class.

The re-enactment societies also deserve a special mention for their commitment, enthusiasm and expertise, as follows:

The Heritage Centre provided members in period costume from 1702.

Radford and Judy Polinsky flew over from California as members of Lord Cornwallis' Company the 33rd of Foot, depicting the 33rd during the American War of Independence and were joined by a third member from Arizona for the middle weekend. Major Mark Lodge, who hosted them, also took part in one day of the March dressed in an authentic uniform brought from America.

The 33rd Re-enactment Society, under the leadership of Richard Macfarlane and John Spencer, who both work at the Bankfield Museum, provided a living history of the Napoleonic Wars, which was superb, even down to the three rousing cheers they gave the Colonel of the Regiment each time he visited.

Wade Russell and his colleagues from the Manchester Regiment, who changed badges and buttons for the final day to become World War I Dukes, and Patrick Hargreaves who on more than one occasion mustered family and friends in uniforms from the Second War.

The press coverage was very good and all of the local newspapers provided much-needed coverage, as did BBC Radio Sheffield, who conducted a live interview

with Colonel Julian Fox and BBC Look North, who turned up to film the Drums and recruiting display in Rotherham.

It would be difficult to single out every individual who contributed to the success of the Havercake March, but I feel that Regimental Headquarters deserve a special mention. They have worked tirelessly, for over a year, to ensure that the entire Tercentenary passes as smoothly as possible. Without their support and advice I could not have completed the march with the same degree of success.

All in all, the Havercake March was a unique and historic experience, enjoyed by all those who took part, as well as those we met on route. Our initial aims were more than met, with over 250 enquirers for all three organisations, good press coverage and face-to-face contact with the public. The Dukes are once again remembered with affection across the whole of the West Riding

Captain Andy Pigg  
Regimental Recruiting Officer

#### *Afternote*

I have archived my planning notes and After Action Review for the organiser of the 400th anniversary. They will be wrapped in a black bag in the dusty basement of Huddersfield TA Centre. Good luck and remember: Virtutis Fortuna Comes.



**Havercake March outside Sipton Town Hall.**

*Further photographs of the Havercake March are at pp 76 -77*



# Regimental Headquarters

## Regimental Notes

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

We are very pleased to record the following.

Operational Awards in recognition of the 1st Battalion's excellent work in Kosovo between January and July 2001:

OBE to Lieutenant Colonel (now Colonel) N. G. Borwell.  
Joint Commanders' Commendations to: Major D. P. Monteith, Major N. M. B. Wood, WO2 K. N. Craddock, Corporal E. J. Whitehouse.

The award of a GOC's Commendation to Mrs Jane Borwell for her outstanding work with the families in Germany, especially during the Kosovo tour.

The award in the Queen's Birthday Honours of the OBE to Lady Mary Huxtable, for services to SSAFA Forces Help.

### PROMOTION

We send our warm congratulations to Murray Colville, who has been serving with the Royal Anglian Regiment (Volunteers), on his promotion to Colonel.

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. S. BRUCE MBE THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Bruce was commissioned into The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in April 1980.

He joined the Battalion, in the airmobile role, in Catterick and spent his first six years as a Platoon Commander of Rifle, Anti-tank and Signals platoons on tours that took him to South Armagh, Canada, Gibraltar,

Bulford, Belize and Kenya. In 1986 he was posted to Warminster as an instructor on the Signals Wing, returning to the 1st Battalion as Adjutant in 1989 in Tern Hill. This was followed by two years as an exchange officer with the Australian Army, instructing officer cadets at the Royal Military College in Duntroon, Canberra.

In 1993 Lieutenant Colonel Bruce attended the Army Staff College at Camberley prior to returning to the Battalion to command Corunna Company in 1994/5 in Bulford and Weeton, a period that included operational tours to Bosnia (Gorazde) and Northern Ireland. From 1995-98 he was posted as Chief of Staff of 39 Infantry Brigade in Belfast, a period that included a return to violence by the IRA and some of the worst rioting experienced in Northern Ireland since the early 70s. He then spent a year as a Company Commander at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst prior to promotion and a posting as a member of the Directing Staff at the Joint Services Command and Staff College. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1994 and was awarded an operational MBE in 1999. He has recently completed a MA in Defence Studies through King's College London.

He assumed command of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in March 2002. He is married to Louise and they have two children: Amy (ten) and Ben (six). His interests include rugby, golf, fly fishing and his family.



Lieutenant Colonel D. S. Bruce MBE.

# 1st Battalion

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

By the time you read these notes the Tercentenary Weekend will be over and hopefully the sun will have shone and we will remember a cracking weekend celebrating the 300th anniversary of our great Regiment in style. Twenty one years ago I had the privilege as the Junior Subaltern to receive the New Queen's Regulation Colour into service, I am sure many will feel the same, but where has the time gone? It is a huge honour to be Commanding Officer for our Tercentenary Parade, when our Colours will be replaced, although with only three weeks to go and the Barracks a fever pitch of activity I can't help feeling that it might be more enjoyable to be a spectator! The efforts being made by all departments in the Battalion are outstanding and no stone (literally) is left unturned in preparation for 22 June.

Events in Yorkshire are also well underway; the Sheffield Freedom was a huge success and the Havercake March from Settle to Sheffield a triumph which will hopefully result in several recruits for the Battalion. In July we will complete our celebrations with two guards from the Battalion exercising our Freedom through West and South Yorkshire. Most of the Tercentenary events will be covered in the winter edition of the Iron Duke.

In addition to preparing for the Tercentenary and supporting the events in Yorkshire, the last few months have seen a full programme of training. The Battalion is in its High Readiness year, but missed out on much of the key armoured training due to the deployment to Kosovo, so we are now re-establishing our warfighting skills. This training has included Corunna Company deploying to Canada and Alma and Burma to Poland, all to operate as enemy. This has enabled the companies to

practise their warfighting skills without the additional pressure of being exercised troops and has proved to be an excellent training opportunity. In April the Battalion deployed to Sennelager for an intensive and very successful Gunnery Camp. A great deal of hard work was rewarded with a Level 6 assessment, the highest grade possible, and a fantastic achievement only two years after conversion.

The final part of our warfighting training in this period was to take part as a semi-free-flow enemy for the RDG Battlegroup High Readiness exercise. This provided an excellent opportunity to work as a Battlegroup for the first time, with an RDG armoured squadron, Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery all under command. Many lessons were learnt, Battlegroup Headquarters got to grips with its procedures and several good scraps were had with the RDG. The Warriors are now back in the vehicle sheds as we focus on 22 June, but will be out again in July in preparation for a busy autumn period. This will include Command and Staff Training in Sennelager for the Battlegroup Headquarters and some computerised wargaming on the new Combined Arms Tactical Trainer for the companies. In late September we hope to conduct some field training as a battlegroup, but a lack of resources to support a two week deployment could jeopardise our plans.

My first three months in command have flown by and I am still to catch my breath. Colonel Nick Borwell handed over the Battalion in excellent shape, fully-manned with well motivated soldiers and I thank him for the ease of our hand over and congratulate him on a job well done. It is a privilege to command the Battalion in its 300th year and I look forward to leading it into the 4th century.

## ALMA COMPANY

The last five months have been enormously busy and successful for Alma. We began the year stood by to deploy to Afghanistan as part of the Irish Guards Battlegroup (in case the government wanted to dispatch an armoured unit) and have managed instead to complete two very demanding exercises as OPFOR (enemy), as well as an excellent combined Gunnery and Infantry Field Firing Camp at Sennelager, where the Company was awarded an overall Gunnery Level 6 (the highest permissible mark). Between times we have badged a further four snipers, had five soldiers pass their PNCO cadre and trained up another batch of Warrior Commanders, Gunners and Drivers. There has even been a little time for sport and adventure training, with Alma winning the inter-Company soccer and basketball and sending a number of individuals and groups on sailing, skiing, parachuting and hang-gliding courses and expeditions. The Company was also delighted to learn that of the ten honours, awards and commendations for Kosovo deployment, no less than

six had been awarded awarded to members of Alma Company in recognition of their work in Pristina City.

Articles appear elsewhere in this publication detailing the exploits of Alma Company in Poland and Bergen-Hohne; suffice to say on that score that the First Fusiliers and Royal Dragoon Guards came away from their encounters with Almaski with reputations and pride somewhat dented, but much better trained and prepared. In addition, both battlegroups were forced to seek new COs after the present incumbents received TES (Tactical Engagement Simulator) kills from the bold men of Alma. The latter courtesy of Private French and his LAW and the former smarting somewhat from a close range encounter with OC Alma and his 'God Gun'.

Gunnery Camp at Sennelager was probably the highlight of the period. Having not excelled in the Autumn firing as a result of poor weather and bad shooting the Company was under considerable pressure to improve its Level 3 grading. This it proceeded to do,



and in spades, as all our crews passed their Annual Crew tests with an overall Level 6 grade for the Company and the Platoons then put the finishing touch on the camp by achieving a rare Level 6 in the annual Platoon assessment. Even the CSM contributed by achieving a Highest Possible Score with his pintle mounted GPMG from the back of 33B, his ageing 432.

In summary, Alma has had an outstanding spring period. We are now once again comfortable in our

Warriors and have achieved considerable success against more experienced Armoured Infantry and Armoured Corps opponents. We can shoot straight, manoeuvre rapidly and effectively and we continue to enjoy life. All ranks are looking forward to the Tercentenary (but not necessarily to the Drill) and to our Freedom Parades in July.

Major D. P. Monteith  
OC Alma Company



*Gunnery Camp, Sennelager, May 2002.*

Left to right: Privates Taylor, French, Dick, Hudson, Creswick, Shaw and Ceacea.

#### Exercise Rhino Sword, May 2002

Exercise Rhino Sword started on a high directly from Sennelager, where the Battalion field-firing camp had taken place and Alma Company had produced some impressive shoots. The Dukes' Battle Group, consisting of Alma, B Squadron from the RDG and elements of Somme, was to provide an OPFOR for the remainder of the Royal Dragoon Guards to exercise against. The elements of Somme were Recce Platoon, parts of the Mortar and Milan Platoons and two sniper pairs, all creating a diverse ISTAR (Intelligence Surveillance and Target Acquisition) group.

Once again the rail system baffled people, as a four hour road move managed to take twelve hours on the train - plenty of sleep for Sergeants Brighthouse and Kelly, who looked like they were going into hibernation to emerge five months later. As you would expect, the train rolled into Fallingbostal railhead exactly on time at 08:37 to be greeted by Captain Sutcliffe and RQMS Birkett with a hot breakfast. After chocks 'n' chains were removed it was time to be massively baffled by wires, electronic boxes, and computers with the fitting to the vehicles without any instructions available of

TES. This was made all the more frustrating by the computers being powered up and having a wire missing or in the wrong place, which caused the speaker and special lights to bleep and flash annoyingly. Once all 'TESed' up it was time to zero the laser. Once zeroed, quite a few people then decided to check their weapons systems by shooting the Challenger 2s of B Squadron which were sitting ducks only a tempting two hundred metres away down the range, much to the annoyance of the Tankies!

As part of the build-up training there was a duel between 2 and 3 Platoons with a morning of 'force to force' with the 'battle of Ortsberg Hill'. 2 Platoon with Second Lieutenant Cataldo and Sergeant Simms were given the task of defending the piece of high ground and 3 Platoon with Lieutenant Smith and Sergeant Schofield told to attack it. There was much scheming on both sides in this battle of wits. 3 Platoon opted for a dismounted attack with the Warriors going left and dismounts going right. It worked well and both sides put up a good fight and showed lots of battle cunning at all levels, bringing to bear all the lessons learned in



**Alma Company Leaguer Area, Bergen-Hohne, May 2002.**

Poland and some new ones. The 'battle' was stopped shortly after a couple of vehicles had fallen to the somewhat over-enthusiastic 'blue on blue' LAW shoots of 2 Platoon, so 3 Platoon had taken the hill.

Later we were able to cross train with the Squadron of Royal Dragoon Guards and it was a worthwhile opportunity to have a clamber over each other's vehicles and a few got a drive around in the turret of a Challenger 2. The acceleration and speed of Warrior impressed the Royal Armoured Corps soldiers and we were in awe of their thermal sighting systems which are far superior to ours.

When the exercise proper started the Battle Group was split into two, one group being tank-strong, based on B Squadron, the other being Warrior-heavy, based on Alma Company. We now had to use and adopt old Warsaw Pact tactics in the advance by using some probing Combat Recce Patrols into the enemy's defensive position. Their defence was soon under pressure from the might of Alma and crumbled with the aggressive advance of the Dukes' Battle Group. The dismounted sections proved their worth time and time again with aggressive and fruitful tank stalks causing a big hindrance to the Tankies. Notable shots with the LAW were Privates French and Hogan.

During the initial few hours of action the first of three tanks got stuck and bogged-in up to the turret in swamp, it made a good decoy and became a landmark.

One of our serials was to create a nuisance for the Royal Dragoon Guards during an obstacle crossing, a task that 3 Platoon and the Recce did rather too well, before being called off to let them try it again unopposed. This state of affairs caused a little dismay to 2 Platoon who were left waiting on the line of departure for approximately five hours. They were poised ready to strike and eventually got the nod and reached their objective, despite the best efforts of the enemy holding the crossing against all comers.

Alma's final stand was defending a bridge known as 'Orange' and we fought off the entire Royal Dragoon Guards Battle Group. A sniper soon claimed Major Monteith (OC's note: this kill remains hotly disputed!) and Lieutenant Dick took over the command competently and guided Alma to a final victory. Our overall zapping ratio for the Company was impressive. The Royal Dragoon Guards were left with three tanks and four warriors, as was Alma Company.

The ultimate zap was that of the RDG CO, who was not happy, well done Private French!

Lieutenant P. G. Smith, OC 3 Platoon



**A Challenger 2 from B Squadron RDG, attached to Alma Company, displays the tanks' little-known sub-aqua ability.**

## Alma Company in Poland

The Alma that deployed to Poland to act as OPFOR (enemy) was a completely different Company from the one that had converted two years previously. All the hierarchy had changed and as a young Company there were many new soldiers who had very little experience with Warrior. So our two week exercise to play enemy for the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (1RRF) and their Battle Group (BG) was greeted with nervous excitement, however we could only learn from the experience.

Getting to Poland was a marathon in itself. Coming straight off Easter leave we embarked on a 36-hour train ride to the picturesque training area of Drawsko Pomorskie in north-western Poland. Morale was quickly quashed as we were greeted with snow and temperatures of -13C. Fitting the TES laser equipment to Warriors and dismounts was a complicated task and we attempted to transform our Warriors into BMPs and Russian main battle tanks using cardboard, sandbags, black nasty and Pritt Stick. Not very convincing, but we eventually completed it and were then able to concentrate on some Company training before the exercise began.

Initially we started off with the basics and got used to being in the Warriors (sorry, BMPs) again. As the notional enemy we forgot British tactics and tried to adopt the Genforce approach to fighting. We broke the Company down into Combat Recce Patrols and Vanguard and it certainly was beneficial to implement tactics that might be used against us. We also took the opportunity to get to know the training area. Though most commanders now have their own GPSs (Global Positioning Systems), an essential piece of equipment, we still managed to get lost on occasions, Company Commanders included! (OC's supplementary note: "This is unproven! Mr Cataldo please come and see me.")

The exercise was broken down into three phases. The first few days were to allow the battle group to train, especially at company and squadron level. We found ourselves tearing across the area to play enemy and were used in all sorts of scenarios from defence to FIWAF (fighting in woods and forests). Though it was useful, it was primarily to allow the Fusiliers and their

Queens Royal Lancer (QRL) tank squadrons to perfect their company and squadron tactics.

We then went into two exercises, one of 48 hours and the final exercise of 72. These were more interesting, as we were working as a Genforce Company and although we had certain serials and guidelines to work to, there was an element of free play and at times we were let off the reins completely.

Without being arrogant, Alma Company did very well as the exercises got underway. On one occasion, 1 Platoon, defending a river crossing, managed to defeat an entire company of Warriors and a squadron of tanks. The day was quickly named the Battle of the Brod. This is one battle honour that won't be displayed on the new Regimental Colours but may appear on the next 1 Platoon T-shirt.

I could write for hours on Alma's successes in Poland. However they are summarized in the final attack where we were left to our own devices. With a bit of cunning and imagination we destroyed two entire squadrons of tanks and 60% of the Fusiliers' Warriors. We located the mortar line and destroyed that, along with the majority of their Engineer and Air Defence assets (the 2IC of whom actually drove up to the OC's T80 Warrior and asked him if he had seen any enemy about!). Both the Fusilier Colonel and one of the squadron commanders had been killed and all this was done before lunch.

I will not say they were bad and we were brilliant. As OPFOR we were at an immediate advantage as we were not restricted by BATCO and knew the exercise serials. They certainly made mistakes but that is what they were there for and we both learnt some valuable lessons.

Finally, I will treat our REME with a lot more respect. Without REME support a Warrior Battalion would come to a standstill within a couple of days. They worked endlessly and performed miracles on some of the Warriors. They are vital and I never appreciated the work the REME did until Poland.

In regard to the Warriors, they are not invincible. The Fusiliers learnt the hard way.

Lieutenant M. H. Cataldo

## BURMA COMPANY

'Work expands to fill the time available for it' is an expression we've all heard and doubtless used. I think it needs revising, and I'm sure many of Burma Company, if not the Battalion, will agree to something along the lines of: 'the amount of work you have expands *regardless* of the time available for it', or so it seems to us anyway. The treadmill has been flying along at 100 miles an hour, but I am happy to say that thus far no one has fallen off. Easter leave finished in early April and less than 24 hours in camp saw Burma deploying to Sennelager for a week to complete a skill at arms week ending in our APWT. Following a swift weekend in Osnabrück we deployed at 'sparrows' to catch the troop train to Poland for our role as OPFOR on Exercise

Prairie Eagle 03. We worked hard and lived in the field for two weeks, happily putting the Black Watch to the 'TES' sword before jumping back on the train and heading direct to Sennelager again for the Battalion IFFC and gunnery camp. Two and a half weeks there, working from fire team assessment up to a fully integrated mounted company live firing attack, and finally we arrived back at dear old Osnabrück. Not bad for six weeks in the life of Burma Company. But then you add in the extraneous factors; the glory of Whole Fleet Management; the attrition of key personalities through injury, compassionate cases, courses, and the fact that Burma had experienced an entire command appointment change in Company HQ, less the OC, in

the space of two weeks either side of leave: (goodbye Captain Lee (2IC), WO2 McCabe (CSM), WO2 Elcoate (WSM) and Colour Sergeant Stannard (CQMS); hello Captain Payne (2IC), WO2 Caple (CSM), Colour Sergeant Harrison (CQMS) and Sergeant Malone (WSM)). The fact that Burma Company has completed that little lot, having destroyed over half the Black Watch Battle Group on two occasions, and having achieved a Level 5 score with thirteen crews on the annual crew test and two Level 6s on the platoon level tests and recovered back to camp in good order after five weeks on the go, is a testament to the hard work and

professionalism of all the soldiers in Burma Company, Dukes, AIMI attached and REME LAD. It is that hard work and professionalism that makes commanding a company such as Burma an absolute pleasure and a real privilege and I would like to take this opportunity, in what will probably be my last submission in this role, of thanking all Burma soldiers, past and present, who have served under my command for everything they have contributed to ensure this experience will stay with me for life.

Major N. M. B. Wood  
OC Burma



*Exercise Prairie Eagle*  
Major N. M. B. Wood in ØB.



*Exercise Prairie Eagle*  
Burma securing a defile for CR2s.



## **Burma Company's Gunnery and Infantry Field Firing Camp Sennelager, May 2002**

Following Burma's straight shooting with the TES kit in Poland, it was time to demonstrate that we could do it for real. The Company loaded up onto the trains in Poland for the 26 hour journey to Sennelager, for the Battalion's combined Gunnery and Infantry Field Firing camp. With the vehicles unloaded it was straight into the programme, as the Company juggled vehicle crews between re-zeroing and giving the Warriors the desperate mechanical attention they needed after four weeks in the field.

The first few days were set for progressive training, as the Company moved through fire team assessments on static ranges to bursts and pairs in movement boxes. The vehicle crews, whilst getting through some of the training began to hone their own shooting skills. From the Initial Gunners' Test to static line shoots, it allowed the crews to reacquaint themselves with the drills involving live ammunition and the common cry 'stoppage top half'. That is, as opposed to frantically pressing a control box to load laser beams whilst a Challenger II brought its barrel to bear on you! Indeed, lasers fitted to the rear of certain company members' vehicles, may have assisted in their ability to reverse and avoid any bumps or land rovers, call sign OC! The Company was ready for the Annual Crew Tests in which some extremely high scores were recorded, Major Wood and Sergeant Malone achieving HPS. Who says time spent in recce is not well spent? The Company's overall score was a creditable high Level 5, the top mark attainable being a Level 6.

Over this period the dismounted troops had been progressing through the ranges and were onto section level attacks. It was now time to bring it all together with platoon attacks both at day and night. The attacks went extremely well, with effort and determination being high. It is a credit to the members of Burma

Company that even after four weeks of exercise, 100% was being given. The highlight for many was the night attack, being fired in with arcs of tracer from the Warriors. Logistically the nightmare began to get better, despite Sergeant Malone's attempt to sink the only truck the Company had; perhaps he was suffering flashbacks from Captain Payne's reversing lesson. Towards the end of the second week, Burma competed in the Battalion Tickle shoot, again there were some excellent scores, the Company came a creditable second and punishment essays were avoided by the Subalterns for their fine efforts.

The switch was quickly back to the vehicles, with the Company looking for a coveted score of 6 in the Platoon Annual Assessment. It was clear that the build-up training had paid off as the Platoons achieved their Level 6 with ease. It was finally time for the two camps to come together as we moved from section to platoon level attacks using the Warrior. It was extremely realistic, more so in Sergeant Hollis's vehicle as he tried to complete a back flip in it. Remember: mirror, signal, manoeuvre. Dismounts within complained of experiencing zero gravity. Both of these phases went well; meaning that Burma went into the final Company attack well prepared for anything that would come our way. The Company attack went according to plan, with all members thoroughly enjoying the challenges that they came up against. The end was nigh, with a long weekend beckoning, for all the effort Burma Company had put in over the last five weeks. Good scores and maximum training benefit had been achieved by all involved. The Company can now look forward to the other side of the coin, as drill becomes the priority for the next month as we build towards the Tercentenary. By the left ...!

Second Lieutenant A. Brown

## **CORUNNA COMPANY**

As a result of Corunna Company's deployment to Canada in April 02 as OPFOR, the Company held a separate Gunnery and Infantry Field Firing Camp to the Battalion this year. Both camps were held in Sennelager with the Irish Guards. For ease of administration Corunna was attached to the Irish Guards' Milan Platoon for the Warrior Gunnery Camp in order to share their vehicles. The quid pro quo was that we ran the week's ranges for them. For those in Corunna that had not been on public duties in London, working with the Irish Guards was a bit of a novelty and the Guards' mentality a particularly good source of amusement.

The Warrior Gunnery Camp consisted of a series of static shoots aimed at practising the crews in fire control orders and basic gunnery on mixed nature shoots. Once these shoots were completed the crews were able to advance to the more difficult FMX and night shoots before they were entered into the Annual Crew Test. As ever, Colour Sergeant Wilson and Lance Corporal Ogden's 'Bratty Tent' was on hand to provide sustenance and much-needed shelter for the masses.

Sadly, as helpful as the Company Quartermaster Sergeant's team were, they were unable to fulfil a Guardsman's request to pay by Visa.

Despite the numerous breakdowns by the Irish Guards' vehicles, which were in a poor state of repair having only recently been returned from exercise in Oman, the ranges ran relatively smoothly and were completed a day ahead of schedule. Regarding the Gunnery, the week was a success with the only hiccup coming from the attached Milan Platoon who took nearly thirty minutes to locate and engage only a single target on the night shoot. All of the Corunna crews managed to pass the Annual Crew Test and the overall grade achieved was a Level 5.

The following week we were joined by the assault troops, who had been deployed on a separate dismounted exercise on Ackmer Training Area for the start of the IFFC. The first week consisted of the necessary 1-3 level ranges aimed at zeroing and practising the marksmanship principals in preparation for the Annual Personal Weapons Test at the end of the week. The

soldiers had to pass the APWT before moving on to the more demanding field firing ranges the following week. The IFFC proved to be an ideal opportunity to build up the Company's marching fitness and each day concluded with a march back from the ranges. This proved to be a shock to the system for some, who found these trips a little emotional. However, even after the first week, the improvement in fitness could easily be seen.

Field firing dominated the following week, with ranges progressing from pairs fire and manoeuvre to platoon attacks. Thanks to the assistance of the Irish Guards, there was the opportunity to practise the assault troops in an integrated section attack. This provided the newer members of the Company with their first experience of live firing with Warrior in support. The highlight of the week was definitely the platoon attack range ran by the Irish Guards. With conducting staff coming from outside the Company, platoons could adopt the new 2010 structure. Which is the new structure for light role platoons, with the three usual manoeuvre sections plus an additional Manoeuvre Support Section of two GPMG gunners, two LSW gunners and a commander. This increased flexibility and gave the platoons valuable insight into working with a manoeuvre support group.

### SOMME COMPANY

Besides the Freedom of Sheffield commitment, which is reported elsewhere, the Company has also been heavily involved in various exercises.

We provided personnel to augment Corunna Company as OPFOR in BATUS (Canada). We were also represented in Poland as Alma and subsequently Burma took part in Exercise Prairie Eagle on Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area as OPFOR. In May we successfully completed the Battalion's Infantry Field Firing and Gunnery Camp at Sennelager and deployed from there straight to Bergen Hohne as the RDG underwent their confirmation exercise for the LATF role. This was a fantastic training opportunity for Milan,

The ranges and background activities throughout the IFFC were aimed at preparing Corunna for the likely tasks that would be faced as OPFOR in BATUS. Lessons focused on the use of ISAWES equipment, tank stalks, and the building and occupation of OPs. Initially the TES training focused on the use of the assault troops ISAWES and LAWES equipment. However, due to the limited availability of the TES equipment the troops were unable to practice on the vehicle-mounted TES system or exercise in a force-on-force TES engagement until the buildup training in Canada. The training in Sennelager did serve as a solid basis for the start of Exercise Medicine Man 1. Where the Dukes' use of the LAWES proved particularly lethal against the Warriors of the Black Watch.

To summarise, it was an excellent package that achieved all of its aims. It developed and took forward skills, and built on the lessons learnt from the Battalion package in October and November of last year. It helped integrate all the newly-attached members from Alma, Burma and Somme into the Company in preparation for Canada. It also successfully tested our ability to work within another unit's organisation and taught many valuable lessons in the art of liaison and left the Irish Guards with impression of the Dukes as a hard working and professional Regiment.

Mortars and Recce, as it was the first chance to carry out battle group integrated training since our conversion to the Armoured Role. All the platoons made significant steps forward in their training levels and the platoons are now well prepared for our FTX in September.

On return to Osnabrück at the end of May it was straight on to the Drill Square to practise for the Tercentenary parade. The hard work of all those involved has been rewarded, as Somme Company will have the honour of providing the Escort to the Colour Guard.

Major P. J. Wilson  
OC Somme Company

### RECCE CADRE 2002

The cold early mornings of early February 2002, saw several fresh-faced private soldiers come into contact with the wizened old souls of the Recce Platoon, for the first time at close quarters. This was to be the beginning of this year's selection cadre.

The Cadre was much changed from its previous light-role incarnation due to the armoured nature of our present job, and consisted of three phases. Phase one was the Armoured Infantry conversion phase and consisted of training in the driving and maintenance of CVR(T) Scimitar, and also mastering the weapon systems therein. Namely, the L37 machine gun (basically a variation of the GPMG), and the 30mm Rarden cannon. Following this, the potential recce soldiers and the established reconnaissance warriors alike attended a light role refresher phase. This all culminated in the final phase, a ten day test exercise on Stapel training area near Sennelager.

The Armoured Infantry wing 1 DWR was to be home for the initial phase of the cadre, and the true grease monkeys of the Platoon began to come to the fore. The course itself lasts four weeks and covers all aspects of the CVR(T), before students get to grips with the most enjoyable aspect - which is to say driving the things.

At the same time, the gunnery gods within the Platoon were honing their skills in preparation to fire their qualifying shoots in Sennelager in May of this year. Already, 'Dead Eye' Wainwright and 'My other car is a convertible' Pearson were establishing themselves in their various trades.

After the AI phase the Platoon married up for two weeks of light role training, coupled with lectures, tewts and command decision exercises teaching the tactics of close recce in armoured vehicles.

Corporal Eric 'The Magellan' Whitehouse set up some very good navexs, and at the time of going to

press we are still awaiting the return of several of the less able navigators. In the mean time Colour Sergeant Mick Stones took the leading role in the teaching of the dismounted drills and skills. This phase involved digging in and living in observation posts, close target recceing, and ensuring that the reports and returns being sent were up to the required standard. Oh, and there was a small amount of PT for good measure, allowing Private 'My shorts have shrunk - honestly' Dransfield to show off his MASSIVE legs!

The Platoon Commander was duly tasked with teaching the tactics of Recce in Armour and introduced the concept of Command Decision Exercises to the Platoon. This involves sitting all the CVR(T)s around a model and modelling an armoured war, but sending the appropriate information on the net, and utilising the model ground for discussion points. Everyone felt a bit silly at first but it was to pay dividends come the test exercise.

In the run up to March the Platoon did its final few Command Decision exercises, and prepared the wagons to move off for the final exercise. This involved every aspect of the recce soldier's job from CTRs to Advance to Contacts and Withdrawals in contact. The author

would like to be able to tell you first hand how well the Platoon did but, alas, he was swanning in New Zealand with the Tercentenary XV, and so must relate it second hand: 'We were brilliant' said Lance Corporal Cuminsky, 'Superb' said Corporal 'The Honch' Stockbridge, 'They were lager louts' said Colour Sergeant Mick Stones!

After the cadre was completed we welcomed some new faces to the platoon, not least of which was Agent Cost, of whom I'm sure more in later instalments. Sadly, we also said goodbye to several old stalwarts, Corporals Pete O'Donnell and D. C. Wyeth move to ITC Catterick, Mick the Muslim Clarke who moves to Burma Company as a Platoon Sergeant, Lance Corporal Rich Rowley who is off to sunnier climes in Yorkshire to the Army Youth Team, and last but not least Colour Sergeant Mick Stones, who hands over the recce 2I/C's baton to Colour Sergeant Andy Knight in favour of CQMS Somme, more bread please Mick! Good luck to you all (especially Andy Knight), and may your time spent in reconnaissance not have been wasted!

Captain J. A. Kennedy  
OC Recce Platoon

### PNCO's CADRE 2002

The first day of the PNCO Cadre dawned on Monday 14 January 02. This Cadre had a slight difference from previous ones as training is now accredited to a civilian qualification, so the programme has been adjusted accordingly. This meant that every successful candidate would not only receive the tick in the box for future promotion to Lance Corporal, but would also receive the Introductory Team Leader Award.

Having already completed the BPFA and CFT the squad had been whittled down to a total of thirty, all of whom were ready to be put through their paces over the following six weeks. The first week consisted of a series of in-camp lessons ranging from skill at arms to five minute lecturettes. Given a topic of their own choosing the variety of lecturettes proved to be very entertaining. Private Lane opened with the battle of the fast food joints, including free MacDonald and Burger King tasters, whilst Private Oxley taught his syndicate how to handle snakes by producing a six foot live python from his daysack mid-way through his lecturette. A great way to hold his audience, until the snake got itself stuck in the belt loops of one of the soldier's trousers.

During the next few weeks the Cadre moved out into the field. Using a variety of training areas the students were introduced to the mechanics of fire team and section attacks, whilst at the same time continued to develop their map reading and core infantry skills. Dorbaum training area provided a good concentration of tenacious enemy which needed destroying, whilst the January weather ensured that the terrain was always wet, muddy and of course cold.

Tactics were not always the main effort of the Cadre and often throughout the six weeks' course the gym staff were allowed to provide fun and enjoyment, with a realistic yet progressive and demanding training schedule. Everyone on the Cadre got to know the bottom of the local river beds and lakes through many a

crawl on battle runs. The local Germans at one point gathered in a crowd of about fifteen to watch and cheer the mad British soldiers as they decided to do another length of the river in close to minus temperatures.

With the constant workload and the unceasing demands of the Cadre staff it was not long before the Cadre students found themselves deploying on the final exercise to Haltern Training Area. Already, prior to the exercise, the rumours had started, including a fifteen mile insertion tab and no sleep for at least the first four days. Of course as Cadre staff we did not deny them as we let imaginations run wild. The exercise revolved around a UN scenario, with the ever-persistent enemy getting in the way and slowly worked up to a final assault on the remnants of the invading force. Due to German law and green vehicle driving restrictions the Cadre had to finish a day earlier than anticipated, nevertheless early on the Saturday morning the Cadre Platoon deployed from their harbour location and moved with bergans ready for a future attack. Having moved through a series of RVs and dropped off bergans, H-Hour finally came with the platoon moving forward through a platoon deliberate attack, which then moved onto a FIWAF assault. The assault lasted for over two and a half hours, with each section being echeloned through the position, before finally coming under enemy artillery fire and having to extract.

The final speed march saw the Cadre extract (at some speed) back via the RVs, picking up their bergans before being 'driven' by the Cadre staff back to the central administration area. With rumours flying and the pressure of a week of very little sleep the students had no idea what was to happen next. Thinking they were about to be run ragged they ran round the corner of the Cadre administration area to find the Cadre staff, a cold beer and a boil-in-the-bag breakfast waiting for them: ENDEX at last.

The last few days of the Cadre were dominated by administration and paperwork, before finally the whole Cadre and enemy attachments, who had now become miraculous overnight friends with the Cadre students, relaxed with a curry and beer in the Corporals' Mess. It was here that prizes and nominations over the last six weeks were distributed, including top student which went to Lance Corporal Marshall of Corunna Company.

Finally, credit must be given to the Cadre staff who at the last minute provided an excellent instructional base for the students, whilst at the same time remained professional and flexible, especially when OC Cadre was trying to scive off and play rugby!

Captain R. B. Payne  
OC PNCO Cadre

### PNCO's CADRE 2002

After already completing the BPFA and the CFT the Cadre was ready to start properly with everyone who was left.

The Cadre always seemed to be split up into three groups, one group having prepared for the Cadre, one group who hadn't and some who didn't even want to be there. We were split into three sections under three different section commanders who were: Lance Corporals Hirst and Dooley and Corporal Garbutt, who was my section instructor. Once we had been split up into sections with our instructors, we were ready to start the first week of in-camp training, which consisted of weapon handling tests, administration, a five minute lecture and endless hours of lessons and, of course, staff parades.

Weeks two and three were spent in camp and at Achmer training area. But the learning curve increased on things like map reading, first aid, signals and the receiving and extraction of orders, as well as how to take a lesson. In our case it was rifle lesson three which was both interesting and nerve wracking at the same time.

Weeks four and five were spent at a camp called Dorbaum. Here we spent our first night out in the field doing activities such as a night navex and a recce patrol, which were all in all very tiring.

In general, the time at Dorbaum was spent patrolling and in command appointments which were being distributed out daily on things like section attacks and FIWAF. These two weeks were great fun, although the section 2ICs were made to run around like maniacs for up-to-date ammo states.

Week six finally arrived, which was the week-long final exercise at Haltern Camp. We knew that this was make or break time. We had to put everything we had been taught into practice whilst being assessed throughout. I had heard rumours before that I was in the top five of the Cadre but was unsure. I knew I had a chance of the top slot though if I pushed it.

During the exercise we received up to three command appointments each due to the small sections we had. The exercise was very hectic with things like recce patrols, ambushes and OPs with very little sleep in between. The exercise ended with a two to three hour attack with FIWF involved in which we were all run ragged. We then finished off with a speed extraction tab from our hasty harbour back to where we first started the exercise a week previously. Thinking we were about to move onto the next part of the exercise we ran round the corner and were greeted with a cold beer and a boil-in-the-bag each, umm!

A couple of days later, at the end of the Cadre function, I found out that I had come top of the PNCO's Cadre 2002.

Lance Corporal Marshall



Lance Corporal Marshall, top student PNCO's Cadre 2002.

### ROTHER VALLEY & DEWSBURY COLLEGES UNIFORMED SERVICES COURSE VISIT TO 1 DWB

Commanding an Armoured Infantry platoon is certainly challenging. However, planning and conducting a week-long visit of twenty seven students and staff from Rother Valley and Dewsbury Colleges is easily a fair match! Alma Company hosted the visit during which we aimed to give the course practical experience of military life in an Armoured Infantry Battalion.

The visit was split into two phases. Phase 1 being in-camp in Belfast Barracks and Phase 2 being Exercise First Look based on Achmer Training Area. Phase 2, without question, remained a constant worry amongst the students - the fear of the unknown! Throughout the visit an inter-section competition was run, this promoted a healthy competitive spirit and also brought together students from different colleges.



The success of Phase 1 lay in keeping the course busy and therefore tired. A hectic schedule was arranged which enabled the students to see as much as possible of military life and also tested the training team's organisational skills to the limit. Activities included: the bleep test, introduction to Warrior, visits to QRL and 4 Regiment RA, Somme Company presentations, football, volleyball, ice skating, Bosnia and Kosovo presentations to give students a flavour of what life is like in an Armoured Infantry Battalion and Brigade.

Exercise First Look (Phase 2) was for many students the first time that they had slept outdoors and the promise of inclement weather (the training team had indented for snow and rain) caused many to be slightly nervous. The exercise began with demonstration stands featuring all the rifle platoon weapon systems, followed by demonstrations and instruction on camouflage and concealment, shelter construction and the 24 hour ration pack. The girls on the course easily showed their prowess at camouflage - something to do with enthusiastic practice with Max Factor and Chanel make-up. The highlight of the exercise was the course getting ambushed whilst on 'patrol' and the casualty extraction that followed. The damp and very muddy training area provided a great opportunity to get soaking wet through and caked in mud, but still the smiles persisted. The exercise culminated with a series of command tasks the following morning. That evening, the visit finished with a curry supper and presentation of

competition awards by OC Alma. Rother Valley College were winners of the section competition and fittest student, whilst Dewsbury College took the silverware for overall best college and best student (incidentally won by a girl).

For both colleges and 1 DWR this was the first time such a visit had been arranged, so there was no template to refer to, but students came away with a better idea of military life and no doubt some of the male students will be walking through the gates of ATR Glencourse and ITC Catterick in order to become a Duke shortly. The success of the visit undoubtedly lay with the tireless efforts of all members of the Battalion asked to assist, but especially with the training team responsible for the day-to-day management of the course. WO2 Childs, Sergeant Bennett, Lance Corporals Smith, Lambert, Winchurch and Jump set and maintained the highest standards of professionalism and were a credit to the image of the Army and 1 DWR. A special mention must also go to Captain Pigg MBE (OIC 124 AYT), whose experience of organising and conducting such visits undoubtedly saved the blushes of OIC Visit.

In summary, such a visit is hard work for those tasked to run it, but we hope the benefits will follow as students tell their friends about the Dukes and possibly arrive at Battalion themselves cap-badged as Dukes.

Lieutenant S. J. Dick  
OIC College Visit



*"OK - now it's your turn to get muddy"*  
says Private Shaw

## OFFICERS' MESS

Not a lot to report from the Mess for this edition. The Viking Night pretty much sapped the strength of the Mess on the social side and deployments to Canada, Poland and Bergen-Hohne took up most of our time. That said, there have been one or two items which require illumination. The first and most important of these occurred on Saturday 2 March when we dined out Colonel Nick and Jane. A healthy turnout of serving and recently-retired Dukes who had served under the Borwell regime were present to bid Colonel Nick farewell and to thank him and Jane for their friendship, leadership and their combined, and enormous, contribution to the life of the Battalion and the Mess. There was genuine emotion in Colonel Nick's valedictory speech and in Richard Holroyd's multimedia extravaganza in reply (at least there was after Richard had worked out how to operate his projector). The later stages of the evening saw the Mess indulge in a bit of high jinks and a number of (semi) planned games, which degenerated a little after Colonel and Mrs Borwell fell out, into the Subaltern version of WWF wrestling. The Mess joins me in wishing Colonel Nick, Jane and the girls the very best of luck in Warminster and in offering our thanks for a fantastic two and a half years.

We were also delighted to host the Colonel of the Regiment in late April as he popped over on a planning visit to confirm some of the details for the Tercentenary. The Colonel sampled the Tercentenary Lunch and Dinner menus, pronounced himself content and also found the time to present WO2 (RQMS) Craddock, Corporal Whitehouse and Major Monteith with their Operational Awards from last year's Kosovo tour. The PMC's Mess Bill now bears the scars from the subsequent champagne requirement! May saw the Battalion deploy to the less-than-welcoming and atmospheric Sennelager Mess for Gunnery Camp, when we were relieved and grateful that the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess invited us across to enjoy a Mexican night. The QM was alleged to be the last remaining officer at around 0400hrs, but he did not have to shoot at anything the next day. Our final Mess event before Tercentenary was a most successful guest Dinner Night on 30 May, when we further cemented the excellent relationship between the Mess and the staff of 4 Armoured Brigade by entertaining DCOS and a selection of SO3s. This was also our chance to firmly bed in Colonel Duncan, Louise having managed to get in before him with a wives' barbecue the week before, while the Mess was on exercise!

Major D. P. Monteith, PMC

## DUKES DOWN UNDER - THE TERCENTENARY RUGBY TOUR

"There is no better way for our Regiment to celebrate its fine rugby traditions than by taking on the best rugby nation in the world." And so Major Nick Wood, OC Rugby and tour manager, launched the Dukes' RFC on the trip of a lifetime into the cauldron of southern hemisphere rugby.

The 31-man touring party briefly took in the sights and sounds of Bangkok before landing in Auckland for the first leg of a tour that would take them throughout the North Island, and briefly into the lush South, to experience some of the hardest and most dynamic rugby of their careers. The tourists were hosted magnificently by the New Zealand Defence Force; they were introduced to the diverse Maori and NZ cultures and were accepted into the Maori spiritual homeland at a traditional Marae. This moving and intimidating challenge to visiting warriors was both impressive and a great privilege to the Dukes who accepted the welcome, as tradition demands, by returning the challenge with their own Regimental songs led by choirmaster Lieutenant Dan Pawson.

The tour itinerary featured five matches, four against NZ army opposition and a fifth to be played against a high-calibre civilian team. Dukes' rugby has been synonymous with a fast flowing pattern of play and against the first opposition, the Auckland North Regiment, the team at times looked dazzling as they ran in several tries to beat the New Zealanders 25-5. Despite the early victory, it became clear that the locals thrived on a hard and brutal game that the Dukes had never encountered in the northern hemisphere. It gave team skipper Captain Jim Kennedy plenty to ponder on

as the squad drove south to face the Army Training Group XV in Waiouru. "Despite rebuilding and playing domestic and cup final rugby this year, we have not come across a truly physical game like this. The lessons we'll take away will make us a ferocious opposition next season" he commented. At Waiouru they faced the famous Haka war dance before the game and narrowly lost a close encounter played in torrential rain and gusting wind. "We were forced to field a slightly weakened team after the first bruising game and lost a match we really could have won" mused coach Staff Sergeant Garreth Allcock shortly after the 16-30 defeat.

Travelling south via Lake Taupo and two exhilarating bungee jumps set in spectacular countryside, the party arrived for the third fixture against Commander 2nd Land Force Groups' XV at Linton Army Camp, Palmerston North. Recent returnees from peacekeeping in East Timor and a successful league season bolstered the Linton team. Their back line was fantastically talented and ran in three breakaway tries from their own line after persistent Dukes' pressure in the second half. The final score line read 48-11 in favour of the home side.

After a brief stopover at the capital city the squad crossed the turbulent seas, through the spectacular Marlborough Sound, to the South Island for their penultimate game against Central RFC, a local team located in the rural town of Blenheim. Unbeknown to the Dukes, Central RFC fielded nine Marlborough County players who play representative rugby in the National Provincial Championship, one step down from Super 12. The Dukes fought hard but had no answer to



Scenes from the Dukes v Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment.

the power and pace of the New Zealand side. Constantly on the defensive and contending with 10-12 phases of play, the final score read 73-0, the Dukes, clearly outclassed in this mismatched fixture, learnt a lot from the South Island side.

Once more the squad found themselves in Wellington preparing for the final game of the long tour. This was a fixture against the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment, which comprises over a third of their standing army. This would be a true test particularly as the long tour had taken a heavy toll on the squad. Through injury they barely managed to name a playing squad from the entire touring party. It promised to be a huge game with the NZDF Chief of the General Staff watching and a large crowd. In the baking sun the sides lined up to sing the national anthems, aware that a big game lay ahead. Against the odds, the Dukes, who were undoubted underdogs on the day, held the representative side to 17-15 at half time, following some outstanding rugby that showed a clear progression from the start of the tour. Good aggressive play in the forwards taking the game to the Kiwis at last enabled them to unleash their talented backs in the dry heat of the afternoon. In the second half however the long tour and a big NZ pack told, and gaps appeared in the visitors' defensive line. The final score went to the Logistics Regiment 55-15. Major Nick Wood was satisfied with the result

however and enthused "This has been a fantastic tour for the entire squad, every man has learnt something about themselves and rugby. We can't wait to unleash ourselves on the Army Cup next season, watch this space...!"

Regardless of the results, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Tercentenary Rugby Tour can only be described as a resounding success. The Battalion side, which currently selects from fewer than sixty players, competed with sides from a nation where rugby is almost a religion, and if it were possible they are more passionate about rugby than Europeans are about football. All the tourists discovered a new culture and made lasting friendships during this very memorable tour and, rest assured, the uncompromising style of Kiwi Rugby will be brought back to the playing fields of Germany and England.

Captain Peter Lee

#### *Post Script*

The skills learned in New Zealand were rapidly put into practice as the Dukes swept all before them in the BA(G) 7s competition, crushing the RRW twice in the process. Victory in Germany earned us a place in the UK Army 7s where, after beating the Welsh again, we were knocked out in the semi-finals by the all-Fijian team from the Highlanders.

## The East and West Riding Regiment

### Commanding Officer's Introduction

Our run of success has continued into spring; our teams achieved 1st and 2nd place in the 15 (NE) Brigade Patrol Competition, Martial Merlin, 3rd at DIVSAAM and we also won the Commander's PR Cup. Parallel to this, the Dukes' Companies have supported the Tercentenary events, including the Freedom of Sheffield and the Havercake March. Training has included defensive operations at company level and an outstanding KP defence weekend at Swynnerton, where the soldiers were subjected to a wide range of incidents and experiences inspired by the Training Major, Nigel Rhodes, and executed with great enthusiasm by our affiliated cadets and their instructors. For the first time we also ran Exercise Junior Stretch, putting nearly twenty young potential officers through a challenging series of tasks over a weekend by way of introduction to the TA. Captain Hey organised a thoroughly enjoyable summer golf meeting at York, while the Officers' Mess let off steam at a summer ball held at Worsley Barracks. Finally, TA Day this year was held in May and those companies which set up shop in the town centres report record numbers of inquiries.

Ypres Company has a temporary OC in Captain Routh, as Major Hughes has taken an FTRS post with HQ 2 Division in Edinburgh. The Company remains very well recruited and I am pleased to report on the commissioning of 2 Lieutenant Jones who came second

in his intake at RMAS. Ypres Company was heavily involved in the Havercake March, providing most of the staff and administrative support to Captain Pigg, as well as parading with great style at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield.

Fontenay Company's attendance and manning also continues to improve and they are due to receive a new OC, Major Whitworth, by August. The Company were a great credit to themselves and the Regiment when they paraded for the Freedom of Sheffield, where their drill and turnout was comparable to that of the 1st Battalion. The Company was also involved in Operation Northern Spirit, a regional recruiting drive which required a stand in Pond's Forge, Sheffield. Later a team from the SF Platoon supported Sheffield UOTC's live firing at Sennybridge.

Life has become very interesting recently as we were short-listed to send a platoon to Afghanistan in September and the response to the initial trawl was overwhelming! Sadly the job has gone to another unit, but we are now focussing on what the SDR New Chapter means for us and the possibility of deploying as a Civil Contingency Reaction Force should the need arise. Much nearer though is our imminent deployment to Belgium with over 350 troops for two weeks' training under canvas before we start a shooting package which culminates with our SAAM in September.



## YPRES (DWR) COMPANY - THE HAVERCAKE MARCH

At the time of writing the Havercake March is well under way. For a TA Company the manpower required is quite large for a programme which requires four marchers daily, four display stands each weekend, drivers, chefs, recruiters etc, it goes on and on, but if the first weekend is the benchmark it should prove to be a huge success.

Already we have had the first of two band concerts in West Yorkshire that was held at the Skipton Auction Mart; yes it is a working cattle market, complete with authentic smells. Looking at the Bandmaster and his merry bandmen's faces the style of venue for them was a definite first.. However after a quick rehearsal which proved that the acoustics were good and a taste of 'free' Havercake ale, a smile started to appear.

If the open-air venue of the Piece Hall in Halifax, which the Company is again sponsoring, proves as successful as that of a cattle market then, weather permitting, it should be an evening to remember. On Monday 3 June, over the bank holiday weekend, the Company have a formal parade in Greenhead Park, Huddersfield where the Colonel of the Regiment has kindly agreed to take the salute. We are using the opportunity to present medals, which are the TA equivalent of the LS&GC. The recipients are WO2 Lynden Robinson - a clasp to his TA Efficiency Medal, a total of eighteen years' service. Colour Sergeant Glynn Taylor - the TA Efficiency Medal for twelve years' service. There has now been a new medal, which is replacing the TA Efficiency Medal, the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (VRSM) for ten years' service. Those who will be receiving this medal are Colour Sergeant Nick Mallas, Sergeants Chris Clarke and Mark Ibberson, Corporals Jamie Johnson, Andy Beck, Martin Pearson and Graham Wilkinson, Lance Corporals Dave Midgley and Geoff Wilkinson. WO2 Chris Scott along with the Havercake Marchers will then join the parade and be greeted by the Mayor of Kirklees. With the full range of displays and stands in the park, again if the weather is favourable, it should be a memorable afternoon. The Company is holding a social evening in

the TA Centre for all past and present DWR cap badge TA soldiers and partners then completes the day. I think there will be quite a few ready to let their hair down by then.

The march crosses from West to South Yorkshire later in the second week where we will be picking up some soldiers from Fontenay (DWR) Company. The march comes to a close on 8 June in Sheffield where there will also be a band concert at the Rotherham Civic Theatre. I am sure from the TA perspective all the aims will have been achieved, just in time to relax and put one's feet up. Annual Camp in Belgium during July is around the corner, "Yes I know it's only a part-time paid hobby".

Captain Barry Hey



8 June 2002  
The Lord Mayor greets ...



... the marchers in Sheffield at the end of their historic march.

## FONTENAY COMPANY

Fontenay Company's Tercentenary year has certainly got off to a near-frantic start with a mixture of battalion and brigade competitions and of course the highlight of the Freedom of Sheffield; enough to keep us all on our toes.

The year got off to an excellent start with the Company entering two teams in the Battalion Inter-Platoon Competition (IPC), one representing Sheffield under Colour Sergeant Colin Johnson and the second, representing Barnsley, under Sergeant Greg Burton. Both teams put in an excellent performance over the course of the competition ending up in first and third places respectively. This gave Fontenay Company the IPC trophy for the third year in a row. Close on the heels of the Battalion IPC came the Brigade patrol competition Martial Merlin. The Company team under Lieutenant Rick Huddart lived up to the usual Fontenay tradition by ending day one of the competition in second place, only to have a disastrous march and shoot phase to finish in sixth place. Still a very creditable performance for what was a young team; hopefully they can build on it for next year. The final competition of the year was that for the Champion Company. It proved to be a very close race between Quebec Company and ourselves with, unfortunately, the first place just slipping out of our grasp by the narrowest of margins at the end, but they will have to keep on their toes for next year.

Without doubt the highlight of the year so far has been the freedom parade in Sheffield. The build up training seemed to go on for weeks as first we mastered foot drills, then got to grips with rifle drill and finally took our lives in our hands by training with bayonets fitted. The pressure started to tell as the parade got closer, with several of the Company's SNCOs requiring barrels of port to keep them going, or so they told the

OC. The actual day made the weeks of Tuesday night drill and the couple of weekends stamping up and down the square at Endcliffe Hall worth it. The Fontenay Company guard was immaculately turned out and it was particularly pleasing that over half of the guard were from Sheffield. The Company owes a great debt to WO2 Padley, WO2 Yates and Corporal Irwin for the many hours they spent shouting at us to get us to the point where on the day our drill was even better than that of the 1st Battalion! Hopefully we won't have to wait another 300 years to exercise our right again.

It was good at the start of May to finally put drill and competitions out of our minds and get back to some proper field training with a KP weekend at Catterick. A composite Company made up of Fontenay and Ypres deployed to the lavish surroundings of a barn complex and was then run ragged for the next 36 hours by a fearsome group of Barnsley and Sheffield cadets. Roll on more of these types of field weekends.

The Company continues to provide soldiers to the regular army with both Corporal Evans and Corporal Emery having enjoyed their time with the 1st Battalion so much that they have signed on again, one to go to Warminster and the other to Chilwell. There are also another couple in the pipeline.

Our new PSI, Colour Sergeant Watts, has just arrived in post and is still experiencing some of the culture shock that comes to all regular soldiers posted to the TA. You are very welcome, we hope you enjoy your time with the TA and you will get used to our strange ways, and us, eventually.

Finally congratulations to WO2 Padley, Colour Sergeant Johnson and Sergeant Unwin on their promotions and particularly to WO2 Padley on taking up the appointment of CSM. May you all survive the barrage of paper work that will come your way.



Company Sergeant Major Steve Padley leads members of Fontenay (DWR) Company East and West Riding Regiment outside Sheffield Town Hall for the presentation of scrolls.

# THE HAVERCAKE MARCH, SETTLE



Captain Pigg presents the Havercake print to the Deputy Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Jennings, in Brighouse.

*Far right top:*  
Chairman of Holme Valley Parish Council, Nigel Patrick, and his wife with WO2 Carl Murten and Sergeant Mick England who attended the same school.

*Far right middle:*  
Twins Privates Louis and Edward Baugh from Barnsley with the Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor Peter Doyle.



Havercake March with Timothy Taylor



Havercake marchers on route (five minute rest stop)



33rd Re-enactment Society with  
John Spencer from



**TO SHEFFIELD 25 MAY - 8 JUNE 2002**



Staff at the brewery in Keighley.



camp followers in Greenhead Park Huddersfield  
Bankfield Museum on the left.



*Cleckheaton Town Hall*  
Left to right: Colonel of the Regiment, Leader of Kirklees Council, Drum  
Major Johnson, Sergeant Graham.



**Councillor David Baker, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, inspects Fontenay (DWR) Company TA during 2002 Freedom of Sheffield Parade.**

*We are indebted to Paul David Drabble for this photograph and the one on page 75*

### THE EAST AND WEST RIDING GOLF SOCIETY

During the Annual Camp of 1998 at Penhale Camp in Cornwall, when we were 3 DWR, the thoughts came round on how to spend the R&R day. The thought actually came round some weeks earlier, which is why all known golfers were contacted and clubs were

transported by green vehicle. A great day out was had by eleven members of the Battalion which was organised by WO2 John Ward. The talk in the bar afterwards was on how to meet on a regular basis especially with the impending news on SDR.



*Spring Meeting in York on a very hot day in May 2002*

Left to right, back row: Sergeant Andy Duffy (RRT DWR), WO2 Steve Padley, Corporal Paul Beeley (Fontenay Company), Martin Hellawell (ex 3DWR), WO2 John Ward (RHQ E&WRR). Front row: Captain Barry Hey (PSAO Ypres Company and Secretary), Captain Brian Noble (guest from Tyne & Tees Regiment).



On formation of the East and West Riding Regiment in 1999 and after much wailing and gnashing of teeth (mainly by the then Commanding Officer Colonel George Kilburn) we settled down as a Regiment. After being approached by some of the players from that day in Cornwall and one or two of differing cap badges which now make up E&WRR I took it upon myself to act as Secretary and form a Golf Society (is this how it all started at St Andrews!). From a good response this led to 24 agreeing to join, and the inaugural day out was at Cleckheaton Golf Club on 11 May 2000 where twenty turned out. Members are spread across all three cap badged companies and are made up from Regular, NRPS, TA and civilians and with one or two guests we are guaranteed a good turn out.

We play twice a year in spring and autumn, and choose a course on either side of the A1 road each year. It must be borne in mind when booking that members are travelling from as far west as Huddersfield eastwards to Hull and from Ripon in the north to Sheffield in the south. Now that we are in our third year the Regiment has purchased a 'Golfer of the Year' trophy when each individual's score from both meetings are added for an eventual winner, this year's will be decided in September.

Captain Barry Hey  
Golf Secretary

## THE TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR

### THE WAR YEARS 1939-45

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

The Company was to reinforce French troops already in position, although I saw little of them as the countryside provided a great deal of natural cover. I was to take orders from a French officer, a Captain, who was taciturn in the extreme; unable or unwilling to communicate and almost contemptuous of our presence, leaving me, I am glad to say, to my own discretion and dispositions. I placed two platoons forward of Venables facing the river and one, in reserve, under Frank Slater, remained in the village. The left forward platoon, under Michael Selka, had to be put in position by night taking direction from the edge of a wood leading steeply to the river. To maintain cover we moved cautiously down the inside edge of the wood and were surprised by a Jerry patrol which passed within feet of our position. We froze, for my intention was not to disclose our presence. As I lay on the ground listening to their approach I was almost discovered by their passing boots. This encounter took me somewhat aback, particularly as a short while before I had fallen rather heavily down a steep bank and was still shaken. Evidently we had not been observed though I feel sure, in retrospect, that they must have been aware of our presence, as it was impossible to move thirty or so men through a forest at night without a good deal of noise. Indeed I remember the oaths!

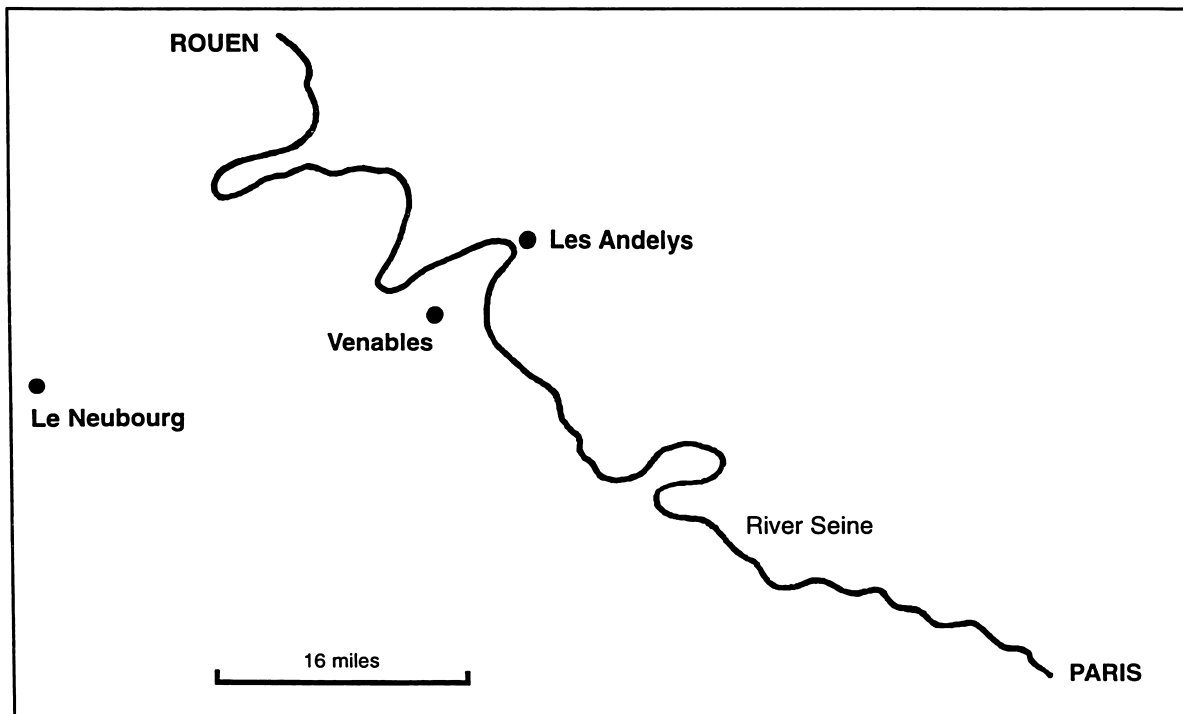
My right forward platoon under Desmond Joyce was in a most exposed position, but with a commanding field of fire and quite impossible to approach unseen. Unfortunately we had no trenching tools or sand-bags and it was difficult for the men to obtain personal cover. I felt most keenly the disadvantage of not having field-glasses, particularly as my Sergeant Major could see movement that I could not see for myself. The eerie lull before we were drawn into the fighting was shattered by the French 75mm artillery opening up some distance in our rear, but the fire was desultory, of short duration and with no detectable result. It was then that I felt most 'eyeless'. That the enemy was to our front was apparent but it was difficult to discern his movements or see any concentration of his troops. As vexing as the lack of field glasses was the absence of any maps, which made

it difficult to relate to Battalion and other company HQ. Moreover there were no radio sets and therefore no means of communicating with either Battalion HQ or neighbouring companies. Indeed we were completely on our own and I had no knowledge of what was going on in the other sectors of the front. On 9 June B Company, which was defending the bridge at Les Andeleys to our right front, came under very fierce attack and was forced to withdraw to the south of the river. Later in the face of a very superior enemy both in numbers and fire power with massive support from the air - I never saw any allied warplanes - they withdrew, with many casualties, to a village called Bernieres and later back to Venables itself to take up a position protecting my right flank. In the official account of B Company's encounter with the enemy particular mention is made of 2nd Lieutenant J. Reynolds. This reads:

*2nd Lieutenant Reynolds, with six men, played a heroic part in holding a position near the bridge to the last with the only light machine-gun in action. He was last seen firing at close quarters at Germans crossing the river; eventually he was severely wounded, surrounded and taken prisoner. Every man of this section displayed the greatest gallantry and fought to the last in the finest traditions of the Regiment.*

It gives me, as I write this account, the greatest pleasure to recall the name of this fellow officer, as we shared the same sleeping accommodation in a Nissen hut at Bruz in adjoining beds only a few days before this incident. To my shame I complained to him that he kept me awake with his snores!

At that time the only major activity observed on our front was of French cavalry, as exhausted as their horses, which they turned loose in the village, throwing down their sabres and disappearing behind us. Of what use cavalry could be in modern warfare, armed with sabres, I could not conceive. They must have been brave men indeed. In somewhat lighter vein, I shortly after received a request from Frank Slater commanding No



2 Platoon to take the salute at a march past. As I stood at the entrance to Company HQ he marched his platoon smartly past with bayonets fixed, he astride one of the abandoned horses and carrying a sabre at the present! This puts me in mind now, as I write, of the comment of a French general, Pierre Bosquet, on hearing of the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in 1854 "C'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas la guerre". Magnificent but not war! It was a magnificent gesture conjured up by a magnificent young man in the prime of his all too short life for, alas, he was killed in 1942 fighting the Japanese in Burma with the 2nd Battalion of the Dukes. A charming Skipton lad of strong physique and comely appearance, a former pupil of St Ermysteads Grammar School. Thank you dear fellow for your friendship and for what you did that day, quite daft, against all orders but demonstrating a tremendous spirit and definitely good for morale, especially mine.

When the Company was attacked we were very vulnerable as we only had rifles, a few light machine guns and, for our solitary anti-tank rifle which we had lugged round for weeks, we never had any ammunition. The enemy mortar fire was most uncomfortable and we soon had casualties; Private Norman Underwood from Bradford was killed by the side of his twin brother and the platoon commander, Sergeant Joyce, was hit by shrapnel. I was on my way to visit his position when it happened and I, together with some others because he was very heavy, lifted him to safety, removed his upper clothing to expose his wounds which were confined to his back - ugly but not fatal. Later he was evacuated and returned to the UK under medical arrangements. The enemy infantry approached time and again crawling through the corn armed with machine

guns to be repeatedly repulsed by accurate rifle fire for the most part. At dusk the enemy withdrew but the village was subjected to some further desultory shelling and the French artillery responded until early the following morning when it was put out of action by heavy machine-guns.

In the afternoon a number of French army vehicles drew into the village and the French commander informed me that his men were withdrawing. I asked him for orders. These were both laconic and dramatic, if not helpful. "You stay here and die for France" were his exact words, etching themselves upon my memory with a clarity undimmed by the years. My company orderly, Private Grimes, who was standing by my side raised his rifle and would have shot him had I not pushed his muzzle down. Many years later when I recounted this experience to the Adjutant of the Battalion, Captain Maurice Hutchinson, he said the same words had been used to him when another detachment of French troops pulled out of the area of Battalion HQ. As I had had no contact with Battalion HQ all this time and as I had no disposition to take notice of the French captain's orders - these had been the only words he had addressed to me at any time - I thought it was time to move. It seemed to me that we were being attacked from both sides and that our position was quite untenable.

During the evening we marched down the road towards the place where I imagined Battalion HQ was and almost immediately met the CO. He had been coming to see us when we met him just as he spotted Captain Eric Stell, OC D Company, lying by the roadside badly wounded. Eric had been carrying out a reconnaissance in the village of Les Grands Villiers which was occupied by the enemy; his orderly had

been killed and he badly hit. How he had managed to reach safety no one can say. The rest of the Company then took up a position towards the north east of Venables - one of my platoons had been ordered elsewhere without my knowledge - and so we made our last stand. In the early light of the next day I saw a long column of enemy infantry marching up the road towards the village from the direction of Les Andelys. I gave the order to open fire and the marching column quickly scattered into the abundant cover on either side of the road and resumed the tactic of trying to infiltrate to our rear. I was thankful shortly after to receive orders to retire which we did with some hazard as the enemy had succeeded in occupying the small hills to either side of our line of withdrawal.

There was a great deal of confusion, nothing new, but I think the enemy was confused too as my impression was that they were shooting at each other as well as at us. Fortunately there was ample cover along the line of our withdrawal. I remember dashing into some thick bushes, only to feel my battledress blouse almost taken off me and a sensation of numbness in my spine. I thought at first I had been hit but had evidently had a very narrow squeak as later inspection of the article showed a neat hole through the fold of the material. Miraculously Battalion transport came on the scene and we were taken away quickly to safety. According to the official record of the Battalion, contact with the enemy was broken off at 1700 hours (10 June). Then began a long night march to Bernay via le Neubourg using the limited Battalion transport to leap-frog companies forward. I remember that night well for it rained very heavily, unusually during that dry summer, and as we had an excellent hot meal, the first for many days - McConachies stew generously laced from the remains of the scotch liberated from NAAFI - our spirits rose despite the downpour.

At Bernay we rested for a day in a large chateau deserted by its owners and providing me - at least - a bed and a room to myself, a great luxury. Also the means to wash and shave, for all my kit had been lost. From here we were required to carry out a reconnaissance of the River Risle with the idea, no doubt, of hindering further the remorseless advance of the Germans. But we were not destined to stand and fight again, for the next day a senior medical officer from Division declared that we were not fit for battle for at least three days and we were ordered into rest billets. It is more or less at this point, in my highly personalised account of the Battalion's experience in France in 1940, that the excellent official account prepared by Brigadier C. N. Barclay, CBE, DSO, concludes, saying, I believe with some justification:

*This ended the battle career of the 2/6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Inadequately trained for active operations, and without modern weapons and equipment, they had been sent to France in an administrative role. Almost at once they became involved in fighting with a highly mobile enemy armed with tanks and other equipment of the most modern design. Nevertheless, under Lieutenant Colonel E. Lewelyn's leadership, the Battalion fought with gallantry and skill - in contact with the enemy for days on end. A fine episode in the history of the Dukes.*

According to the same account the Battalion suffered approximately 85 casualties, of whom three officers and eighteen other ranks were killed. Many of these were from my Company.

*to be continued ...*

*Readers will recall that Major Peter Knight was able to pay his respects at the graves of some of his soldiers in Venables in July 2001. See Issue No. 246 pp 92-94.*

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

### Commandant's Study Day and Dinner

On 16 March, as a County, Yorkshire (N&W) ACF dined out Colonel Stephen Ashby, who recently ended his term as Commandant. We also dined out Captain Ted Wade who was our County Adjutant and has also recently retired to spend more time on the Internet!

Also at the Dinner was Colonel Philip Bowden, our new Commandant, who took the opportunity to thank Colonel Ashby for leaving Yorkshire ACF in such fine form.

### Annual Inspections

We have completed this year's round of Annual Inspections. These went without any problems and we can expect at least two above standard reports.

### County Athletics

Cadets from the Company took part in the County Athletics on 27 April at Huntington Stadium, York, and came either first or second in various events. If D Company had managed to get only two more points we would also have won the Victor Ludorum overall best Company trophy! As a result, some of our Cadets are

going forward to the Regional Sports meeting in Middlesborough on 9 June.

### Company Weekend, 11-12 May

This is the first time for a good number of years that we have been to Deverell Barracks, Ripon. It is a good camp and we settled in quickly and concentrated on APC testing for all Cadets. The weather was glorious which made the weekend even more of a success.

### Company Sergeant Major's Wedding

Our "Royal Wedding" took place on 18 May. Most of the Company attended the marriage of our CSM, Brian Yardley, to Private Elizabeth Weston of 34 Field Hospital, based at Strensall. Liz and Brian first met when she was an Adult Instructor with the Company. After serving with us for five years she joined the Regular Army, but still kept in touch and attended Company weekends and Annual Camp. The wedding took place at Liz's home church in Mirfield and was followed by a first class reception at the TA Centre in Huddersfield.

Captain S. A. Marren

## GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL COMBINED CADET FORCE

This is proving to be a busy and exciting summer for the Contingent. On 10 May we had the honour of being inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment on the occasion of our Biennial Review. General Evelyn was accompanied by Second Lieutenant Edward Smith, a former member of the Contingent and recently commissioned into the Regiment. Throughout the tour of inspection the three Service sections demonstrated several aspects of their basic and advanced training. After meeting many of the cadets, the Colonel watched

a fire and manoeuvre exercise and gave a final address.

On 25 May sixteen members of the Contingent participated in the inaugural parade of the Havercake March in Settle, a memorable event despite the disappointing weather. Finally, further contact with the Regiment will be maintained when twelve cadets visit the Battalion in Osnabrück for a week during July.

Lieutenant Colonel N. J. Mussett MBE



**The Colonel's Inspection**

*We are indebted to Ken Hill for this photograph*

## A MARSHAL A CENTURY

by Alberic Stacpoole, OSB

Within each of the three centuries of the life of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a world-class British Marshal has fiercely flourished. Two came home to a dukedom, the third - whose outreach was greatest - to a viscounty. A continuously proud nation offered the first two a palace, and the third a caravan site. John Churchill (d. 1722) spent a small part of his adult life fighting four battles (Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet); and a large part desperately constructing Blenheim Palace.

Marlborough fell into the human trap of hubristic vicariousness - for Blenheim Palace was not a home but a monument, more in the manner of Wren's 1695 pension hospital, and in 1873 (the age of steam and steel) the RN College Greenwich. John and Sarah never enjoyed their palace: they were senile by the time the

structure was up. They never dined in the saloon. John looked up sadly at Kneller's portrait of him, and said: 'There was a man'. The nine-towered edifice, begun by Queen Anne, was finally financed by John and Sarah's own money.

After the Peninsula and Waterloo, Stratfield Saye was acquired with public funding for Field Marshal Wellington (d. 1852), a hero home from procuring the British Embassy at the Paris Faubourg St Honoré. In May 1814 he had written to his nephew, adding: 'PS. I believe I forgot to tell you I was made a Duke': he showed mild pleasure in minimal words. He had his eye on Uppark in Sussex - since burned in 1989, but restored by 1996 - though he feared its hill in old age, his ever-practical choice being the flat. A Palace of Waterloo was proposed, and the plans hang still on

Stratfield Saye's walls (e.g. a set by B. D. Wyatt), competing with the expanse of Blenheim. In fact the ever hard-headed new Duke was content with gifted houses in Belgium, Spain and Portugal, leaving Stratfield Saye virtually unaltered. The Duke lived modestly, as far away as he could from his Pakenham wife, refusing to become a monument himself but willing to be a portraitist's model. He did complain that he could fight fiercely in the first half of his life, but had to sit complacently in the second. He did however build a new conservatory and a real tennis court.

In his warring days, Alamein to the Baltic, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery (d. 1976) took to caravans - two captured Italian homes-on-wheels with a rolling map room. Between D-Day and Lüneberg Heath his Tac HQ made 28 now memorialised stops (the last on the Heath long blown up by German 'practice fire'). In 1948 Monty acquired Isington Mill, where he lived to the end in restricted comfort, surrounded by photos and portraits of himself - and in 1969 for Desert Island Discs, where one chooses one book as a castaway, he went for one he had written himself! No public funding

came his way for the diminutive Mill. The Norwegians in appreciation offered him choice timber to refloor Isington before he moved in; but HM Government insisted on charging him import duty. He gave the caravans to the Imperial War Museum, but kept the map-trailer as a mini-museum in a garage linked to the Mill. When in the postmortem period other museums had their pick, there was little left to stand as a monument to Monty.

Marshals seem to select their palaces in inverse ratio from the complexity of their campaigns. D-Day to VE Day was the largest and most persistent outlay of the three, in these three centuries. Bernard Montgomery, for his pains, got granted the lowest title, the least payment or award, and the most insignificant edifice. John Churchill, for his four forays, received the grandest - mighty Woodstock Manor-turned-palace in cycle range of Oxford's palaces: it was the most expansive and elaborate of the Marshals' peaceful enterprises. Of the three heroes, the first died building beyond his means; the second took what he got and lived in it; the third lost the gift of living in gaining fame.

## THE BRITISH LIONS TOUR - 1966

Michael Campbell-Lamerton continues his story

1966 was a Lions tour year to Australia and New Zealand plus two matches in Canada - a long tour. Although I had had a pretty good international season in 1966 I had no aspirations to go on a second tour. I was now an instructor at the RMA Sandhurst and happy to spend time with Christine and the family during the summer break. When the Lions availability letter came, I responded in a negative way, stating my responsibilities at Sandhurst were too great (at that time Sandhurst had quite a few sportsmen and we covered for one another - summer sports for winter sports and vice versa). To end a long story, I was pressurised by the SRU, ARU (General Tubby Butler) and finally my Commandant (General John Mogg). I discussed the matter with my wife who as always was totally supportive, so I sent a second letter off in the affirmative.

You can imagine my surprise some months later when I received a phone call from a well-known rugby correspondent who said "Congratulations on being made Captain of the 1966 Lions" - I did not believe him and thought I was having my leg pulled. An hour or so later the Secretary of the Four Home Union Tour Committee (Cliff Wilson) phoned up and confirmed I was Captain. How it came about I do not know and it certainly was not an appointment I sought. The next seven days were bedlam, with the press, phone calls etc becoming totally intrusive - reaction as expected was mixed, but the nicest thing of all was the letters of support from players who had been strongly tipped as Captain by the press.

The tour was going to be a long one, four and a half months. Fortunately there was a strong nucleus from the 1962 Tour, which gave an immediate bonding. The set up and pre-training was very similar to what I described

in 1962 with the exception of the Assistant Manager (John Robbins) being in all but name coach - this took a lot of pressure off the Captain and senior players. Des O'Brien the Manager gave us a good briefing about the state of rugby in Australia and New Zealand. As yet no touring side had gone through Australia unbeaten and New Zealand were extremely strong having recently won touring Test series against South Africa and France. As you can see, our task was formidable.

We had an excellent week of training at Dover College, with some seriously gruelling sessions under John Robbins. We set off for Australia in good heart ready for our Lions adventure; fortunately some of the senior players had toured with the Lions in 1959 so warned us what to expect. Our first point of call was Perth; we had five days to acclimatise before we played Western Australia. Unfortunately during this time we had a series of training injuries to some key players, Ken Kennedy and Ray McLoughlin in particular and seven players ill with stomach disorders; not a good start. The match began at a furious pace on a lovely firm pitch, our threequarters were fantastic and we ran in 12 tries winning 60-3, a great start to the Tour.

During my time in Perth, General Sir Douglas Kendrew the Governor of Western Australia invited me to supper (for those who don't know, he played for England and stayed in the Dukes' Mess as a young subaltern). The last time we had met was when I was in hospital in Cyprus with a badly broken leg and ankle, he was our GOC and before that our Brigade Commander in Korea. It was a fun evening.

Australia is a vast country with varying climates; the scenery was fantastic especially the outback. Distances to matches involved many hours travel, which invariably took most of the day and entailed very early



wake up calls the morning after a match to start for the next destination. Notwithstanding the travel rigours, we always had a hard training session on arrival no matter what time.

We won our next two matches in Adelaide and Melbourne and the whole group was gelling together well. We tried our hardest not to develop a Wednesday team and a Saturday team. Canberra, our next destination, was going to be a severe test; we were facing a very tough and well-prepared Combined Country XV who were out to "Pom Bash". I am happy to say we scraped through 6-3. Whilst in Canberra I had the great honour of laying a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Capital Building and talking to a number of Tin Hat Clubs (similar to our British Legion).

Our next hurdle was NSW, every touring side to date (including the All Blacks) had lost. The press were giving us a hard time because we only just won in Canberra and the crowd on the Hill of the Sydney Cricket Ground were going to give us stick! It was a hell of a match played at blinding pace with no quarter given or asked. At the end it was honours even 6-6, we hadn't lost, which was a feather in our cap and gave us great heart for the Test matches.

Sydney is a beautiful city and the people very friendly. Four of us went out shark fishing and each of us caught a shark, we also had a day on the great Barrier Reef, which was spectacular.

The Test matches were hard fought affairs, our three-quarters, especially David Watkins, Ken Jones and Mike Weston took up some brilliant running lines and the forwards with a superb back row of Jim Telfer, Alun Pask and Noel Murphy dogged it out and won a fair share of ball. We won the first Test 11-8 and the second 31-0.

We had had a very successful Australian phase of our tour. Played 8, won 7, drew 1 and lost 0. The first touring side to be unbeaten and a record score against Australia which I believe still stands.

We left subtropical Brisbane for sub-arctic Invercargill (southern tip of South Island, New Zealand) on the start of our 25-match tour of New Zealand. Every match proved to be virtually a test match. Our reception in NZ was fantastic, the people overwhelmingly kind, enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about rugby, more so than the South Africans and that is saying something!

Fortunately we had a few days to acclimatise from sweltering conditions to freezing and to try and get our large injury list down. Training was difficult - the ground was either frozen or a mud bath. Spirits were high with humour and camaraderie well to the fore. Our main problem apart from injury was to wear something warm. At a team meeting we decided to ask a local manufacturer to produce a thick sweater which we all bought - imagine that happening today!

Our first match was a salutary experience. The rucking and refereeing interpretations took us by surprise and we lost 14-8. Fortunately we won our next two matches but our injury list grew and our Manager, Des O'Brien, sent for three replacement players. At the same time our coach, John Robbins, severely damaged his Achilles tendon and had to go for an operation and was out of action for a while. The Manager, myself and the senior player committee, Ray McLoughlin, Alun Pask, Mike Weston and Jim Telfer discussed the situation and we decided that Ray McLoughlin (injured) would help coach and Don Rutherford (broken arm) would be our technical adviser, whilst John Robbins was out of action.



Aggression ...



... and charm. L to R: New Zealand Premier Holyoake, Michael Campbell-Lamerton and Brian Lochore.

The matches were hard but the hospitality unparalleled. New Zealand has a dramatic landscape and its people enjoy many outdoor pursuits; we were taken jet boating, black swan shooting, trout fishing and on incredible sight seeing trips. There were carnivals the morning of the match and civic dinners after the match involving the Captain having to make numerous speeches.

Our first two Test Matches were fierce and keenly fought, unfortunately we lost 20-3 and 16-12. The second Test we could have won if our goal kicking had been better and the referee had not disallowed one of our tries! Our next match against Canterbury was a rugged and fearsome game, so much so, our Manager publicly criticised rough tactics. The last part of the tour was getting harder and harder, personally my bad ankle was giving me a lot of trouble and I was having pain killing injections prior to playing. As a result of violent games the Governor General (General Fergusson, Lord Ballantrae) invited Brian Lochore (All Blacks Captain) and myself to Government House for dinner to discuss his concern. The problem wasn't the Test Matches, they were hard but not violent, it was the provincial games. We had a very pleasant evening and there were certainly no problems between Brian Lochore and myself. I found him a hard opponent but a complete gentleman.

The team was in good heart despite all the injuries. Everybody played their part in visiting schools, hospitals and institutions without being coerced, which was a measure of high esprit de corps. My ankle was really causing me pain and mobility problems, so after some serious thought, I decided to drop myself for the final two Test Matches, which followed in quick succession.

We were strong in the 2nd row with Willie John McBride and Delme Thomas, so there were no serious selection difficulties. Sadly we lost the last two Test Matches 19-6 and 24-11. The team tried like mad to succeed but, to be fair, the 1965/66 All Blacks were a superb side and in 18 months had beaten South Africa, France, Australia and now us.

The New Zealand part of the tour was over - the statistics were: played 25, won 15, drew 2, lost 8. The people of New Zealand gave us a wonderful send off, they knew that the 2nd Test had been a close run match but, alas, "if only" does not count in the record book. I must say it was an incredible experience, the Kiwis were warm, friendly and very hospitable; it seemed that the whole country were rugby enthusiasts. The scenery was breathtaking, ranging from fjords and snow clad mountains in South Island to subtropical beaches and vineyards in North Island. We made many friends and I personally have a great affection for New Zealand despite the agony of losing a Test series as Captain.

Believe it or not after 33 matches we still had to play a couple more in Canada. This was going to be difficult because we had a lot of injuries and we were physically exhausted having been "Pom Bashed" for four months! We left Auckland with a six hour stop-over in Fiji and had a reception with the Fiji Rugby Union. We then had a three day break in Hawaii, which was rather fun. I warned the boys about sun bathing - alas many did not take heed.

After a long flight we arrived in Vancouver (another captivating city in a superb location) late in the evening, with a match against British Columbia in less than 48 hours! After twelve hours sleep we went training, our biggest problem was finding fifteen players who were not suffering from sunburn!

The match was a nightmare for us, we were lethargic which was not surprising and we lost by a couple of points against a very determined and competent British Columbian side. The referee made some extraordinary decisions! Still, well done BC. Three days later we played Canada in Ontario and clocked up a good win. The boys were very determined. The sociable Canadians took great pleasure in showing us their magnificent country. I would have liked to have seen a bit more of it.

At last the tour was over; we had a 24 hour stop over in New York and did some sight seeing and then back to London. We were all exhausted after a 35 match tour in three different countries, spanning more than four months. We had experienced the agony and the ecstasy of winning a test series in Australia and losing in New Zealand. The latter was especially hard but, despite this, the spirit and camaraderie was fantastic. The fellowship of a Lions Tour is something special and lasts a lifetime; everybody on tour, whether a test player or not, contributed a vital ingredient to the magic formula of a Lions Tour. It is truly an exclusive fellowship; I do hope

Lions Tours continue in the modern professional game, even if much altered from our amateur days, they are unique and special.

My New Zealand experience came into good use some years later when I joined the Battalion in Hong Kong. I prepared the team as player/coach for the Far East Rugby Cup where we met the Kiwi Battalion Group twice in the finals. The first year in Malaya and the second in Hong Kong, we won both times - we had a good regimental team who refused to be intimidated by NZ rucking.

Here's wishing good luck to the next Duke international. It is difficult today in the professional era, but not impossible.

*Readers will have recognised that Michael Campbell-Lamerton writes with modesty of his selection to go on a second British Lions' tour - and as Captain at that. There can be no doubt that this was a landmark achievement for a serving soldier and we are most grateful to Mike for telling us the tale. Ed.*

## SIXTY YEARS SINCE SITANG

Early in the morning of 23 February 1942 the rail/road bridge connecting Rangoon with Kyaikto over the Sittang River was deliberately blown up by British Sappers under the orders of the Commander of British Forces in Burma. The purpose of this action was to delay the relentless advance of Japanese forces heading for the strategically valuable port of Rangoon.

Those of you with exceptionally long memories of the 2nd battalion (or who have read the Regimental History, or Iron Duke Issue No 244) will know that the disabling of this bridge, whilst it certainly did delay the Japanese for that vital few days, stranded the greater part of the 2nd Battalion (not to mention two brigades of other assorted retreating allied troops), on the wrong side of the water ... water approximately a kilometre wide, shallow and still at the edges but deep and flowing at perhaps 6-8 mph in a 300 to 400 metre wide channel in the middle. The exhausted British, Indian and Burmese Brigades were faced with this barrier as dusk fell that day. They had no boats, no rafts, no buoyancy aids of any sort and up to 50% of them were non-swimmers. It was mainly thanks to the initiative shown by the Dukes' battalion in setting up life lines and giving direct physical help that most of these men survived the crossing and were then able to re-group ... and eventually to struggle back to India.

Lieutenant Colonel Basil Owen, Battalion Commander, having been in the thick of the prolonged action during the retreat back towards the bridge, somehow lost contact with the rest of the battalion in the early evening and accompanied only by Private Hodson, managed to swim across the river approx two miles downstream of the bridge. Here, they sought shelter in a seemingly friendly village, only to be attacked during the night by local Dacoits. Colonel Owen was killed outright, but Private Hodson (an expert boxer), though injured, managed to escape.

Basil Owen's widow, Betty and the family returned to Britain a few months afterwards but Betty sadly died only nine years later ... no one in the family had been able to go out to Burma in the intervening years, but this year I, the youngest of their three daughters, together with my husband and our elder daughter found ourselves well placed to take a Far East holiday during which we could visit Burma and actually be there on the sixtieth anniversary of this action taking place.

We had started filling in the gaps in our knowledge of the events of 1942 last summer on a visit to the Halifax HQ in September, we met and were very kindly shown around the regimental archives by WO2 Bill Norman, who was a corporal in the Battalion at this time and remembers my father and the events at Sittang very well. It was a very special day for us. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission also gave us a lot of information and put us in touch with a specialist travel agency and then it was just a matter of choosing dates and places to visit. Our itinerary included the more or less obligatory two days in Mandalay, but also some time to explore the whole route out from Rangoon (Yangon) almost to Kyaikto, including the eastern river bank area where the main action took place.

The original British-built bridge, although soon repaired after the war, eventually proved inadequate for increasing traffic and was replaced by another, larger structure some five miles up stream. Today, only the piers of the old bridge remain, but the surrounding features as described in the War Diary (rice fields and rubber plantations) are there unchanged. Also, we were shown a dilapidated and completely overgrown cemetery to the southern side of the rail track on the eastern bank, which we assume was the temporary burial ground for the many casualties of the action - these graves and many other wayside memorials were later transferred to the main Htaukkant war cemetery near the old British Mingaladon barracks outside Rangoon.



**Piers of Sittang Bridge from rail level, south east corner.**

Our visit to my father's grave in the Htaukkant cemetery on 23 February was a very moving experience for the three of us. The cemetery, beautifully maintained as are all the similar ones we have seen, is relatively small and we were able to look at most of the graves in the time we spent there. The vast majority were from the later actions in that part of Burma, but we did note perhaps twenty or so other memorials dating from the Sittang action, though probably only ten of them from the Dukes. In a separate memorial there, was a list of approx thirty of the Regiment who had been reported missing presumed killed.

The following day (Sunday) we attended morning service in the Anglican Cathedral, which was packed for the enthronement of a new Bishop of Rangoon. On arrival there we were ushered through the crowd of 2,000 or so to sit in what we discovered was the memorial chapel containing dozens of Service crests - and prominent among them was a Dukes' one.

The service was magnificent and we shall never forget the huge youthful choir's rendering of the Hallelujah Chorus (sung in Burmese), accompanied, not by the fine cathedral organ and organist but by a very young lady with an electronic keyboard. It was brilliant - a fitting ending to a memorable visit.

Valerie Helliwell (nee Owen)



**Valerie Helliwell at her father's grave with her daughter Jane.**

## THE CHALLENGE OF THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

*We invited David Gilbert-Smith to be his normal controversial self and write a thought-provoking article for the Regiment's Tercentenary about what he had learned from his service with 1 DWR and the SAS that has particular relevance to the future of the Dukes in the twenty first century. Ed.*

The Dukes have survived and triumphed now for some 300 years against their many foes, both the external ones on the battlefield and the far more lethal internal ones in the MOD.

They have defeated Abyssinians, Turks, Russians, Indians, Germans, French, Italians, Afghan rebels, Spanish, Boers, Chinese, North Koreans, Japanese, et al. Most importantly they have surmounted their most insidious threat of all, their very extinction by amalgamation, the process of reduction, regularization and melt down of all those fine old regiments into a hodge-podge of communality; in short the emasculation of thoroughbreds into mongrels.

What is it about the Dukes that has enabled its survival and success so far? To me it is the character of

its corporate soul. It is its stubbornness, courage, will, common sense, humour, competence and confidence that has precluded it from becoming a 'dinosaur' of the past and turned it into a regiment that can and always has 'adapted and adopted' to the present and the future. Most importantly it has wisely cultivated the right friends in high places. Without the latter the former would count for very little.

In order to go forward purposefully any organisation first needs to look back: to know its roots and where it is coming from and what are the needs and priorities for its continuing survival and success in the future. Only thus may it take control of its destiny and progress by evolution, rather than be brutally jerked around by bouts of stagnation followed by frantic revolution.

Thus we need continually to review the past and the present, to identify and highlight our evolving strengths and weaknesses, to constantly and courageously identify our failures and successes and the causes of them. Only thus can we move forward by changing the ways that have led to defeat, as well as by reinforcing and extending those that have led to success.

Today the Dukes are facing their greatest challenge of all, the challenge of the 21st century.

So let us start, with all the advantage of 20-20 hindsight by turning the clock back nigh fifty years to autumn 1953 and see if we can pick out some of the key learning from the more immediate past that has significance for our future survival and success. Fifty years ago the Dukes were deeply engaged in the Korean war. I do not want to hark back to our war history, so much as to focus as to what has happened since we came back from Korea and how it affects the present day.

In the course of one short return voyage in one of Her Majesty's troopships we had gone from one extreme to another, from war to peace. In Korea we had been a magnificent fighting Battalion, numbered amongst the best in the Commonwealth Division. There the Dukes had displayed all their finest fighting qualities, courage, stubbornness, humour in the direst situations, sheer competence and professionalism. What a pity, I thought, that we could not recreate those same qualities in peace ... or could we?

Now it was as if we were to give up all that was great about us and swing 180 degrees in the opposite direction and destroy the very things we had so assiduously built up. We separated ourselves into our social and hierarchical groups, to live apart in our separate messes going our separate ways, splitting up the Battalion and wrecking its corporate spirit. There, in Korea, we had been a 'band of brothers' bound together by the same values of trust, respect, mutual confidence and comradeship; all under the same threat of danger, wounds and death irrespective of rank.

Now it was to be a case of aimlessly filling in time with 'social soldiering'. Why did this have to be? All the deep learning and experiences of active service that we had gained at such a cost in blood, sweat, toil and trouble were being thrown out of the window. We were going backwards fast. There was to be a high price to pay.

Nowhere can I recall reviewing together the lessons from the Korean war experience. Had our preparation in Germany been right? Did we *then* all know where Korea was, before we had arrived there? What was the war about? Who was our enemy? Why? What were his strengths and weaknesses? What were ours? What was the geography, climate of Korea and the history that had led to the war? Who could tell us?

Were there not many officers and NCOs from other regiments who had just returned from Korea kicking their heels in England? Could they not have been recruited to give us a full and detailed brief of what to expect? Could they not have helped to devise and supervise our training and preparation? Would this not have given us a sound foundation and a tremendous headstart? Why did we not do so? Is there some strong masochistic streak in the English psyche that always means we have to start as the underdog?

Had we even thought about, let alone addressed our psychological preparation? What about fear for instance? What is its function in our makeup and how does it operate? What are the best ways to face and handle it? Could we make it a 'rechargeable' source of courage within us, or did we just have to gradually burn up our reserves and slide down the slippery slopes of becoming an 'ineffective' or, worse, finishing with a mental breakdown? If we cannot handle fear, then we lose control over ourselves and become a huge liability to ourselves and others.

What about the act of killing? How would we handle this and what would be the effect on us afterwards? Research figures show that on average two thirds of a platoon do not shoot to kill, they merely shoot in the air.

In the war's aftermath did we ask ourselves what had been our failures and how could we learn and grow from them? Equally, what had made us so successful and how could we recreate this success and build on it further in the future?

How, too, could we ensure that all the learning could best be carried forward for the future?

Besides all this, what were we to do with all the excitement, violence, killing, wounds and danger we had experienced? Just bury them and carry on as if it had never happened? Were we expected simply to revert to being tame conformist 'social soldiers' again? In those days there was no psychological 'know how' to help us decompress and become more 'normal' again. (In these days perhaps there is too much! At least that's better than none at all!)

For some, their war experiences led them to relive endlessly and recount over and over again what had happened to them, as if their life had suddenly become like a needle stuck in the same groove in a gramophone record. They had little chance of moving on. Then there were those who buried their experiences deeply and who rarely spoke about them. No doubt their nightmares will have kept constantly waking them in a muck sweat ever since, where their only chance of finding solace was in alcohol or drugs.

Others, excited and energised by their experiences, may well have become deeply addicted to danger and excitement. These would be desperately seeking new and regular 'fixes' of adrenaline, locked forever in a



descending spiral of seeking greater kicks each time. Like all drug addicts they would gradually lose more and more control over themselves and their lives. In hindsight I count myself amongst this group.

The great Chinese philosopher, General Sun Tsu, said *'In peace prepare for war. In war prepare for peace'*. This we signally failed to do. Why? Was it because we had been regimented into conforming to what the War Office of those days decreed? Were we not able to think and act for ourselves? After all, was it not we who would gain the pay off or pay the price?

I soon noticed the Dukes had a changing population. The younger lions soon started disappearing to new and much more exciting postings. An understanding Colonel noticed my itchy feet and quickly despatched me off to England to be an instructor with the Junior Leaders' School at Plymouth. I arrived at my new posting to find it in a state of crisis. In those days one could never query or challenge what the Army was doing, or even whether there were better ways of doing things. Ours not to reason why...! Thus it always took a crisis or disaster before any change or forward movement could take place. Tragically there had been recent cases of bullying ending, finally, in one boy soldier committing suicide. The upheaval resulted in the instant arrival of a new CO, Colonel Andrew Croft, a former Polar explorer. He was like a breath of fresh air. He was to have a profound effect on all my thinking and my approach to life.

His beliefs were that 'too much regimentation, discipline and drill destroys the ability to think and act as an individual. All the anger and frustration generated by regimentation and repression has to go somewhere. Most of it at the Junior Leaders' School appeared to have gone into drunken debauchery and the remainder in bullying and violence'. His cardinal belief was that *each individual had to be built and developed from the inside outwards and not from the outside in*.

His policy was to reduce regimentation and drill to the minimum. In its place we were to develop the military values of self-discipline, self-confidence, trust, integrity, self-respect, moral and physical courage, loyalty, leadership, personal discipline and team work. We needed to broaden and deepen each individual's culture and intelligence by 'education' in the widest sense'. He believed that it is best to deeply inculcate these values into the individual first, before superimposing the military virtues and not the other way round.

The balance tilted quickly. Out went most of the regimentation and in came a wide variety of the learning vehicles to create the above, from 'outward bound' type activities to drama and debating societies. There was a dramatic overnight change and surge in morale. Pride and respect replaced the cowed sullenness that had lain like a black cloud over the Junior Leaders' School. I became a keen advocate of the new ideas.

The Suez war blew up unexpectedly and I dropped everything and literally flew off to rejoin the Dukes, fearful of missing out on anything. In the event the Suez operation was aborted and the Dukes were posted on to Cyprus to take part in the counter-insurgency war against Grivas and the EOKA terrorists. I rejoined the

Dukes on their first active service operation in the forests to the west of our base camp at Famagusta. On arrival I was asked to take over the Platoon that had just unintentionally killed its own Platoon Commander in an ambush that very night.

I was astounded and appalled at the drastic change in the Battalion. All the battle worthiness that had been built up into that fine Battalion of Dukes had been destroyed in the three wasted years of 'peacetime soldiering' in Gibraltar. As I have mentioned already, it was not the done thing in those days to question and examine mistakes so that we may learn and grow from them, but to cover up errors and brush them tidily away under the carpet.

If only, I thought, the Dukes had prepared for war as they prepared for their Army Cup rucker matches how different things would be! In the latter they always sought advance intelligence on their next opponents, shrewdly planned their game plan, and rigorously trained and rehearsed their tactics. Most importantly they always kept an open, flexible mind as matches, like battles, rarely turn out as expected.

The psychological damage to a 'non-battle hardened' platoon was irredeemable. No-one had the necessary psychological know how, or qualifications, to know what to do. I felt as helpless as when I had come across a shell-shocked Duke in the middle of the Battle of the Hook. I recommended that we weeded out two thirds of the Platoon and sent them back to the UK for professional medical support and recuperation. That left the problem of what to do with the remaining third.

The Junior Leaders' School which I had just left boasted a broad range of young officers recently back from active service in Malaya and Kenya. I had been fascinated to learn of their experiences against the CT in Malaya and the Intelligence war they were waging in Kenya against the Mau Mau using pseudo terrorist gangs. Their paramount belief was that the only effective way to defeat terrorists was from intelligence gained from the inside. I naturally wanted to try out their ideas for ourselves.

I proposed to the CO (Colonel Bob Moran) that we formed a Special Operations Platoon to work with Intelligence. He was immediately supportive and soon connected me with Lionel Savory (Int Corps) and the pseudo terrorist groups that he had formed on the Mau Mau model in Kenya. A combat tracker team complete with two Alsatians and a Doberman Pinscher were added later.

I was also keen to try out the new training ideas I had been exposed to at the Junior Leaders' School, especially those that had direct military application such as climbing. This had an obvious spin off for searching caves and abseiling down wells to search for hidden arms caches. (Incidentally the outward bound type training bonded the Platoon so closely that they subsequently formed their own Special Ops Club when they retired and they still support each other and meet regularly today.)

It was not long before success flowed. Soon we were following up on some good intelligence from Lionel Savory to unearth three terrorists from the village of Sarandi. To our delight we found we had netted

Karademas, EOKA's bombmaker in our haul. Intelligence extracted from our captured terrorists soon led to other finds and more captures. We were soon on a roll that quickly led to the high point, a brilliantly conceived and daringly executed operation 'Whisky Mack' involving one of the first-ever helicopter ops of the British Army.

The aim was to capture Afxentiou, Grivas's second-in-command and his gang. The plan was that the unusual lorry-borne cordon would lumber in and then fan out to seize the high points for use as daytime OPs and then block the natural escape routes down the valleys by 'freezing the area' with night time ambushes. All this was the normal procedure. The terrorists knew it well. Hopefully, as normal, this would result in the 'rabbits', the terrorists, scurrying back down their burrows.

As this was happening the 'ferrets' (my Special Ops Platoon augmented by two pseudo terrorists who had served in Afxentiou's gang in the same area of the Troodos) would be landed directly on top of the 'burrows' where Afxentiou was expected to be.

In the event, we flew in by four prototype Sycamore helicopters which had, unknown to us, developed a recent tendency to crash on landing due to an obscure phenomenon called ground resonance. Fortunately this bit of witchcraft was not operating on the day and we 'hover-jumped' safely down to find that the 'rabbits' were not at their normal home, they had scurried away to another hideout. However, my two pseudos soon started to search around and quickly uncovered some concealed arms and ammunition.

That first evening I gathered all the Platoon together to assess results and to have a mammoth Q and A session with the pseudos to find out all we could about the character and modus operandi of Afxentiou and his gang. In the process they coughed up the name and location of the local shepherd who was his contact and food supplier. I was on the blower in a flash to my friend, Mike Campbell-Lamerton, who was the Battalion Intelligence Officer. Reaction was instant. The shepherd was 'seized and squeezed'. In the early hours of the next morning he led the Dukes to the terrorist hide where the gang members were soon captured. After a very gallant all-day defence, Afxentiou himself was killed in the late afternoon.

In reading up the histories afterwards, the fall out and follow up from there for EOKA was catastrophic and they were on the verge of being totally defeated. Remarkably I discovered, too, the Dukes had had Grivas in their clutches in the village of Milikouri for a long spell before he eventually found a gap and escaped. The end game was so typical of the way the British ran things in those times. 'Buggins' had had his turn. Our winning top team comprising the Governor, General Harding, the Director of Operations, Joe Kendrew and our Mobile Brigade Commander, Brigadier Ramsay Bunbury, the victor of the third battle of the Hook, were all replaced when their time was up. Grivas and EOKA recovered to fight another day.

Another form of self-handicap the British Army went in for was to deny Commanders the right to be involved in the selection of their own team. Thus in Cyprus we

went out to bat with hardly a single player who had had any previous knowledge or experience of how to play on that particular pitch and face the type of underhand bowling that came at them. Where were the counter-insurgency experts to help and guide us? We were expected to muddle through as always. It's odd when you think that there were a mere fifty psychopathic drop outs representing the terrorists v 25,000 British troops and we took over four years to beat them! I think the paragraph above explains the reason why we made it such heavy weather!

Perhaps the biggest handicap of all in the British Army of that day was the denial of any 'review' during or after actions however critically constructive they may be. True, it is so easy to be critical after the event, with all the advantage of hindsight; but it is from hindsight that most of our learning and progress comes. Often, the more quickly we can review hindsight the sooner we can reap the advantages. If we do not have the freedom to *constructively* criticise ourselves, rather than each other, then we can only stagger from bad to worse.

Perhaps another leaf could have been taken from the Dukes' rugby team, as there was nothing so constructively critical as half-time reviews when we were losing, or post-match reviews after we had lost!

Once again the Dukes had to go through a painful learning curve. Sheer determination, the ability to adapt to new situations and the courage to try out new ways saw them through. Once confidence had been rebuilt we could 'go for it'. Fortune favoured the brave. In these situations it is always the Commanders who have to have the moral courage to take risks, for if anything goes wrong they, and only they, take the blame.

After a stretch as an instructor at the Internal Security Training Centre in Platres in Cyprus, I flew back to rejoin the Dukes in Northern Ireland, with the bit firmly between my teeth about developing the new ideas for training that I had picked up to run alongside the more conventional stuff. Certainly I had every intention of making use of peacetime to further our effectiveness in war. I found we had a window of opportunity in Northern Ireland, as 'Peace' reigned in the emerald isle.

I was pleased with the huge success that the outward bound training that I had incorporated into the Special Operations Platoon had achieved, though that-alone was not enough. In addition to this *experiential* learning route there needed to be an *intellectual* route to connect the relevant purpose and benefits coming from the experiential learning to each person's everyday life. This required an all important review process to connect both together.

To develop people from the inside out first of all required a range of testing situations to enable individuals to *find* their innate strengths and then learn how best to apply them at the coalface of life. At the same time they needed to be able to discover and *accept* their weaknesses and vulnerabilities so that then they could work out how best to control and handle them. This, when achieved, would give them the *self-awareness, self-control, self-confidence* and *self-realisation* to climb the rungs of the leadership ladder

and be at their most effective when required. All this was to take some considerable time to evolve in my mind, but the seeds that Andrew Croft had sown at the Junior Leaders' School were to bear fruit in the years to come, particularly with all the initial experience and experimenting I was enabled to test out with the Dukes in Northern Ireland.

I found that Northern Ireland had an abundance of natural 'classrooms' to provide the testing situations I sought: the Mourne Mountains, the rocks, rivers and waterways of Ulster. That, plus ideas filched from WOSB projects and a crude 'Eaton Hall DS style' for reviewing and relating the learning to everyday life, was where it all started. I was very fortunate to find huge encouragement and support from the new CO, Colonel Bob's younger brother Pip. Without his backing and commitment nothing would have been possible.

We set up a Special Training Camp at Lough Lorne to develop these ideas and the whole concept took off later at the Leadership Trust which I founded in 1975. I developed it into a much more sophisticated form for the top leaders of Industry and Commerce: the Chairmen, Chief Executives and Directors. I came to realise that our leadership training would best work on a top-to-bottom basis. When I retired after running the

Trust for some twenty years we had passed 30,000 top executives from nearly fifty different countries through our various programmes. The Leadership Trust is still going strongly forward. In fact there is now a whole industry based on it. I am pleased to say that senior officers from the Army such as General Sir Rupert Smith have strongly supported it over the years and currently General Tim Cross is a regular Trust tutor. The Army has been a committed user from the start.

I was, however, amused to find that the War Office of that era decided arbitrarily to acknowledge the new form of training by giving it the most inappropriate appellation of 'Adventure Training' and awarding it a budget without first finding out what it was all about from its originators. The 'Adventure Training' title could not be further away from its *actuality*. I was delighted when I visited 1 DWR recently to find that its current advocates in the Dukes had worked out the correct deeper meaning and its purpose for themselves.

As the Lorne Lough Special Training Camp has been written up in a previous Iron Duke there is little purpose in doing the same again here. (See Issue No. 110 of October 1958)

*to be continued...*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: 48 East Witton  
Leyburn  
North Yorkshire  
DL8 4SL  
Tel: 01969 624779  
e-mail: hugh.lem@breathemail.net  
27 March 2002

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

Editor, The Iron Duke  
Sir,

It brought back memories seeing the photo of the CSMs taken in Palestine, where the 1st Battalion had gone to re-form and be built up to strength after the battles in Italy. It was an honour to serve with such a grand bunch and I will never forget them, as they were always there when things were really tough.

I had been Acting CSM of A Company and, like all of us, was looking forward to getting back to the UK to see our loved ones.

I was demobbed in February 1946 after six and a half years' war service. My Investiture was at Buckingham Palace in July 1946. I will never forget the words spoken to me by the late King George VI: "On behalf of Great Britain and the Empire I thank you and wish you all the best in future years of peace".

I was delighted to see the photo of the Officers of the 1943-45 Dinner Club, people who I had the pleasure to know and respect. My Company Commander was Bobbie Burns, who proved what a fine man he was when he became Chief Constable of Suffolk.

Yours sincerely  
Douglas Emery, DCM, BEM

*We reproduce the photograph once more (overleaf) because, regrettably, we omitted the name of CSM Thompson, which is now in its rightful place. Ed.*

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Captain E. J. (Vic) Oliver MC, whose obituary will doubtless be published elsewhere (*see page 98*) was buried in the beautiful cemetery at Whitley Bay on 25 March. It was a lovely sunny day when, after a short service, his family and friends accompanied him to where he was laid to rest.

I last saw Vic at the 1 DWR Officers' Wartime Dinner Club held at Armoury House on 8 March. He was in great form despite his great age. I think that he would have been pleased that a number of Dukes, who would have never known him, attended to pay their respects.

Harry Curran, Tommy Gun, Bob Sage, Tony Conley (my G Clerk in Korea), and George Tully, all BKVA members, were there and also Bill Craddock of the 7th Battalion. Bill served in Barry Kavanagh's company and later went with a composite company I took from the 7th Battalion to 2 East Yorks.

I think it says something of the sense of family in the Regiment that, when asked, members who did not know Vic should turn up. Vic's son was most touched and was very appreciative of all the letters he had received.

Yours faithfully,  
H. S. Le Messurier



*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 H. M. Thompson, CSM R. Callaby MM, CSM G. Hall MM.

From: 17 Horsham Avenue  
Peacehaven  
East Sussex  
BN10 8HX  
2 June 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I read in the Iron Duke all about sport in the Regiment. There was no mention of shooting. Lieutenant Colonel Bunbury, assisted by Captain Sam Robertson, Bill Norman, Tom Nowell and AQMS Stevens turned a bunch of National Service young soldiers into a successful young soldiers' team. Lieutenant Rodney Harms was non-shooting Captain and did a marvellous job organising everything and between them passed on the art of shooting.

At Salisbury Plain we won almost everything in sight; then at Bisley 1951 we had a good year and Jack Lister and I were Young Soldiers' LMG Champions. Four Dukes passed the Sniper Badge Shooting Test.

In 1952 we went to Sennelager and again almost cleared the board, the Young Soldiers' team beating all previous records. Because we were all about equal, whoever had their luck on the day was the best shot. I was Champion Young Soldier and Rhine Army Champion, but five of the Young Soldiers had scores that would previously have won them the championship. We represented the British Army in the NATO shoot and, with a score 150 below our average, we lost to the Dutch by around 20 points. Colonel Bunbury had the top rifle score. AQMS Stevens the top pistol and John Fifield and I had top LMG score.

When we went to Bisley that year, we also did well. The Armourer Sergeant, Kingdom, won the Army Champion; John Fifield and I were Army and Young Soldiers' Champions. Another Armourer, Staff Sergeant Wilkinson, was LMG Champion at a later date. When we went to Gibraltar we also did extremely well.

It would be nice if the Regiment wiped the board again in Germany.

Yours sincerely  
Joe Bailes

PS. I was never good enough to make the Army Hundred; my luck ran out.

*Editor's Note: Some readers will recall that Major Sam Robertson contributed a full article on Competition Shooting in the Regiment in Iron Duke Issue No. 235 in 1997, which included a photograph of young Corporal Bailes amongst his fellow shooting stars.*

From: 7 Elm Close  
Bishopsmead  
Tavistock, Devon  
PL19 9AP  
30 May 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

My basic training (as a Y&L) was at Strensall Camp in 1949, when the Dukes were responsible for our initial training. I remember very clearly the young officer from the Regiment who for the first time showed us that there was another way to handle young men other than

shouting and screaming. We were all saddened to hear that he had been killed in Korea.

I went on to serve as a Green Howard in Malaya and I have now written a memoir of my experiences (self-published) entitled *A Musket for the King*. This details what it was like to be an ordinary National Service squaddie, joining a previously all-regular battalion engaged in a guerrilla war against a brave and determined communist foe.

Should any of your readers be interested, the book is priced at £6.00 (plus £1.30 postage).

I should very much appreciate it if you were prepared to publish this letter. (*Delighted. Ed*)

Yours sincerely, Les Ives

From: 89 (Airborne)  
Military Intelligence Section  
Goojerat Barracks  
Colchester, Essex CO2 7SW  
24 April 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I am researching the history of the Intelligence Sections of all Airborne, Parachute and Air Landing units. As part of my research I am trying to compile a list of all Intelligence Officers and men who served with these sections including the air landing Chindit Battalions. I am inquiring if it is possible to submit a plea for information through your Regimental Association newsletter. I would like to hear from anyone who may have served or knows of anyone who served in the Intelligence Section of the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1944 during the second Chindit operation. Currently the only name I have is that of Lieutenant S. Dunn who was the Intelligence Officer of 33 Column.

Thank you very much for your time and I would be very grateful for any information at all.

Yours sincerely  
Sergeant Graeme Deeley

From: 67 Maple Way  
Headley Down  
Bordon  
Hants, GU35 8AU  
14 August 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

When I was in Osnabrück in June for the Tercentenary celebrations I was glad to be able to present to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess a 2nd Battalion Regimental Flag which came into my possession in 1948.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions were amalgamated in 1948 and on 19 April the "winding up" cadre of 2 DWR moved from Alvaston Camp, Derby, to Halifax and took over part of the barracks at RHQ. The Regimental Flag flew over the Guardroom daily, as 33 PTC had vacated the barracks just prior to our arrival.

As the only subaltern in the party I was more or less permanent Orderly Officer, as well as being general dog's body. Having been MTO, I did have some admin work to do to wind up that department, but otherwise I was defending officer at one or two Courts Martial, attended civilian courts to present military records of accused, attended local schools as examining officer for Cert A etc, etc. However, there were times when I had nothing to do, so, with the Colonel's blessing ("I don't want to see you idling in the barracks"), I rode out on my bike to the surrounding moors to indulge in my hobby of bird-watching.

In early June (and I regret I cannot remember the exact date) the Regimental Flag came down for the last time. (*The amalgamation took place on 17 June 1948. Ed.*) I took possession of the flag after the Colonel had told me that the QM's store was now closed, "so use your initiative". Ever since it has lain dormant in one of my drawers. With the announcement of the Tercentenary celebrations, conscience stirred, so I had words with David Harrap and he kindly corresponded with the RSM of 1 DWR to see if it would be acceptable for hanging in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. As the answer was "yes", I went ahead, had the flag framed and took it over to Germany.

When I arrived in Osnabrück, I spotted Bill Norman almost straight away and asked him if he would keep his eyes skinned for any other Old Comrades whose "mother" Battalion had been the 2nd. Between us we found only one other - Harry Holdenby, who at the age of 89 was as chirpy as a cricket. He had joined 2 DWR in 1933. The RSM invited us for lunch on 23 June, where Bill and I made the presentation. Bill was particularly delighted to see the flag again, as in all probability he had handled it on occasions before as Guard Commander.

We, who claim 2 DWR as our "mother" Battalion, are very much a dwindling band. I can think of only two other regular officers - Pip Moran and Derek Roberts. I do know of three emergency commissioned officers still living and there may be others of my age group. There must still be quite a number of others who joined as soldiers during the war and up to 1947.

Yours sincerely, Tony Miller



WO1 (RSM) M. Ness (left) receiving the 2nd Battalion Flag from Captain "Dusty" Miller (centre) and WO2 Bill Norman (right).



# 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 C. W. Akrigg, 10 Eastfield Place, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, BD20 7EX.

**London:** AGM at 12 noon at the Union Jack Club 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.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## ANNUAL REGIMENTAL SERVICE

This year's Regimental Service will be held in Halifax Parish Church on Saturday 2 November. It will be followed by a buffet lunch in Halifax Town Hall. The Halifax Branch of the Regimental Association will be arranging for their meeting room and bar in the NALGO Club to be open following the Service. It would be nice to have a full church to celebrate this very special year in the Regiment's history.

## SKIPTON BRANCH

Skipton Branch have asked that we should publicise the results achieved by their Rifle and Pistol Club, both for information and as a challenge to other clubs to take them on, shoulder to shoulder, or in postal competition; they have an unbeaten record to date.

Members not only improved their average scores over the past twelve months, but also won the "Brylcream" trophy over a RAF Association team by 721 points to 616.

The season's top four scorers achieved the following averages out of 100:

Barry Blood	96.4
David Normanshire	94.6
Reuben Holroyd	94.0
Ernest Ramsbottom	93.8

We reported Reuben Holroyd's personal success in competitions in Iron Duke Issue No.247, Winter 2001.

Members were grateful for support provided by a QMSI SASC and by the staff of the Regimental Recruiting Team, who provided a short course of practical training on a variety of weaponry.

Those wishing to offer a challenge should contact Ernest Ramsbottom on 01756 790085.

*(Editor's comment: Joe Bailes, where are you?)*

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS/\*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mrs D. S. D. Brisbane-Jones-Stamp, Flat 39, Murrayfield View, 28 Roseburn Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5NX.

Mr W. J. Dodd, 78 Whinney Hill Park, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2ND.

Brigadier P. P. de la H. Moran, Nazareth House, 2 Hillbury Road, Wrexham, LL13 7ET.

Mr M. Ramsbottom, 3 Rylston Grove, Sheffield, S12 4NH.

\* Mr R. N. Barnes, 7 Daleside Road, Harrogate, North Yorks, HG2 9JE.

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

Ben Bates      benbates@bopenworld.com  
                     www.dukesreunited.info

**Royal Hospital - Chelsea**

On 21 March, St Benedict's feast, John Stacpoole, as Father Alberic, found himself at the high altar of Westminster Cathedral, with a few monks and 350 Old Amplefordians, remembering J. F. Bentley (d. March 1902) who built the basilica a century ago. They all went on to the Royal Hospital Chelsea for fizz and four courses, honouring two centuries since the Ampleforth Community (founded in 1065 at Westminster Abbey) left France for Yorkshire.

AJS slipped away at fizz time to Ward 15 top deck to meet in-pensioner William George Ellis, with whom he shared a glass to honour three centuries since their shared Regiment was founded (1702). With a number of others, Bill Ellis joined the Dukes in 1932 as an orphan offered an opening as a band boy, which he rather resented.

Ellis soldiered until 1954, by which time he had earned half a dozen medals, including the European Star and the Burma Star - for he served with 2 DWR Chindits in the rough Arakan days of the Christisons. Today he is up-to-date with the Dukes, for he takes and absorbs The Iron Duke. While he does not warm to institutions, he likes Dukes and would welcome any who called to see him. (Chelsea SW3, next to The National Army Museum.)

Next day Bill showed round AJS and his sister at length. The star exhibit was a long narrow table against the hall screen; at its end was an ancient silver plaque which read: 'On this table lay in state the remains of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington from 10 to 17 November 1852'.

AJS

*Editor's Note: Bill Ellis meets the London Branch regularly at the Regimental Plot on Remembrance Sunday, as witnessed by several photographs down the years.*

**24 Hour Clock**

We understand that, during the Battlefield Tour in September 2001, the Colonel of the Regiment asked whether anyone knew when the 24 hour clock came into use in the British Army. Cyril Curling informs us that this took place on 1 October 1918.

**M. Ralph's Pub Crawl**

We are having great difficulty in keeping pace with Michael Ralph's world-wide pub crawl. It turns out that the Duke of Wellington pub which we illustrated on page 49 of our last edition is not outside Sydney after all, but in Melbourne. Apologies to all. The Hero of Waterloo pub, illustrated on page 79 of Issue No.243 of Autumn 2000, is indeed in Sydney as stated. Or so Michael says anyway.

**Parson Woodforde's Lad**

We are indebted to Joanna Rothery for spotting the following during her studies of Diary of a Country Parson 1793-1796, by Parson James Woodforde.

"1796. May 16, Monday... My late Servant Lad, Tim Tooley, called on us this Morning. He came from Norwich with a Cockade in his hat, and says he has entered himself in the thirty third Regiment of Foot. (1) Poor Fellow, he appeared happy and looked well. I paid him what wages were due to him and half a crown extraordinary, in all 17. 6d. Dinner to day, some more Eels fried, mince Veal and..."

(1) "The 33rd Regiment of Foot was the Regiment which Colonel Wesley - afterwards the Duke of Wellington - commanded in the Netherlands campaign 1794-5. In November 1795, the Regiment under Wesley embarked with other regiments for the West Indies. But the Transports - many of which were in a disgraceful condition - together with the accompanying Fleet met with a terrific gale in the Channel on November 17th. One ship sank and many were dismayed. Hundreds of soldiers were drowned. The 33rd Regiment was disembarked and sent to Poole, whence in April 1796 it sailed for India, reaching Calcutta in February 1797 (see Sir Herbert Maxwell's "Life of Wellington", vol I, pp18-19). We would give much to learn what ultimately befell Private Timothy Tooley, whose enlistment fortunately took place after the storm and the embarkation for India. All we know is that he remained a little while longer at Norwich."

**20th Field Regiment Royal Artillery**

20th Field Regiment supported the Dukes at the Battle of the Hook. They hold an annual OCA reunion at the Jarvis Hotel, Crewe. About twenty couples usually attend, most of whom are Korean veterans. They have asked if 'half a dozen or so' Dukes' Korean veterans would like to join them next year, the 50th anniversary year of the battle. Any Korean veteran who would like to do so should contact: Mr G. K. Fawcett, 7 Elgar Court, 29/35 Valley Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 0JH. Tel: 01423 701969

The cost of the evening is £38 per person for a room with dinner, bed and breakfast included.

**A Duke's Dinner**

We are indebted to Bill Craddock for the following snippet. "Almost 175 years ago, Old Penshaw enjoyed a fleeting moment in the national spotlight. On 29 September 1827, the village played host to the Duke of Wellington, when John Buddle, agent to the colliery owner, the Marquis of Londonderry, staged a lavish luncheon in his honour. The Iron Duke, his host and the 28 other guests who shared the meal, feasted on 38 different savoury dishes, including hedgehog, florentine hare, roasted sweetbreads and fricandeau of veal; with tipsy cake amongst the 21 puddings that followed. How do we know this? Because the main menu and seating plan survive amongst records preserved at the Tyne and Wear Archives - one of the less-known services that your local council funds."

**Information for our Archives**

RHQ is short of information in the Archives concerning drill halls and TA centres. The Archives section is building up a file of current and former drill halls. We are particularly interested in photographs, old

or current; a brief history, including dates of building/occupation and decommissioning; the unit(s) who trained there; reminiscences or anecdotes from those who served in them and any relevant local newspaper articles.

Any of the above for any of the many (20+ identified so far) drill halls stretching from Settle to Sheffield and Huddersfield to Mossley would be gratefully received to add to the Regimental Archive collection.

### Death of the Great Duke

Readers may well be aware that the 150th anniversary of the death of the Great Duke falls in September this year. We are glad to commend the exhibition to commemorate the anniversary and other events which are being organised by the Regimental Museum. Details are on page 99.

### BOOK REVIEW

**Diary of a Forgotten War** by Alan Carter  
Woodfield Publishing  
ISBN 1-873203-41-1 @£9.95

This is a story written by a National Serviceman originally from the Royal Leicesters. He, along with lads from other regiments who had at least twelve months of conscription still to serve, were sent for duty with the Dukes in Korea in 1952/53.

Alan Carter's account of his experiences whilst serving in B Company in Korea, and ultimately on the Hook, is a graphic story describing the conditions that all involved had to endure, including the hardships of filth, rats and shelling, along with the inevitable attacks from the enemy, the Chinese. Alan Carter may not have been personally involved in every incident described, but he does outline very vividly all that the common soldier had to endure to maintain the Regiment's foothold upon its strategic front line position. His first-hand account tells of the humour and wit which soldiers develop to hide the difficulties and the tragedy of losing good squad mates, with the human touch that can never be reflected in official communiqués. Having served in Korea at the same time, I endorse this book as a fine read, which will remind all who were there too and interest those who were not.

Tom Nowell, MM

### Regimental Ringtones

B. L. Morris (on 01793 727228) reports that his new company, which has been established by ex-military

men, provides military ringtones (Regimental marches) for mobile phones. *I can't believe I'm publishing this!* Ed.

### Money Matters

*The following is a copy of a tatty old Memo dated 26.9.40*

**Subject Imprest Account**

**Ref No GLP 4000**

The Regimental Paymaster  
RA (Field Branch)  
Foots Gray  
Sidcup

1. As an Imprest Holder I am, as you know, in very serious difficulties. Every penny has been expended by me in perfectly good faith - authorised either by the Divisional Commander, CRA or by my own Colonel, and one case by Allowance Regulations. You have disallowed the great majority of my expenditure.
2. As Battery Commander I have little time to give to financial matters. I do what I can to administer public money justly, but I have not the time to deal with the continual stream of disallowances that come from your office.
3. As you know, my great-great uncle who had the honour to command the Light Division in the Peninsula Campaign, handed his paymaster. He notes in his diary for 23 June 1809 "Hanged Paymaster with approval of Wellesley - he was a great hindrance to this campaign."
4. I have no doubt that you are as keen to win this war as this Battery is, but we are armed with a different weapon. I admit that the pen is mightier than the sword.
5. My imprest account must be squared up.
6. I am unable to leave the Battery to visit your office. Would you, therefore, please attach to me for one week an officer, WO or NCO from your office to settle my accounts.
7. I undertake not to hang your representative.

Field (sgd).....?  
26.9.40 Major R.A.

Commanding 29/97th Field Battery, RA

2 copies to Adjutant, 19th Field Regiment, RA (1 for CRA)

## Obituaries

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

### Brigadier A. D. Firth, OBE, MC

Brigadier Tony Firth died on 4 July 2002 aged 83. After Sandhurst in 1939 he followed his father, severely wounded in the Great War, into the Dukes and sailed to join the 2nd Battalion in India on the day that war was declared on Germany. Until 1941 life in India, perhaps especially in Delhi, epitomised the last vestiges of peacetime, or as some would say, *proper* soldiering.

Thus Tony enjoyed to the full all the pleasures of polo, shooting, fishing and pig sticking. But this changed in October 1941 when the Battalion moved to Peshawar on the North West Frontier and Tony became Regimental Signals Officer, albeit with no modern radios and only the very basic semaphore flags, field telephones and heliographs. Yet, there was still opportunity for him to whip in for the Peshawar Vale

Hunt. Japan's declaration of war changed all this and the Dukes were despatched to Burma, arriving at Rangoon on 14 February, 1942 on the very day that Singapore fell. From Pegu the Battalion was ordered to deploy east across the Sittang river but, only 24 hours later, fresh orders required them to withdraw across the river. Too late - the Brigadier, John Smythe VC, had ordered that the bridge should be blown, leaving Tony and the Battalion on the far bank. Rafts had to be constructed but many broke up and many non-swimmers were drowned. Somehow Tony got across with his batman to take part in the long retreat from Burma, some 700 miles, as far as Imphal. After a staff appointment Tony rejoined the 2nd Battalion for the second Chindit Expedition under Orde Wingate. Tony was on the staff of 76 Column commanded by the CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Stevens, operating behind the Japanese with the major task of cutting the enemy lines of communication. Tony was awarded an operational MBE for his work and bravery which helped to see the Japanese at Kohima severely defeated, resulting in the tide of war being once and for all turned in favour of the British Army.

November 1944 saw the end of fighting for Tony when he returned to the UK, first to spend two months on the staff of the Far Eastern Warfare School in, of all unlikely places, Tunbridge Wells. (Clearly the expression "Jungle Exercises without trees" must have originated here!) Then to a staff appointment in Malta, followed by Staff College at Camberley, Brigade Major of 161 Infantry Brigade at Colchester and then, all too soon, back to war again with the 1st Battalion in Korea, where he commanded B Company which played a major part in the Battle of the Hook in May 1953. Indeed, it was for his leadership and courage throughout Korea and, in particular, in the Hook battle that he was awarded the MC. A happy two years in Gibraltar followed, for in 1950, Tony had married Alex and they made many friends on the Rock. Tony resurrected the Hindoostan Yacht Club and taught many young soldiers to sail, as well as indulging in much sailing with the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club. Then it was back to the UK as GSOII at Western Command before becoming 2i/c to Pip Moran in Northern Ireland. It was in 1960 that Tony took over command of the 1st Battalion in Essex for an eventful two and a half years. Two emergency tours to Kenya as part of the Strategic Command with 3rd Infantry Division helped to ensure that Tony made his mark as to how a CO should manage a battalion. He was quite clear on what he wanted to achieve and he consistently achieved it. At the same time he made sure that all in the Battalion had a thoroughly enjoyable time within the constraints of training hard for war and keeping fit. The Battalion reached very high standards under Tony and he enhanced its reputation considerably. The award of the OBE was witness to this fact.

After Kenya followed two years as Assistant Military Adviser to the High Commissioner in Ottawa, involving much fishing and shooting of duck whose migratory flight line, by a happy coincidence, took in British Honduras when Burma Company was stationed there. Then came his last appointment as Commander 127 Infantry Brigade Group in Manchester when Defence

cuts in 1968 took Tony to retirement on redundancy, aged but 48.

Gibraltar again claimed Tony when he was appointed RO to Fortress HQ, an appointment he enjoyed for all of nine years. This was a particularly happy time for Tony, Alex and Robyn. Secretary of the Royal Calpe Hunt and Commodore of the Gibraltar Yacht Club, a prestigious appointment and one which reflected his popularity, charm and ability to get on with everyone. Then, five years in another RO's appointment at Eastern District before his final retirement.

All this is a somewhat staccato record of all that Tony did in his life but, above all, he will be remembered as a most charming man with a great sense of style, *elan* and *panache*, a wonderful sense of humour and a man who was determined to enjoy all aspects of his life and to do his best to ensure that everyone else had the best chance of enjoying theirs. A great family man he was blessed with Alex, Robyn and grandson Anthony, who survive him; a soldier who took part in some of the most significant events of modern British military history and who commanded with flair, wisdom, dedication and skill. Truly a great son of the Regiment.

His funeral took place at St Margaret's Church, Burnham Norton on 15 July. General Sir Charles Huxtable, who was Tony's adjutant, gave the Eulogy, Donald Isles and Robyn Firth gave the readings and many Dukes were present - Brigadiers Michael Bray, John Greenway and Johnny Walker; Colonels Charles Cumberlege, Walter Robins and Hugh LeMesurier; Major Derek Roberts, who served with Tony in India, Majors Bill Blakey, Simon Berry, David Harrap and David Miller, together with other officers including Jim Shenton, David Sugden, Tom Rothery and Tony's faithful friend from Burma days, CSM Bill Norman. Many officers' ladies were also present.



**Brigadier Tony Firth enjoying his 80th birthday party in 1999.**

*photo courtesy of E.J.W.W.*

### Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall

*CRH writes:*

Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, who died on 8 April 2002 aged 75, was commissioned into the Green Howards in 1946. For the first ten years of his military life he remained an infantry officer serving with his own Regiment, briefly with the Dukes and with the Parachute Regiment. During this time he not only showed the depth of thought for which he was to become renowned, but also gained vital experience in counter-terrorist operations, and demonstrated great gallantry. He won his first MC serving with 1 Green Howards in Malaya in 1950. He won a Bar to his MC in 1952 on what was to prove his battalion's final operation of a most successful three-year tour in Malaya.

He transferred to the 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards in 1957, perhaps because of a deep interest in the conduct of armoured warfare. From then on, apart from one tour as GSO 1 Intelligence in Borneo, he did not serve outside Europe. After commanding his Regiment in BAOR he held a string of appointments leading inexorably to the command of 1 (British) Corps. It was in this appointment that he was able to develop his tactical thinking to the full and to restore the idea of the proper use of ground in depth. Subsequently, as Commander Northern Army Group, he was able to influence NATO thinking at a time of considerable change at the operational level of command.

He returned to the Ministry of Defence as Chief of the General Staff, again at a time of profound change and when clear thinking and firm defence of the Army's interests was called for. There could have been no one better suited to the job. Nobody could express a firmly held view more forcefully than Nigel Bagnall, he did not always express himself in the most diplomatic of terms and this did not perhaps endear him to civil servants, politicians and his colleagues in the other services, although he undoubtedly earned their respect.

I was immensely privileged, as Quartermaster General, to serve under his chairmanship on the Executive Committee of the Army Board, on which there were four Old Wellingtonians serving at the time. First and foremost he was a leader, clear thinking and an excellent chairman. He was always prepared to listen to argument, so long as it was clearly expressed, and his sole concern was for the good of the Army. He was intensely loyal to the Army and to those who worked for him. I suspect he was the best Chief of Defence Staff we never had.

### Captain E. J. Oliver MC

Ernest Oliver, "Vic" as he was always known, died in the Royal London Hospital on 14 March 2002, just short of his 93rd birthday. Much to the dismay of his friends and wartime comrades, he had suffered an accidental fall at Armoury House following the annual dinner of the 1st Battalion 1943-45 Overseas Officers' Dinner Club.

Vic served in the 2nd Battalion in India from 1929 to 1934, latterly as a Corporal. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he was recalled to the Colours and posted to the 1st Battalion, serving in the BEF and being evacuated from Dunkirk. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his

work as Intelligence Sergeant. Granted an immediate commission in 1942, he fought with the 1st Battalion in North Africa and took part in the Pantelleria landing. He went on to serve with the Battalion in Italy, Palestine, Syria and the Lebanon until his release from the Army in 1945.

It was at Anzio and in the many battles in and through the Gothic Line that Vic demonstrated his powers of leadership and bravery; first as a platoon commander, then 2I/C of A Company and frequently in the Gothic Line as OC B Company; but especially on Monte Cece when, after successfully fighting his own B Company battle, he ended up commanding the Battalion after the CO was shot down and killed. He was awarded the MC for, according to his citation: "It was largely due to the example and devotion to duty of Captain Oliver that the morale and efficiency of his Company was always maintained at a high level". In addition, prior to this, he had been Mentioned for a second time after the Anzio battles.

As a man Vic was very good value indeed. Always a firm disciplinarian and able to get the best out of his men, he was wise in battle and highly respected by all ranks. He was a good friend too. He never forgot the Dukes and turned up each and every year for the Dinner Club. He was always smiling and always so very glad to see his old friends again. He will be much missed.

Vic's funeral took place at Whitley Bay on 25 March and was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier and a number of other Dukes. Vic is survived by his wife and his son.

### V. B. McFarlane

*John Wilson writes:*

Val McFarlane died in South Africa on 6 May 2002 at the age of 87.

He came to the 1st Battalion on the Anzio Beachhead and served as a platoon commander in A Company. Later, he commanded the Carrier Platoon until he returned to South Africa in September 1945.

Val was a man of great character who volunteered for service on 4 September 1939. He had intended to enlist in the Imperial Light Horse but, whilst waiting in the queue which had formed of volunteers wishing to sign on, took a dislike to the recruiting sergeant and walked along the street to join the Irish Regiment.

He served with the South African 2nd Division in East Africa, against the Italians and, later, took part in the capture of Madagascar. On the formation of the South African Armoured Division in the Western Desert, he became a tank commander. Towards the end of 1943, a number of South African soldiers were given the opportunity to take commissioned rank on the strict understanding that they would be seconded to the British Army for service outside Africa.

After receiving his commission, Val was a member of a group of South African officers who were flown to Anzio to replace casualties suffered during the earlier battles on the beachhead and he chose to be posted to 1 DWR. He served with the Battalion during the remaining part of the campaign in Italy and went with the Battalion to Palestine, Syria and the Lebanon.



In civilian life he worked with the South African Supreme Court until his retirement.

He was a committed Duke and most recently attended the Officers' Dinner at Sandhurst in 2001 and the Dinner of the Battalion's Overseas Dining Club in 2000. He was a fine rugby player at fly-half or full back and was renowned for his kicking ability.

Val was a most generous host and always gave an enthusiastic welcome to those of his friends who visited him in South Africa.

#### **WO1 (RSM) B. Stansfield**

Brian Stansfield died suddenly on 7 July 2002 at the age of 63.

Brian enlisted in May 1960 at the Yorkshire Brigade Depot, Strensall, before joining the 1st Battalion in August of that year. Between 1960-63 he was with the Battalion in Colchester, and this included two tours to Kenya and one to British Honduras (now Belize). During this period he was promoted to Corporal. It was in British Honduras, with B Company, that Brian badly fractured his leg playing football in January 1963 and he was not able to rejoin the Battalion until March 1965, by which time the Battalion had moved to Osnabrück, Germany. In December 1966 Brian was promoted to Sergeant and posted to Strensall as a Platoon Sergeant Instructor. Other promotions and postings followed including Hong Kong, Catterick and operational tours in Northern Ireland. He was CSM of Alma Company from 1973-75. Promoted to WO1 in June 1977, he was posted as RSM to 6 UDR in Omagh, Northern Ireland. Two further tours as RSM with 3 Yorks (V) and finally 9 Cadet Training Team, took him to his retirement date in June 1982.

In 1984 Brian was enlisted into 'Territorial Service' as CSM of the newly formed 'Home Service Force', based in Huddersfield. It was in 1993 when the Force was disbanded, that Brian finally hung up his boots. Not his walking boots I might add, because Brian then formed a walking/camping club made up of his friends from the HSF, including many ex-Dukes.

It was on one such camping weekend, only two weeks after attending the Presentation of Colours Parade in Osnabrück, that Brian suddenly died.

Brian's funeral service, which was held in Halifax Parish Church on Tuesday 16 July, was attended by many of his friends from the Regiment.

#### **Mr R. Clarke, MM**

Ex WO2 (CSM) Ronald Clarke, who served with the 1st Battalion from 1942-48, died on 5 May 2002 at the age of 80 years.

Ronald was with the 1st Battalion throughout WW2 and was awarded the Military Medal for his gallant and distinguished service during the campaign in Italy, where he was wounded at Anzio. He was also with the Battalion in Palestine after the war until his discharge.

His funeral service was held at St Peter's Church, Askern, Nr Doncaster on 15 May 2002.

*An obituary for Captain J. H. Turner, who died on 3 July 2002, will be published in the Winter edition.*

#### *Notification of recent deaths:*

**Ex Sergeant Jack Fitton, MM**, who served with the 4th Battalion, died on 12 May 2002.

**Mr Stuart David Arnold**, a National Serviceman, who served in the Reinforcement Base Depot, Japan (JRBD) during the 1st Battalion's tour in Korea 1953, died on 1 February 2002, at the age of 67.

**Mr J. Stanger**, ex 5th Battalion, of Liversedge, died on 20 May 2002.

**Mr Alfred Ernest Senior**, ex 1st Battalion, died on 15 May 2002.

**Mr J. N. Cook**, ex 1st Battalion (1 Platoon, A Company in Korea) died on 19 August 2000.

**Lieutenant Peter Pledger**, ex 2/6th Battalion, died earlier this year 2002.

### **DEATH OF THE GREAT DUKE**

In addition to the Tercentenary, so splendidly celebrated by the Regiment, this year sees the 150th Anniversary of the death of the Great Duke. To commemorate this the regimental Museum is holding an exhibition of material from the reserve collection which relates to the Duke and the 33rd. This will be a chance to see the items which are usually in store, including hairs from the tail of the Duke's charger, Copenhagen, and Napoleon's carriage lamps and spurs.

The exhibition, which runs from 14 September to 13 October, will open with a living history display by some of the Duke's Redcoats. In the evening there will be a performance by Strawhead, a group specialising in soldiers' and sailors' songs from the Napoleonic era.

Two other events with a military theme will be held at the Museum this year: On 19 October a Second World War presentation, including re-enactors representing the 1/7th Battalion in 1944, will be followed by a 1940s Dance. On 30 November, re-enactors from the American Civil War will be followed by a concert of Old Time American Mountain Music.

*For information on any of these events please contact*

**John Spencer (Museums Officer, Military Collection)  
Bankfield Museum, Akroyd Park, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 6HG.  
Telephone 01422 352334 Fax 01422 349020**