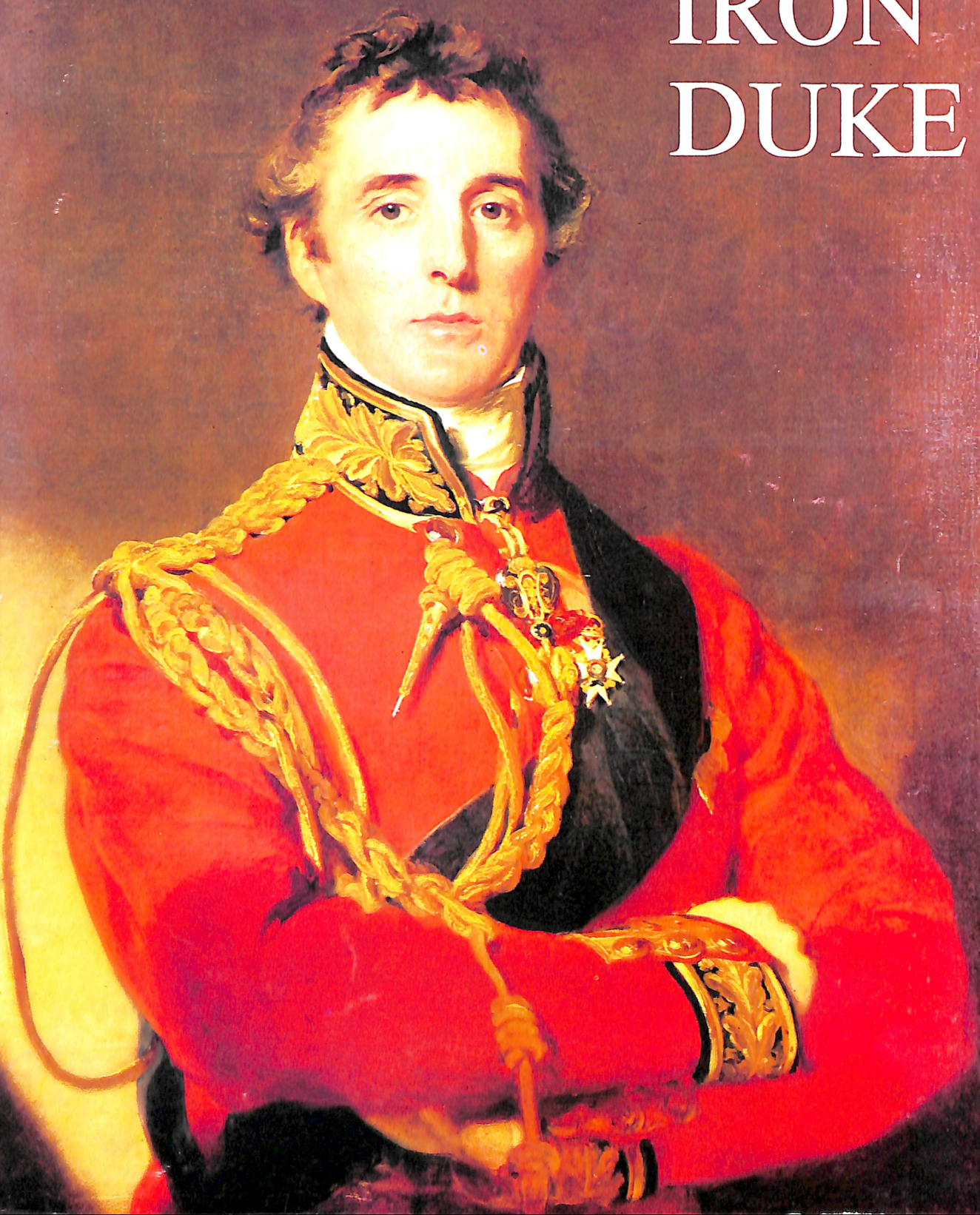


SPRING 2003
No. 251

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. LXXVIII

Spring 2003

No. 251

BUSINESS NOTES

Published three times a year - Spring, Autumn, Winter.
Annual Subscription - £10.00 payable in advance to
the Business Manager on 1 April.

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**Copy for the 2003 Autumn issue should
reach the Editor by 1 June 2003**

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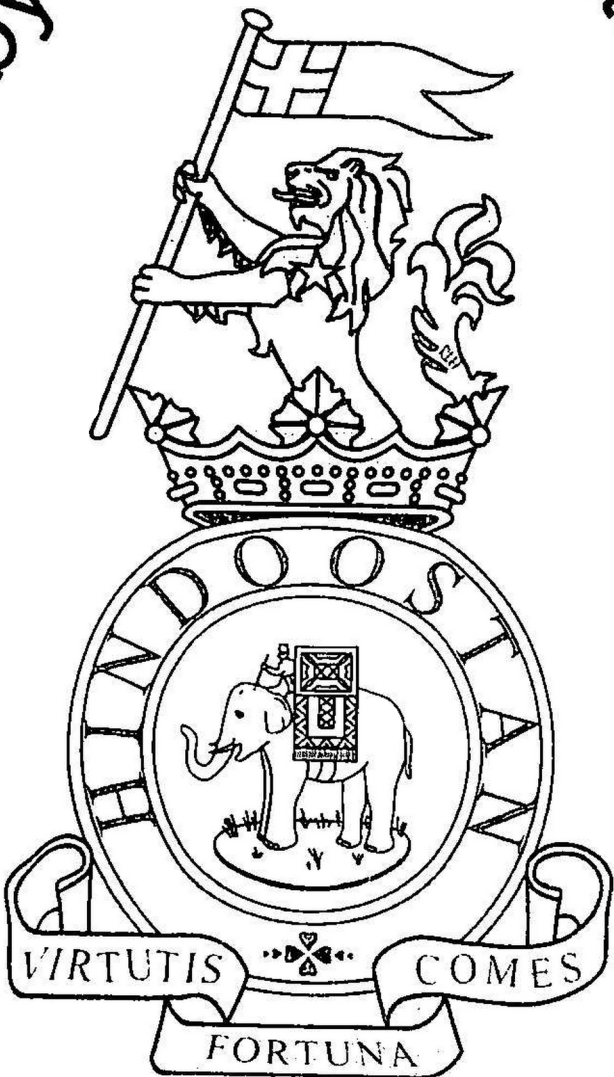
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Digitised by The Regimental Archives



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. C. A. Palmer

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 M. Taylor

East and West Riding Regiment

CO: Lieutenant Colonel G. Whitmore, LI

DWR TA Companies:

Ypres Company (West Yorkshire)

Deputy Honorary Colonel: Charles Dent Esq, DL

Officer Commanding: Major M. K. Hunter

Fontenay Company (South Yorkshire)

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

Officer Commanding: Major L. K. Whitworth, QGM

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 I. MacFarlane

D Company Detachments

OC: Major A. Hudson

Barnsley

Darfield

Birdwell

Wath on Dearne

Wombwell

Endcliffe

Thurcroft

COMBINED CADET FORCE - DWR

Giggleswick School CCF

CO: Squadron Leader P. C. R. Andrew

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, CCSS, CD

Lieutenant Colonel Marc-André Bélanger, CD

Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel François Dion, 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



The Colonel of the Regiment presents the Tercentenary Statuette to WO1 (RSM) M. Ness.

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

OPERATIONS IN THE GULF

In the middle of March 2003, the 1st Battalion, which was preparing for its next tour of duty in Kosovo, was ordered to deploy (minus Waterloo Company and without its Warrior APCs), to join the Coalition Forces in the Gulf. It is currently responsible for guarding Prisoners of War. It has therefore caught up with a platoon from the Battalion which had already deployed to the Gulf with its APCs. Waterloo Company will be deploying to Kosovo later in the spring. We wish them all every success and a safe return.

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The Colonel-in-Chief has sent the following message to Mrs Louise Bruce, the wife of the Commanding Officer:

"It is with fascination that I watch military operations in Iraq. Not only is my Regiment now involved in great events, but in 1941 I was part of a force which captured Baghdad and much else of Iraq. However, such interest is mixed with concern for the officers and men of the Dukes. The Duchess and I realise the strain all this will be putting upon you wives and families left in the home base in Osnabrück. I want you to know that both of us are thinking of you all as you wait patiently for news and the safe return of your loved ones."

RETIREMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier M. J. Stone retired from the Active List with effect from 1 February 2003. We wish him well

and look forward to receiving first-hand accounts of life in the commercial world before too long.

Squadron Leader P. C. R. Andrew assumed command of Giggleswick School CCF with effect from 1 November 2002 in place of Lieutenant Colonel N. J. Mussett MBE. We offer them, respectively, warm greetings and warm thanks.

We send our warm congratulations to WO1 (RSM) M. Ness on his impending Commission in the appointment of 1st Battalion Families' Officer, and to WO2 M. Taylor on his selection as Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion in his place. The following should also be congratulated on their respective Commissions: WO1 (RSM) C. Hosty, who takes over command of the Regimental Recruiting Team; WO2 M. Kennedy, who joins the AGC (SPS); and WO1s Cracknell and Proctor who join the RAMC. We wish them all well.

AWARDS

We send our warm congratulations to Major Barry Johnson on the award of the Fourth Clasp to his Cadet Forces' Medal, in recognition of his 42 years of service ... to date!

1 DWR 1943-45 OVERSEAS DINING CLUB

Major T. F. Huskisson presided at the 58th Annual Dinner of the 1 DWR Overseas Dining Club at Armoury House on 14 March 2003. The following officers were also present: G. Bullock, M. H. Curtis, R. J. Diacon, R. Heron (RHQ), D. L. J. Harrap (RHQ), D. E. Isles, W. R. C. Miller, W. R. Mundell (guest), A. Paterson, J. Wilson.



Left to right: W. R. Mundell (guest), W. R. C. Miller, M. H. Curtis, T. F. Huskisson, A. Paterson, D. E. Isles, J. Wilson, G. Bullock (not in picture: R. J. Diacon).

All present were most grateful for an update on Regimental matters from the Colonel of the Regiment, who was dining elsewhere in Armoury House that evening, but found the time to drop in on this Regimental gathering. We are pleased to publish the text of the letter sent by the members of this Dining Club to the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion in the Gulf:

*CO 1 DWR
Op Telic
BFPO 641*

Dear Colonel

At our annual reunion of those officers who served with the 1st Battalion during the war years of 1939-45, all of us there asked that I should send you, and all in the Battalion, a message of support and appreciation for the tasks that lie before you in the Gulf and Iraq.

We know you will be facing the risks and challenges with the good, honest, straight forward, hard working determination that has always been the hallmark of the Dukes and its Yorkshire roots. Our best wishes and deep thanks go with you.

FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE

Fred Huskisson

WAR

In our Winter 2001 Edition, No 247, we reflected briefly on the implications of the horrific events of 9 September 2001 in the USA. We remarked that the notions of deterrence or punishment seemed no longer to be relevant; and that we would need to stretch our imaginations in order to resolve how best to anticipate and forestall our new potential enemies. The task, we felt, was hardly one for the infantry of the line.

Now, in spring 2003, we report that our 1st Battalion has been deployed to join the Coalition Forces in the Gulf. They go off with our strong support and our prayers for their safe return.

In past wars the military have been accused, not only of using old and out-of-date equipment, but also of following old and out-of-date strategies and tactics. Whilst "the generals" may rightly be blamed for the latter, the politicians must bear their share of the blame for the former, for it is they who have to apportion the requisite funds. In practice, of course, the two are enmeshed in Whitehall and must work and bear responsibility together.

Now that we are no longer directly threatened by the Warsaw Pact, who are the enemies against whom we must be prepared to operate? Today, they are probably primarily the anonymous terrorists of al-Qaeda. Many commentators have pointed out that, whilst the hefty conventional US operations in Afghanistan did lead to the swift ejection of the Taleban regime, their effect upon al-Qaeda was less than convincing. They argue that this attempt, with even heftier conventional forces, to eject the regime of Saddam Hussein, even if it is successful, is likely to have even less effect upon al-Qaeda, given that very few, if any, links between the two have been identified.

Without the benefit of detailed up-to-date intelligence briefings, it is difficult to comment constructively on

the strategy or tactics of the Coalition Forces. Clearly, one aim of the huge deployment is to prevent Iraq from providing terrorists with biological, chemical or nuclear materials. This is in order to prevent such groups from turning attacks with enormous petrol bombs, such as those which felled the twin towers and killed 3,000 innocents in 2001, into unimaginable holocausts across the globe.

Seen from the depths of a low-flying armchair, it does seem that there must be better ways of achieving such an objective. One way might be to put much greater expenditure into strengthening allied intelligence resources and then dealing in a more surgically-targeted manner with the relevant stores or factories which should be discovered. Meanwhile, there is some risk that we repeat history by facing today's challenges with old strategies and tactics and the wrong equipment. We must continue to stretch our imaginations as to how best to forestall our opponents effectively, preferably without killing myriads of innocent, powerless non-combatants and creating fresh enemies in the process.

J.B.K.G.

We are glad to publish on pp 22 and 23 a report from the 1st Battalion, as at 17 April 2003.

SILVER TERCENTENARY STATUETTES

One of the earliest aspirations the Colonel of the Regiment expressed when planning for the Tercentenary was that the Regiment should commission a fitting piece of silver to mark the year. But it soon became apparent that, on top of all the other expenses, the cost involved for a piece that would do the year and the Regiment justice, would be well beyond the reach of either the Officers' or Sergeants' Messes. The idea was then reluctantly put to one side. For a while.

At the Annual Cutlers' Feast in Sheffield Lieutenant Colonel Graham Whitmore, CO of the East and West Riding Regiment, was seated next to the Assay Master of the Sheffield Assay Office, Mr Ashley Carson. During the course of dinner, Mr Carson explained that, in recognition of the Assay Office's strong ties to Sheffield, they periodically commissioned and presented items of silver to commemorate important events in the City's life and that they were in the process of looking for something suitable to mark. Lieutenant Colonel Whitmore had the presence of mind to promptly introduce him to the Colonel of the Regiment, with the suggestion that the Tercentenary of Sheffield's County Regiment might be just what he was looking for.

The upshot of this was that, shortly afterwards, the Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental Secretary visited Mr Carson at the Assay Office in Sheffield. There they were completely taken by surprise by an exceptionally generous offer from the Assay Office to present, not just one, but two silver statuettes, so that both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes could each have their own piece of silver to mark the year. Furthermore the Regiment would also be able to use the model to commission a further statuette as its presentation to the City of Sheffield to mark its receiving of the Freedom of the City.

The concept proposed by the Colonel for the statuette was based on a painting by the artist Alix Baker depicting a soldier of the 33rd in 1702 uniform standing slightly behind a modern soldier, with his hand on his shoulder, looking at him as if to say "I've done my bit, now it's your turn". The modeller chosen for the statuettes was Mr Bob Rowe, an ex-RSM who served with the Royal Hussars before he retired and converted his previous hobby of military modelling into a business. The models he produced were quite exceptional, both in their accuracy and sense of 'life'.

The hope originally was that Mr Carson would be able to present the models himself at the Messes in Germany during the Presentation of Colours weekend. Sadly, he was unable to travel to Germany and the Colonel of the Regiment did so on his behalf during the weekend.

D.L.J.H.

WELLESLEY PARK CONVERSION TO SCHOOL

As many readers will know, Calderdale Council, who are now the owners of the old Regimental Depot buildings at Wellesley Park, have for some two years been considering proposals to convert the site into a school.

This project has been the subject of considerable and heated controversy locally. Throughout, the Regiment has sought to maintain a completely impartial position, on the basis that this must be a decision reached by the local community in its best interests, uninfluenced by any 'emotional' attachment by the Regiment to its old depot of some 44 years ago. The Council has now finally confirmed its decision to proceed.

The school will be constructed under a Private Finance Initiative and Calderdale Council has chosen its preferred bidder as Babcock and Brown Properties of London. Those buildings which have listed status, the old Commanding Officer's House, Officers' Mess, Keep and perimeter wall (photographs below courtesy of Reuben Holroyd), will be retained as separate buildings. The old Wellington and Musgrave Barrack Blocks will be converted into classrooms linked by a glass atrium to provide a main entrance, with further school buildings built immediately behind the two blocks. The cricket pitch in the old square is to be enlarged and two football pitches and an athletics track created from the old playing fields behind the Barrack Blocks. The gymnasium and administrative office buildings will be demolished.

RHQ is not included within the plans for the new development and this decision will clearly have implications for RHQ which the Colonel and Council will need to consider.

The developers have warned of a danger of unexploded munitions on the site, especially around the former rifle range. Any readers who may have buried the odd 'spare' round are requested to contact RHQ before we become victims of a disintegrating JCB!

D.L.J.H.



1st Battalion

Commanding Officer's Introduction

My introduction for the Winter 2002 edition stated that we could still be committed to fire fighting into the New Year, this was a pretty pessimistic view but unfortunately has proved to be the case. So the last few months have been dominated by the industrial dispute and our time has been spent moving between Osnabrück and South Yorkshire, providing an emergency fire service and where possible squeezing in some decent military training. With a tour to Kosovo looming we are desperately in need of some consolidated training time to practise our Peace Support Operation skills. Current planning sees us continue on fire fighting cover until the end of February when we will be relieved to complete our Kosovo training prior to deployment at the beginning of May.

The Battalion has acquitted itself exceptionally well in South Yorkshire. We continue to provide a basic but very effective Emergency Fire Service and have received a tremendous list of compliments from all who have witnessed the job we are doing. The press coverage, which initially was fairly intrusive, has all been very positive. The soldiers have enjoyed the task, especially the single lads who have been able to spend some time at home. For those in the chain of command, and who have families in Osnabrück having now 'done it and cracked it', we would be happy to finish and get on with our proper job. The list of Battalion events that have been cancelled as a result of the fire strike is frustratingly long and ranges from Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas parties to rugby fixtures and inter-company boxing. The uncertainty and unpredictability of strike dates has had a sapping effect on morale and it will be good to return to a more coherent programme.

Clearly, we are all immensely frustrated that we do not feature in the Gulf ORBAT, but unfortunately 4 Armoured Brigade are out of kilter with the training/operations cycle and the Battalion more so, having missed the training year in 2002. We have provided forty men to the deployment, including a fully-formed Armoured Infantry Platoon to 7th Armoured Brigade and the reports on their progress are excellent. Throughout the last few months a great deal of work has gone into preparing ourselves for the Balkans tour. We now know more about the role, which will see us as the Operational Reserve Force for the whole of the Balkans, capable of deploying at short notice to any trouble spot that may ignite. We will also provide a company for reconnaissance operations in Kosovo; formed from

throughout the Battalion. We have reactivated Waterloo Company for this tour. The principal challenge for the Battalion is to convert all its hard-won Armoured Infantry skills to an Air Portable, light role, Landrover-born Battalion for the tour. This has required a complete change of ORBAT and several courses to train us in new skills. Our progress is good but the training patchy as a result of the fire strikes.

Now in our third year in Osnabrück, the Battalion is well settled and the families feature in all aspects of Garrison life, with many of the clubs and facilities being run by members of the Dukes' families. Of particular note is our relationship with the local German community and so successful have we been in our community relations that in recognition the Battalion has been awarded the Ambassador's Community Relations prize for 2002. Her Majesty's Ambassador will present this prize to us on 27 March here at Belfast Barracks. This is a significant award and has been achieved through much hard work, especially from the Battalion 2IC. Belfast Barracks is sited in an affluent area, close to the city centre and in close proximity to a hospital and an older people's home. It has previously suffered from numerous complaints from local residents and to bring them onside and involve them in our future plans has reaped significant benefits and very positive PR.

We now know where our next posting will be and we return to the United Kingdom in March 2006 to become the Land Warfare Battle Group based at Warminster. This will be a two year posting and again we will be an Armoured Infantry Battalion.

In conclusion, the 1st Battalion remains as busy as ever with a wide range of responsibilities. We continue to deliver on all counts and have a first class reputation for the utmost professionalism in all that we do. Our manning remains the best in the British Infantry at 33 (appropriately) over strength and we continue to retain and recruit strongly. I will finish with Rugby - our frustratingly disrupted season will be kick-started with the British Army Germany Cup final against 1 RRW on 15 February, which if we win will see us through to the UK semi final later in the month. The Cup will of course be completed by the time you read these notes and I hope we will have some positive progress to build on for next season - we shall see.

Afternote: Alas, a good win against IRRW was followed by the narrowest of defeats by IRGBW.

ALMA COMPANY

In the last edition we left you filled with anticipation over whether or not the Battalion would deploy to South Yorkshire to cover a potential firefighters' strike. Well, predictably enough, we did deploy and at the time of writing are about to deploy for the second time in 2003!

We finally got the order to move across to Beckingham Camp near Newark in mid October where we married up with our Green Goddesses (GGs) and could start training in earnest (or so we thought). On the first day of training lots of eager Dukes hooked up their

GGs to the fire hydrants in Beckingham Camp, but within an hour we had run the camp dry - no-one had told us that the camp drew its water from a closed tank and not the mains water! A quick recce of the local area revealed a few hydrants and open water sources that soon had the GG crews back in business. During this period the lads were able to make the most of time off and at the close of play each day the camp car park resembled the start of the Le Mans 24 hour race as the boys headed for Yorkshire.

When we finally headed north under the cover of darkness to occupy our area of operations (AO) there was much scepticism (and a sweepstake) about how many of the GGs would manage to make the journey to Barnsley TA centre. To our surprise all five of our vehicles made it and have proved to be extremely reliable throughout the period of the strikes (despite being nearly three times older than most of our soldiers!). Alma Company's AO is centered on the fine town of Barnsley. We are living in portacabins at Fontenay Company's TA centre on Wakefield Road. From here we are running two appliances (one GG and one shiny red Dennis fire engine) and a Breathing Apparatus and Rescue Team (RAF firemen and specially trained soldiers from 2 PWRR), and we have one GG each at Royston, Penistone and Stocksbridge police stations.

During the ten days of strikes before Christmas Alma responded to 56 call outs, which ranged from car fires, to a dog stuck in a drain, through to a child stuck on the roof of Kwik Save in Grimethorpe! Thankfully there were no serious incidents during our period of fire cover and the only Alma casualty was a senior NCO (who shall remain nameless) who twisted his ankle walking back from a "liaison" night at the Barnsley police social club. At all the Alma Company locations the support we received from the good people of Yorkshire was over-whelming. The amount of chocolate and biscuits

donated by the public has meant that we have all come back considerably heavier than when we went. During the 24 hour strike on 21 and 22 January we responded to two callouts - a fire in a field and a hoax call. As I write we are back in Osnabrück, but will return to Yorkshire in two days to be ready for the next threatened strike on 29 and 30 January.

Whilst firefighting has kept us busy, we have had a host of other tasks to contend with. The Company has provided fifteen men for Dettingen Platoon which is to deploy to the Gulf with 7 Armoured Brigade. Notably, Alma Company has provided Lieutenant Stuart Dick as the Platoon Commander, Sergeant Paul Simms as the Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Mark Colquitt as the Warrior Sergeant and a full section of Alma Company's finest soldiers. We wish them the best of luck and a safe return. The Company has also provided ten soldiers to Waterloo Company as part of the forthcoming surveillance commitment to our Kosovo tour in the summer. As if this wasn't enough, the Company has now begun its own training ready for the Kosovo tour. This is currently being fitted in around our fire fighting commitments and, despite the best efforts of the Fire Brigades Union, we are slowly but surely making progress.

Hopefully the next time you read the Iron Duke we will have been in Kosovo for some time, flying the Dukes flag high with fire fighting just a distant memory. Finally, I would just like to thank the East and West Riding Regiment and especially Captain Harry Baxendale and WO2 Baz Roberts for the fantastic support they have given us at their TA centre in Barnsley - with any luck we will be out of their hair by the time this article is printed and they can get back to training Fontenay Company without having Alma Company in residence!

Major P. R. Fox



Sergeant Barclay's crew and Lance Corporal Winchurch's crew at a kitchen fire in Dodworth.



Corporal Scott (centre) and crew at a house fire in Barnsley.

BURMA COMPANY

Burma Company has been all hands to the pump since our last set of notes. Operation Fresco (Fire Strike) has dominated the period and the Company has found itself bouncing between Osnabrück, Doncaster and Beckingham Camp at the whim of the Fire Brigade Union (FBU). The unpredictability of the FBU and its ability to cancel strikes at short notice limited our ability to plan and created mass uncertainty over our deployment dates. However, typically, the soldiers met this challenge with good humour and maintained a flexible approach.

The Company was initially deployed to Beckingham Camp near Newark to prepare itself for the oncoming strikes. Despite the cancellation of the initial strikes, the Company moved up to Scarborough Barracks in Doncaster. Doncaster has been our principal area of responsibility, which we have covered through the manning of Temporary Service Fire Stations (TSFS) at Maltby, Stainforth and Adwick. Initially the Company deployed with five Green Goddesses, two of which were replaced by more modern Red Goddesses in time for the eight-day strike in December. Whilst the Red Goddesses provided us with a more modern and rapid capability, the Green Goddesses, despite their age, have proved to be a highly effective basic fire fighting appliance.

To date the Company has provided eleven days of life saving fire fighting cover and attended over eighty emergency calls. Thirty-three have been actual fires and the remainder a mixture of hoax calls and false alarms. Fortunately, we have not had to attend to a major

incident, but a number of house fires could have developed into serious incidents had it not been for the effective action of our fire crews. Whilst these statistics imply that there are on average ten calls a day, there were only five emergency calls across our region in the latest twenty-four hour strike. Everyone has worked extremely hard and coped impressively with their new task and the high levels of uncertainty, especially when the strikes threatened the Christmas period.

Since Christmas, the Company has had to balance Op FRESKO with pre Balkans training and again it has risen to this challenge positively. Whilst the uncertainty of the fire strikes still exists, our confidence and competence in fire fighting has been enhanced.

Despite the Op FRESKO commitment, Burma provided the Battalions' leading team in the Brigade Patrol Competition and achieved a very creditable third place. Lieutenant Brown, Sergeant Clarke, Corporal Sykes, Lance Corporal Bidski and Privates: Lee, Baugh, Watts and Elliot can be very proud of their achievements. Furthermore, the Company has sent a section to 7 Armoured Brigade as part of the Dukes' Dettingen Platoon for possible operations in the Gulf and a further eight men to the Surveillance Company for the Balkans. Privates Bidski and Hallas are also congratulated on their recent promotion to Lance Corporal. Finally, Company Sergeant Major Caple left the Company in December to take up the RQMS's post at Chilwell. The Company thanks him for all he has done in the last nine months and wishes him all the best for the future.

CORUNNA COMPANY

Since the summer the majority of Corunna Company has been deployed, off and on, in the UK on Op FRESCO. On the initial deployment in September/October the training programme originally undertaken at Beckingham Camp, Lincolnshire, was intense and the learning curves steep. Crews were trained on Green Goddesses, how to use the pumps, the ladders and how to deal with various fires, potential fire situations, and road traffic collisions. Temporary Service Fire Station (TSFS) commanders and signallers had to learn the processes and procedures should a fire be called in. All personnel were trained in "coping" with the media, and received talks from members of the police, fire and ambulance services on what to expect if there was a strike. Our Area of Operations was designated as picturesque Rotherham.

When the first strike went ahead the Company moved to Rotherham TA centre on Fitzwilliam Road; it became the Company Headquarters, as well as a TSFS. Other TSFSs included Wath and Attercliffe police stations and Ulley Country Park. As a Company we were reasonably busy during both the two and eight day strikes before Christmas and coped well with all the incidents we attended. Thankfully, we did not have a major incident such as a chemical or factory fire. In between strike periods we undertook further training, which included one crew (from Hook!) mistakenly practising their hose drills in front of a manned fire station, before the crew was politely asked to move on! Before the eight day strike, the Attercliffe crew's Green Goddess was replaced with a newer red engine and therefore they had to be trained on their new equipment. Red engines subsequently arrived for Rotherham and Wath.

Just before Christmas, Corunna moved back to Germany with the rest of the Battalion and, since January, started its training for Kosovo. Like all operational tours this began with low level skills and individual training tests and will move onto collective, theatre-specific training. All these mandatory tests are to be done within the background of Op FRESCO,

continuous fire training and a complete reshuffle of the ORBAT. Corunna soldiers have been sent to the Gulf with Dettingen Platoon and to Waterloo Company as part of the Balkan's Surveillance Company.

On 19 January Corunna Company moved back to Rotherham to cover the fire strike beginning on the 22nd. Two days were spent refresher training, and once again the Company acquitted itself well during the strike. After a quick turn around we moved back to Germany on the 23rd via the Hull to Rotterdam ferry. If it is Sunday we must be on Kosovo training is the usual cry! What is encouraging is the morale of the lads as they and their families are continually asked to stay flexible and jump to the tune of the Fire Brigade Union.

Operations apart, for the third time in a row a Corunna soldier came top of the potential NCO cadre; Lance Corporal Eccles received his promotion before Christmas. There were also promotions to Lance Corporal for Privates Radcliffe and Walker and Corporal for Lance Corporals Kitson and Shuttleworth.

There are three new Officers in the Company, Second Lieutenants Crawford, Smith and Lunn. Mr Smith is already achieving fame as part of the Army Rugby Squad. Captain Scothern had previously represented Corunna as Captain of the British Army (Germany) Rugby League side. We also welcome back to the Company Corporal Moore; Corporals Campion and Coulson returned from the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course and Corporal Shuttleworth from the Section Commanders' Battle Course. Farewells were bid to Sergeant Mitchell and Corporal Sykes who, after a brief spell as Platoon Sergeant 7 Platoon, has moved to Pirbright. Lieutenant Adair is now a Platoon Commander at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick and Lieutenant Pearce has moved to Battalion Training Officer. We thank all of them for their hard work, wish them well for the future and look forward to seeing many of them back.

2nd Lieutenant C. Lunn

SOMME / WATERLOO COMPANY

As the New Year started Somme saw itself split into two. The vast majority of the Recce and Milan platoons came together to form Waterloo Company for the forthcoming Op Tour to Kosovo, whilst the remaining members (generally the Mortar Platoon) remained as Somme.

Waterloo Company immediately went into its specific training which was separate from the remainder of the Battalion. This consisted of numerous search and photographic courses in the UK as well as an intensive training and fitness package in Germany.

Op FRESCO, the firemen's strike in the UK, has continued to coincide with any programmed training and again the New Year saw Somme Company return to Sheffield for the first 24 hour strike. With only six call outs in the whole of the Sheffield area over the 24 hour period the vast majority of soldiers found it quiet and a perfect opportunity to catch up on some well-deserved

rest. More strikes are planned for the future; however, due to our operational commitments later in the year, the Battalion is hoping to be relieved from this commitment altogether.

With developments in the Gulf the Battalion has sent Dettingen Platoon to 7 Armoured Brigade. Lance Corporal Wright has joined this platoon whilst Corporal Hasanali and Private Pleasant have deployed as the vehicle crew for Commander 7 Brigade, Brigadier Graham Binns late PWO (apparently he was keen to have Yorkshire soldiers manning his vehicle). We wish them all the best whatever circumstances provide.

Finally, as the two Companies continue to train for the forthcoming Op tour, I would like to welcome Colour Sergeant O'Neill and family back to Germany as he moves into the job of CSM Somme/Milan Platoon 2 IC.

Captain R. Payne



Op FRESCO - Somme Company fire fighting.

HOOK COMPANY

As I write these notes the majority of the Company are deployed on Op FRESCO in support of the firemen's strike. Whilst the strikes have been an unwelcome distraction from our training programme in Germany, on the positive side it has enabled the Company departments to undertake tasks that they have been trained for, albeit in a strange environment. Chefs have been able to cook in small and sparse conditions, MT Drivers drive fire engines, REME repair them, Signallers man Ops Rooms, QM's staff demand, account, store and issue supplies, the Admin Office and Intelligence Cell staff play a big part in documentation and reporting, the Medics will always be needed whatever the deployment, members of the Provost staff, Gym Staff and Mess Staff backfill the Fire Crews and assist in manning the rear party in Germany, and last but not least the Unit Welfare Staff support the families at home. So all in all it is a very busy period, which will

continue as, in between strikes, we need to carry out all mandatory training in preparation for the Kosovo tour.

The Company faces have changed slightly since the last notes, mainly additions due to the Kosovo Orbat, we welcome the new RAO Captain Danny Renihan, and also the new Padre Captain Pat Aldred. There will be a few farewells between January and May, but a particular mention should go to WO2 "Suave" Harvey and his wife Sandra, who have supported the Battalion loyally for the past 22 years, Suave is leaving on extended service and will become an estate warden in Hohne, good luck to you both. Finally as it is likely to be my last contribution to the notes as I hand over the appointment of OC Hook in late March 2003, I would like to say thank you to all ranks of Hook Company for their support, humour and friendship over the past 18 months.

Major A. L. Jackson

OFFICERS' MESS

Along with most Battalion events, Op FRESCO not only stopped training but had a marked effect on our social lives. A proposed, steady programme of Regimental Dinner nights and the usual pre-Christmas festivities was not completely cancelled but did lose some of its polish. Summer leave recharged social batteries post-Tercentenary and September kicked off with a 'Schooldays' Party. The elderly dusted off their moth-eaten shorts and skirts and practised their 1980's dance moves. The youngsters still fitted their almost-

new school blazers, thought the music was nostalgic and looked at the dancing with incredulity. Following on from a number of successful themed parties, this was no exception and the livers-in are fast developing a reputation for the Mess as the Germany Poo-Na-Na.

Op FRESCO saw an initial move to Beckingham Camp and then subsequently onto our Temporary Service Fire Stations (TSFS). This put paid to our intention of saying farewell formally to Brigadier Nick Smith (outgoing Commander 4th Armoured Brigade),

who probably enjoyed his pub supper in Lincolnshire just as much. We did manage to squeeze in one formal dinner at Endcliffe Hall where we hosted senior Police and Fire Officers who supported us during the strike. Union activity prevented us from organising another dinner for the Dukes in the area. Despite a late return to Germany we still held a short notice Ladies' Dinner Night, sang Carols around the patch and held Ruperts. This year, in the face of stiff competition, Captain Finn Bibby took centre stage, primarily for the purchase and use of an unusual, partly pink, female, Teutonic bike (a self-inflicted injury if ever there was one). RQMS Birkett walked away with the Andy Capp, awarded for a spurious reason, this should be seen more as a life-time achievement award on possibly his last Ruperts.

Currently we are back in South Yorkshire. Both FRESCO and training for Kosovo will take their toll on the proposed calendar of events but it is hoped that a few dinner nights and parties may be squeezed in prior to May.

Since September there has been little change in Mess membership. The Adjutant departed to 19 Mechanised Brigade, and more time with Lindsey, and the Operations Officer, Captain Smith, to Northern Ireland.

Congratulations go to Captain Will Peters, currently on JDSC, on his marriage to Catherine. We also bade farewell to our RAO Captain Sarah Crowther, who is due her first child shortly, and the Padre Captain Lee Ghandiya on his move to Cyprus. In their place we welcome Captains Danny Reniham and Pat Aldred and their wives Rachael and Lidia. Captain Matt Palmer returned from JDSC to take over as Adjutant, and Captains Richard Sutcliffe and Dan Pawson came back in December for short stints. After RMAS, PCD and AIPCC 2nd Lieutenants Mark Crawford and Ed Smith finally arrived at the Battalion, the latter having already been selected for the Army Squad.

Finally, against this background of constant movement, the Mess is undergoing several improvements to both property and structure. A rolling refurbishment of the silver continues and there are aspirations to buy some furniture. In the same vein, it was hoped that we could display some Mess photographs. Unfortunately, we hold only two on the books! Should anyone wish to donate their photograph, provide a copy or indeed have a spare they would be gratefully received.

Major R. N. Goodwin PMC

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

From the first Mess Meeting after the summer leave it became clear that the ecstasy of square bashing for the T3 celebrations was well and truly over. A new spectre of delight was looming its green and ugly head ... Op Fresco (emergency fire fighting cover)!

The training and preparations for Op Fresco has dominated the lives of the "Engine Room" of the Battalion. (No pun intended!) Like a Hollywood Goddess in our midst it was the focus of much debate and speculation, most of which however was less than flattering! "Will she, won't she?" being the standard conversation and of course, eventually she did!

We therefore deployed as a Mess to the UK and Beckingham camp to prepare for the fire strikes. We found Mess life at Beckingham to be different but none the less comfortable enough, with a bar, a TV room and small dining room. We even managed to hang some pictures and make the Mess as presentable as possible. The accommodation was reasonable with the CSMs selflessly occupying the worst building in Nottingham!

Once the Battalion was trained and ready for the strikes we left our forward mounting base (Beckingham) and moved to our AORs to fight the good fight. This meant the Mess members were scattered throughout Yorkshire. Our only contact with each other was by phone, fax or smoke signals. Therefore it was great to complete our task and return to Osnabrück to catch up with each other, exchange stories, gossip and have the usual banter.

The Rupert/Andy Capp day was a huge success mainly down to the comic geniuses that are WO2 Nick Wilson, Colour Sergeant Richie Hind and their committee of satirists and micky takers (never let the truth stand in the way of a good story ... as the paparazzi say!). Of course the Officers' Mess skits were mildly amusing too! After much jockeying for position

among the Mess Members the Andy Capp was finally awarded to a bashful RQMS Birkett. Captain Bibby claimed the much-sought-after Rupert Bear. He worked hard all year as a candidate and as the year came to a close he emerged as the people's choice and claimed the reward he so diligently strove for. We never expected that! Unfortunately this was the only Mess function we have had for quite some time because of operational and training commitments, although we intend to make up for this in the next few months.

There have also been some changes to Mess personnel. A number of people have left on postings, some promotions, some returning to the fold and regrettably some friends have left, or are leaving for "the street".

We say goodbye to some Old Sweats and experienced Mess members. Colour Sergeant Windy Miller, who recently was CSM Somme and more usually Anti Tank Platoon 2I/C, heads up to Blackpool. Sergeant Jack Cox, the best Mortar man in NATO and recently working in the Armoured Infantry as driving instructor without peer, heads home to Sheffield. Drum Major John Johnson, the Rhythm Master and best dressed man on T3 is currently the military adviser to Giggleswick school in Settle. Good luck and enjoy the pasture. We thank you all for your loyalty and commitment to the Regiment.

On posting we lose Colour Sergeant Steve Lowther to OPTAG for his final two years. CSM John Caple takes on an RQMS post at Chilwell after being CSM Burma Company. Posted in are CSM Andy Brewer who is currently serving in Kenya but is soon to return as the RQMS(T); Colour Sergeant Lee Flitcroft from Tactics Instructor at ITC Wales, to take up the job of CQMS Burma; Colour Sergeant Steve O'Neill returns from OPTAG as Milan 2I/C.

RQMS Kenny Craddock is shortly moving to the E&WRR as the RSM, many congratulations on your promotion, the Mess will miss the mealtime banter and your fashion tips.

We have had a glut of "Young Thrusters" commissioned in to various Officers Messes. RSM Martin Ness will shortly be exchanging his pace stick for a tweed jacket as the Families' Officer. RCMO WO2 Mark Kennedy goes forth to the AGC. His advice on all things retention and his "Human touch" in supporting our soldiers will be a loss to us all. RSM Chris Hosty, currently at ITC Wales, hangs up his webbing and moves back over the cattle grid to take up Arms as the Regimental Recruiting Officer. WO1 Tony Proctor and

WO1 Glen Cracknell are both commissioned in to the RAMC.

Congratulations to you all and remember your roots!

WO2 Nick Wilson takes up the position as CSM Burma Company and WO2 Andy Williams returns from a busy post in BATUS to steer Somme Company as CSM.

As we go to print we are embroiled in Op Fresco 2 (The return of the Green Monster). These are uncertain times that put a hold on Mess and family life alike, but the "Engine Room" remains firm even though the level of revving fluctuates!

WO2 J. Buckingham PMC

RUGBY

The fire strikes have massively disrupted the season and with the imminent deployment of 30,000 troops to the Gulf the Army Cup is under threat of being cancelled! We hope that the Cup is not cancelled and all our hard work has not been in vain. Whilst Op FRESCO has disrupted our plans for the season it has provided us with the opportunity to play some quality rugby in the UK against civilian clubs between strikes. Whilst the rest of the Battalion went on leave after the first set of strikes were postponed, the First XV squad stayed behind and had seven days intensive training using the facilities at Newark RFC and RAF Cranwell. Captain Finlay Bibby achieved an enormous amount in this short period and the atmosphere and standards were laid out for the season ahead.

Our first match was against ITC Catterick, whom we disposed of 67-7, which displayed the potential we had in the backs but also areas to work on up front. Ironically the South Yorkshire Police, close partners of the Dukes during the strike were the next opposition to suffer a defeat by more than 50 points, only three days later. The third game against Scunthorpe 2nd XV was a tough physical encounter that tested the Dukes' forwards. After a close first half we upped the ante and ran in a number of impressive tries. Private Dan Deladitri, getting a hat trick of tries, leading to a final score of 66-16. It was then on to the mighty Halifax. The 1st XV have not won at Halifax for fifteen years and we played a strengthened 2nd XV, which by the end contained at least six of their First XV. On a cold evening under floodlights the team showed true character and despite spending most of the second half defending we managed to notch up a gritty win 35-16. Immediately after the first 48-hour strike we downed our hoses and headed off to Sandhurst where we defeated a good Academy side 16-0. It wasn't pretty and fire fighting is not best preparation, but a win at Sandhurst is a good win.

Unfortunately we haven't played since this last encounter in late November. However, training has continued and we are in the semi finals of the British Army Germany Cup after three conceded matches. Clearly this is not ideal but given the current levels of operational commitments we have done well to keep the squad training. Everyone involved deserves great credit for the commitment levels shown, as training has had to be done outside of the working day. The extra commitment required has also greatly contributed to a tremendous club atmosphere. Captains, Finlay Bibby, Jim Glossop and Sergeant Phil Beetham deserve a special mention for all their hard work in difficult circumstances. We have also painted and decorated our own Club Room, which we opened with a Christmas function of carols, gluwain, and the Padre!

We continue to work on our weaknesses and develop our game plan despite the pressure on the Battalion from Op FRESCO and the Balkans training. Our next match is against Doncaster 2nd XV on 29 January whilst we continue to prepare for the Army Cup. On the representative side Private 'Iggy' Guana has played for the Army Sevens team in the Far East and played against the England Sevens Team at Aldershot in October. Second Lieutenant Ed Smith has been selected for the Army whilst, Captain Rob Scothern and Lieutenant Ed Colver just missed out after an Army probables versus possibles trial.

Afternote: Editors, we note, are assiduously avoided if there is bad news in the offing - particularly sports results. So it was only by happenstance that we discovered that the 1st Battalion Rugby Union team, having defeated 1RRW to win the British Army Germany competition, went on to play 1RGBW a few days later in the Army Cup Semi-Final in Dover. Sadly they lost narrowly in the final minutes 16-17. We send them our commiserations.

FOOTBALL

The 2002/2003 season so far has been relatively uneventful, mainly due to the commitments of the Germany-based units. Not only has arranging games been a problem but getting the squad together for training has been virtually impossible. Op FRESCO

turned out to be a Godsend in that we could arrange games with local teams in South Yorkshire in order to get some match practice. Having RQMS Kenny Craddock based in the UK throughout, and him living in Sheffield was a great help; we managed not only to

get some games under our belt but achieved some surprisingly creditable results as well. Back in Germany we beat 3 RHA in the Army Cup 1st round 1-0, with a gutsy performance and goal from man of the match Private Danny Baxter. Unfortunately we lost 3-1 in the second round to 21 Engineers in Osnabrück, and some would argue the result did not reflect the game. We gained a bye to the 2nd round of the Infantry cup due to 1 LI having to withdraw due to commitments, so we will have to beat 1 RRF in late January 2003 if we are to progress to the quarter final stage of that competition. We have additions to the coaching staff with Sergeants Morgan and Schofield posted back to the Battalion, and the AGC Detachment Commander, Captain John Killoran being groomed to take over from myself as Technical Director in March 2003. New talent is

filtering through which is encouraging for the future. With Kosovo on the horizon, it is difficult to see much Battalion football being played during 2003, but who knows what the year really holds. It would be amiss of me not to mention that the Officers' Mess finally beat the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in a very competitive game before Christmas; the main highlight of the match was Major Phil "Gazza" Wilson and Major Tom "Ronaldo" Vallings combining to put through Captain "Van Nistelroy" Lee to score the goal of the match in a thrilling 2-1 victory to the underdogs.

Major A. L. Jackson

Afternote: We have learned that the Battalion team has reached the semi-final stage of the Infantry Cup.



1 DWR Football Squad, 2002/2003 season.

ATTACHMENT AS ASSISTANT STAFF AT RHINE ARMY PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

"You lucky so and so", they said as I was dismissed from the exercise before it had even begun. I had almost forgotten that, two weeks earlier, I had put my name forward for a vacancy at the Parachute centre in Sennelager. This is a joint forces centre for adventurous training, teaching basic and advanced freefall to service men and women. The opportunity to work there for six months seems like an interesting break from regimental life and a chance to experience skydiving for the first time. Together with Private Senior of 6 Platoon I moved to Sennelager to start the course, excited about what the next six months had to offer.

"...But first you need to learn how to skydive!" said the Club Chief Instructor with a big smile on his face. I fully expected to be on the ground for at least a couple of weeks, but after two days of 'ground school' we were told it was only 48 hours to our first jump, weather depending. We were taught about canopy control, handling malfunctions and reserve drills and just keeping the right position when falling at speeds of up

to 120mph. The morning of the big jump came before I knew it.

As soon as I saw the clear blue sky I knew that there was no turning back! As we got into our tasteful bright orange jump suits and luminous yellow helmets we walked across the grass to the small twin turbine plane that would take us to 3,200 feet. I was number four to jump and watching the first three students jump from a perfectly serviceable aircraft was scary in itself. You will always remember your first jump. In the excitement I forgot to count to four as we were taught. But as the canopy deployed without a hitch, I found myself laughing as I looked down with still 3,000 feet in which to steer myself through the sky to a gentle landing.

As an assistant at the school there was work to do as well! We were responsible for packing the chutes, sorting out the manifest and the upkeep of the plane as well as a long shift behind the bar after a day's work. From the first jump I really enjoyed skydiving and hope to take it up again in the future. I managed to do 167

jumps totalling an amazing 1hr and 45mins of pure freefall, eventually qualifying to jump from 13,000 feet with a freefall time of 60 seconds. As the autumn weather set in we travelled to train in Spain, managing forty jumps in two weeks.

I would recommend skydiving to anyone. It all started from just responding to something on detail and ended up being a fantastic experience that I will certainly never forget.

Private M. M. Foster

Skydiving in Spain



Private Matthew Foster on the left.



Private Lee Senior (left) and Private Matthew Foster (second from left).

POTENTIAL NCO'S CADRE : OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2002

Due to the requirements that Op FRESCO placed upon the Battalion it was touch and go whether it would be possible to run an NCO's cadre at the end of last year at all. Resources, manpower and availability of training areas all combined to put doubt in the minds of many as to whether it was feasible. After much tampering with orbats and calling in owed favours, the decision was made to go ahead with a smaller cadre of 31 students, and the top six or seven privates from each company were put forward. As is tradition with the cadres, there were a number of preliminary tests that the students needed to pass before actually starting the cadre proper and this took the form of fitness assessments in the week prior. Unfortunately in these first tests we lost two through injury and so started the cadre with a group of 29.

The first week was spent entirely in camp completing entrance and weapon handling tests and also teaching the students the art of giving a lesson; this was all of course interspersed with a small amount of physical work ranging from circuit sessions to gun runs with a lot in between! Fitness is of course a vital asset in our job and this was something that the students, in the most, weren't prepared for and many found the initial week's fitness hard to deal with. The entrance tests and weapon handling tests were also badly prepared for, many failed either the Light Anti-tank Weapon or General Purpose Machine Gun and some both. The first week was rescued however by the students' individual presentations, much hard work was put in by all and they produced many amusing and well-put-together presentations, ranging from Bob the Builder by Private Heron to a very informative lesson about Fiji from Private Rabuku (both now Lance Corporals). In order that the students are not entirely blamed for this first week it is worth noting that their preparation time was cut in half due to the cadre being brought forward two weeks from the original start date again due to Op FRESCO.

The second week comprised three days out on Achmer Training Area, a day on Vorden ranges and a day of group lectures. This week turned out to be an eye opener as much as the first. The daytime NAVEX on Achmer was designed to last two hours and to test the students' basic map reading skills. We eventually rounded up the last student four and a half hours after the start point with the use of tracker dogs and helicopters (only joking!); map reading needed to be worked on. It was now time for the Section Commanders to start to mould their sections and decide on Standard Operating Procedures before we got into the exercise phase. Corporals Campion, Claydon, Garbutt and Kitridge all had their own ideas and experiences that they were keen to share with the students. After two more days on Achmer, one day on the ranges and one in the classrooms the cadre was ready to go on exercise

An early start on Monday morning found us at Haltern training area for 0830. With the usual pre-exercise admin having to be done and everybody given accommodation, it was not until late morning that we were ready to crack on. Thanks at this stage go to Sergeant Sheehan whose administration for the cadre was top class throughout. Section attacks, platoon attacks, a night NAVEX (with a twist) and ambushes were just part of what was achieved in this week. The students worked tirelessly throughout the whole week and the improvement from almost every one of them was clear to see, individual skills as well as team skills had come on leaps and bounds. We recovered back to Belfast Barracks a very tired and bedraggled cadre after a most productive week.

Week four provided us with our hardest obstacle so far. Fighting in Woods and Forests and Fighting in Built Up Areas are renowned as the hardest types of combat to master. For this phase we moved down to Vorden training area, Colour Sergeant Hallsworth took the theory side of the package for a day and then we had a day of practical work with attacks happening frequently all day and into the evening, command and control was very testing for all! The rest of the week was then left for group presentations and revision periods. Now came the coup-de-grace; the final exercise.

Final exercise took us down to Haltern once more, but this time there was no living in accommodation, we were in the field for eight days and this proved too many for some. Without going into too much detail, the week started with 26 and ended with 16, old injuries, new injuries and top two inch injuries all played a part; Corporal Lambert (the medic) had never been so busy. The exercise involved all phases of war and followed a realistic scenario which enabled us to start from recces and end with an all-singing, all-dancing final dawn attack with noise and visual simulations. All through this week most worked extremely hard and battled through thick and thin to succeed. The standard of soldiering from Day 1 to Endex improved significantly and all that was left to do was decide the places.

The outcome of the discussion /argument/ brawl that the Directing Staff (DS) had decided on the following top three (who are all now Lance Corporals). First place went to Private Eccles (Corunna), second Private Heron (Hook) and third Private Bradley (Somme), well done to them and also to all those who finished the cadre; it is a huge hurdle to clear. Finally my thanks to all the DS who helped me run the cadre especially Colour Sergeant Hallsworth with a broken leg, Sergeant Hollis immediately after the birth of his son Josh (congratulations!), Sergeant Sheehan and all four section commanders all of whose experience and professionalism helped me immensely.

Lieutenant E. R. H. Colver

MORTAR OFFICERS' COURSE

Having been the Mortar Platoon Commander for over three months, the start of the Mortar Platoon Commanders' course came as a welcome relief. Knowing absolutely nothing about mortaring, my bluffing skills had well and truly been tested and it was finally time for me to go and learn what I was preaching about.

The three-month long course is based at the Land Warfare Centre Warminster and encompasses everything from basic mortaring drills to the tactical briefs given to commanders on the only guaranteed indirect fire support asset within a Battalion. Due to a sudden demand for mortar platoon commanders throughout the infantry, the course was loaded, with 15 out of the 18 places being filled with officers. Luckily for me however one of the three remaining places for SNCOs' was filled with my Platoon 2 IC, Sergeant Burton, so I had a guardian angel to guide me through the mortaring pitfalls.

The course itself took a very mature yet relaxed attitude to training, combining the advanced and standard courses for live firing and exercises. The first few weeks revolved around learning the basic drills of the weapon system. These lessons proved relatively

easy for Sergeant Burton having been in the Mortar Platoon for twelve years, however he was soon to earn his money taking many a late night revision session prior to the weapon handling tests.

The remaining weeks of the course revolved around a series of live firing days, battle exercises, map exercises and Tactical Exercises Without Troops. The course culminated with a four-day final exercise on Salisbury Plain training area, which at times had its elements of hardship carrying over ten mortar rounds weighing well over 55kg. It finished with a dawn attack involving an inter-impact area shoot whereby a number of objectives were engaged up to the last safe moment as troops advanced towards the objective.

In all the course was a fantastic experience. Having not known a thing about mortaring prior to the course, I have now come away feeling confident and ready to take control of the Mortar Platoon fully. The experience and ability currently within the Platoon is of a high standard and hopefully within the near future we will have the opportunity to live fire for the first time in 18 months.

Captain R. B. Payne

FIBUA INSTRUCTORS' COURSE

Whilst perusing the events forecast I noticed that there were a few weeks spare after the Tercentenary. Seeing the opportunity to get away for a couple of weeks back in the UK, I immediately volunteered for the FIBUA (Fighting In Built Up Areas) Instructor's Course held in Copehill Down, Warminster. More importantly it is only a stone's throw from every infantry officer's favourite drinking hole, Bath.

The first week was spent mastering the basics of room clearance and the theory side of the All Arms Battle in the urban environment. There were live demonstrations on the use of BATSIMs, explosive entry techniques and a Molotov cocktail range. Sergeant Clarke from Burma Company proved to be a true marksman with the petrol bomb, but still strenuously denies having ever used one before. Personally I couldn't stop myself from having a second go, even after seeing a young subaltern from the Royal Corps of Signals pour half a bottle of burning liquid down himself. Top tip: if you ever find yourself having to throw one of these things, do not go for the overarm throw.

The emphasis then switched to the more practical as the students had to run their own battle exercises (BEs). There were practical demonstrations on the use of Challenger 2, AS90, Engineers and mines in FIBUA and how to employ them to gain the best effect in a BE. I got the shock of my life when it came to picking up the ammunition for my first BE; as I was handed a sandbag full of blank ammunition smoke and training grenades, I asked if they wanted it split down amongst the syndicate and I was told it was just for me. The attacks quickly moved from section up to platoon level and scenes were reminiscent of Stephen Spielberg's 'Saving

Private Ryan', as a colossal Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank tore through the village in one BE, completely flattening two cars that had been put up as an ad hoc obstacle.

The second week was a series of low level exercises building up to a company level exercise incorporating soldiers from the Royal Green Jackets that are currently in the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group role in Warminster. All BEs were conducted with the aid of DEFWES, which all too efficiently demonstrated the high casualty rate of FIBUA battle, and thus provided Sergeant Clarke and me with ample opportunity for banter. For those unfamiliar with the DEFWES system, it is basically a grown up version of laser quest that allows the simulation of vehicle and individual weaponry.

The students all took it in turn to act as directing staff on each BE with exercising troops being provided by another syndicate. At the end of each serial the student directing staff would debrief their peers and then be debriefed in turn. Emphasis was placed on making a BE as interesting as possible and unique obstacle belts were improvised such as Beirut minefields, triple concertina wire interlaced with wrecked cars, as each individual's imagination went wild. Things were taken to the extreme as each man tried to outdo the other.

So, if you fancy two weeks back in the UK having a laugh learning how to turn your local neighbourhood into Grozny, then I fully recommend the FIBUA Instructor's course. The courses are continually under-booked and are available to the Territorial Army as well as Regulars.

Lieutenant D. Nelson

A POSTING TO OPTAG

OPTAG (Operational Training and Advisory Group) is a new organisation that came into effect in September 2000, training on average 42,000 troops a year. It was made up of two old organisations which were NITW (Northern Ireland Training Wing) and UNTAT (United Nations Training and Advisory Team). Within OPTAG there are three units OPTAT (Operational Training Advisory Teams), COTAT (Close Observation Training Advisory Team) and Tec Support.

I was part of OPTAT, which consists of three teams each consisting of two Captains, one WO2 and seven Colour Sergeant instructors. The teams are broken down to deal with giving training and advice to units going on Operations. Tac Team A based in Risborough Barracks Folkestone, would predominantly deal with rural operations in Northern Ireland. Tac Team B, based also in Risborough Barracks would mainly deal with peace support operations. Tac Team C, based in Lydd Camp, would predominately deal with the Urban side of Northern Ireland. Each team could also do the other team's job if needed. Tec Support based at Risborough and Lydd, consisting of three RESAs (Royal Engineer Search Adviser) two ATOs (Ammunition Technician Officer) and the specialist dog section with Tracker AES

(Arms Explosive Search dog). COTAT, based at Lydd Camp, is responsible for giving training and advice to units deploying to Northern Ireland and the Balkans.

OPTAG also gives training and advice to foreign countries on internal security and this would either be in their own country or they would come to the UK for the training. While I was there, teams went to Jamaica, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Brunei and America. The job itself was very rewarding and at times very busy, as is Battalion life, but my most memorable time was when things hotted up in Afghanistan. I was tasked to go and train units on mine awareness, this started at Aldershot, then up to RAF Dishforth, then to Arbroath, back to RAF Leeming, then down to RAF Odiham, all in six days in a dog van that only went 50 mph and no radio: wonderful stuff!

There are always constant Recces to go on all over the world, but mine only went as far as South Armagh and Pristina. All in all a very good posting, not only for the job itself but the quality of life, it was a good break from Battalion. Two years away was just the right amount of time and now I am glad to be back at the Battalion.

Colour Sergeant S. O'Neill



OPTAG group. Colour Sergeant O'Neill kneeling third from left.

THE INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE, WALES

Now that I have returned to the 1st Battalion from ITC Wales at Brecon, where I was posted as a tactics instructor from October 2000 - January 2003, I can give a reflection on my time spent there.

First of all, over 3,000 students experience Brecon with seventeen different types of courses being run each year, this is mainly divided between tactics and skill at arms, also over 20% of training is devoted to the TA. Brecon still maintains its high standards, all the training

is physically demanding, mentally taxing and as realistic as possible. Some 80% of all work is conducted on the Sennybridge training area, regardless of the weather. All the students who have successfully passed the courses leave with the best instruction and quality training that is available to them. There is no shortage of ammunition; there is also encouragement from the staff and in most cases lots of determination from the students, which is pleasing to see.



Students use covered approach to the objective.



Students move in to assault Cellini Village.

The section commander's battle course lasts eight weeks, with the first two weeks focussed mostly in the classroom before deploying onto the training area for the remainder of the course. Within Junior Tactics Company there are sixteen instructors with a further nine instructors attached to the Senior Tactics Company, this allows ten to twelve students per instructor. The classrooms have improved hugely and all presentations are now created by power point and video. (ohp and slide carousel have had their day)!

It is vital that students are well prepared for the course. In some regiments this is not evident. Amazingly twenty to thirty students still fail the Basic Combat Fitness Test (eight miles with 44lbs plus the carriage of weapon and helmet). They are immediately returned to unit and have wasted not only a vacancy on the course but also squandered a great opportunity. I am pleased to say this is not the case with the Dukes. If students are fit and willing to learn and are determined they will have no problems passing what is a learning rather than a testing course.

The Regiment is well represented at ITC Wales, with Captain Hinchcliffe OC Snipers, WO1 Hosty as the RSM, Colour Sergeant Hollis Junior Tactics instructor and Colour Sergeant Wilson Senior Accommodation. The Battalion has now maintained a Duke instructor presence at Brecon for over 18 years!

As well as instructing at Brecon, I have also had the opportunity to be part of an overseas training team to Jordan and Cyprus, which was a great break from the Brecon winter. There are exciting times ahead at ITC Wales with the move of the Platoon Commanders' Division to Brecon in April 2004. At last Officers and NCOs will be trained in one location. However it is vital that each course maintains its unique character.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Brecon as an instructor and I am in no doubt the Battalion will continue to send determined well motivated quality Junior and Senior NCOs in the future.

Colour Sergeant L.Flitcroft

BATUS SAFETY STAFF

The wide open spaces of Alberta, Canada, play host to the British Army's Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), which provides the field army with the largest training area in the world and enables Armoured Infantry (AI) Battle Groups (BG) to fully test their ability during the training year. In order for BGs to have the freedom to exercise live and simulated there is a requirement for a substantial amount of support and safety staff. The nucleus of the safety staff are permanent and on two year postings, but in order to safely run the exercise there are a number of temporary staff that join the ranks. The post I was to fill was that of Mortar Safety Officer, call sign 38.

Having resigned myself to the fact that I was going to miss the Regiments' Tercentenary celebrations in Osnabruck, I departed Hanover airport in June for Calgary. The exercise that the BGs undertake is collectively known as Exercise Medicine Man (Med Man). Having arrived on the Saturday the next Med Man was starting on the Monday. Short of time and suffering from information overload with briefing after briefing, I was relieved to discover that I was to observe this particular Med Man and take up the reins on the next one.

The exercise is broken down into phases starting with a special to arm phase, during which the BG splits down into its Sub Units and undergoes a period of live firing. For the rifle companies this starts with zeroing personal weapons and finishes with company level mounted attacks at night. The BGs Mortar Platoon starts this phase with a simple part one technical shoot and progresses through to providing indirect fire support to those rifle companies' night mounted attacks.

With the special to arm phase completed, the BG comes together for the combined arms phase. During this period the BG is exercised in all phases of war using live ammunition. It usually starts with a BG advance with a number of quick attacks, followed by a delaying operation before withdrawing into defence

and culminating with a mounted night deliberate attack. This attack is nothing short of spectacular and demonstrates well how potent an AI BG is, with Challenger Two tanks in intimate and fire support roles, up to two AI companies-worth of Warriors, not to mention two batteries of AS90 155mm artillery pounding the position along side the Mortars and the Milan Platoon finishing off the position with live K115 missiles.

The final phase of Exercise Med Man is dry and has the BG locked into battle with a real Opposing Force (OPFOR). During this phase the safety staffs become observer controllers and ensure that the rules of the game are rigidly enforced in order to measure the successes and failures of the BG. In total, the Exercising BG spends up to 28 days solid out on the training area so the logistic back up chain is fully tested as well.

My role in all this was to make sure that every Mortar Bomb fired was safe. A relatively simple task made slightly more difficult by the vast number of moving parts. In order to keep up with the BG I was issued with a Land Rover painted red on the top; an identification feature that is vital to ensure that you are not mistaken for a target, particularly by a closed down Challenger Two. Above the passenger seat in all the Red Tops there is a cupola that allows the safety staff all round vision and a platform on which to mount your map boards etc. There is not a fair ground ride in the world to match the rush as you hurtle cross country in your wheeled vehicle trying to keep up with an armoured vehicle, whilst trying to work out if a particular grid reference is safe to fire on or not.

With three Med Mans safely tucked under my belt I returned to the Battalion having learned a great deal in late October to find them in Beckingham Camp preparing for OP FRESCO. How's that for variety?

WO2 Williams

OPERATION TELIC : THE FIRST MONTH

With American military sources declaring that, "significant military operations in Iraq are now over" the third week in April would seem to be a good time to take stock of the Battalion's role in Operation Telic to date. Anybody closely connected to the Regiment will be well aware that the Dukes had no intention of going to the Gulf until a week before the ground campaign began. The Commanding Officer's 'Reconnaissance Group' was given sixteen hours to be in theatre from the initial warning order, issued on 11 March, and the three rifle companies followed suit over the next five days. The majority of Somme Company was, of course, already committed to a Balkans tour starting at the end of April. The logistical effort to find, pack and move sufficient kit and people was huge (notwithstanding the receipt of 400 new A2 SA80 rifles) but only a taste of what was to come.

By 18 March the Dukes had 340 soldiers in Camp Rhino, north Kuwait, and we were training frantically to prepare for whatever tasks lay ahead of us. First, and foremost, lay the establishment of a Prisoner of War camp near the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. As you may expect, NBC training had a high priority, as did prisoner of war handling, first aid and rules of engagement revision. On the morning of 20 March any complacency as to the seriousness of the job ahead was shattered as Iraq responded to the US 'precision strikes' of the previous night. A surface to sea missile landed within 300m of the Battalion Command Post, but fortunately did not detonate fully. Respirators were quickly donned and fingers crossed. There was no gas and no problems, but this marked the beginning of a succession of dashes to bomb shelters over the next couple of days. Dukes' banter reigned supreme throughout the dugouts, whilst troops from other units seemed slightly less talkative! Thanks to the inaccuracy of Scud missiles, the capabilities of the American Patriot Missile cover and some good luck, the camp was not hit again during our stay.

In a way, the outbreak of the ground war on the night of 20 March came as a relief. We were able to leave the sitting target of Camp Rhino and get on with the job in hand. Following stirring speeches from the CO and Padre Pat Aldred, the Battalion mounted up and moved north as part of a 270-vehicle convoy. We stopped 50km short of the border in the aptly named holding area 'Waterloo' and the Dukes dug in en masse for the first time in war fighting since Korea. We could not admire our handiwork for long though, before we were off again, this time to within 2km of Iraq. Time for another dig and a surprisingly wet and cold night in the desert before crossing the 'breach' at 06:32 on the morning of 22 March and in to Iraq proper. British and American artillery and air strikes kept the ground shaking as we moved to within 2km of the town of Umm Qasr, Iraq's only deep-water port and of great strategic importance. Despite American claims to the contrary, this area was not cleared for a further four days and the battle raging within provided an interesting backdrop to our new location. 'Home' was now the compound around a vast 303m tall television mast, the departing American

Marines leaving us with 360 Iraqi prisoners and nowhere to keep them.

The first phase of Operation Telic began in earnest as the Dukes strove to carve a prison out of the desert with the capacity for 16,000 POWs. We were under the overall control of a headquarters element from the Queen's Dragoon Guards and had help from the Royal Engineers and 12 Regiment Royal Artillery. Burma and Corunna Companies provided perimeter security and work party manpower, whilst Alma Company began to process the increasing numbers of Iraqi prisoners arriving at the site. Some perimeter contacts with local militia aside, the war moved away to the north of us and the prisoners seemed to respond well to the even-handed treatment that they received.

With the 2,000th Iraqi 'in the bag', news came through of the redeployment of Battalion Headquarters and Alma Company north to the Divisional Support Group near the town of Safwan. Our task was to provide rear area security, reflecting increasing Coalition concerns about the vulnerability of the ever-extending supply lines to the front line on the Euphrates river. Following another dig we completed our fifth move in ten days and, after a miserable first night at the mercy of a flash flood, set about getting to grips with the local area. In effect we were back to the well-rehearsed procedures of patrolling, vehicle checkpoints, escorts and intelligence gathering, exactly as we have done so often in Northern Ireland and Kosovo. It was strange to be embarking on peace support operations when the war was still raging only 20km up the road. After the success of some early operations to neutralise the militia left in the area, Safwan and its environs quickly returned to comparative normality and our thoughts turned north once more.

The new object of our attention was the town of As Zubayr, 10km south of Basra and with a swollen war-time population of 500,000 people. The Black Watch and 2nd Royal Tank Regiment had been hard-pressed controlling the town during the previous week and had endured countless small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks. However, their robust response and the increasing gains of Coalition forces in nearby Basra had effectively silenced the militia for the time being. On 3 April, Alma and Battalion HQ moved to relieve the Black Watch in As Zubayr and were joined by Burma and Corunna Companies in the next few days. Once the priorities of establishing a workable base (ironically enough in an old Iraqi barracks) and force protection had been achieved, the cut-down Landrovers of the Battalion took to the streets in earnest.

Life in As Zubayr has been busy. As part of 7th Armoured Brigade (the 'Desert Rats') we were intimately involved with the liberation of Basra (although not actually entering the city). There have been numerous searches, arrests, huge weapons finds, shootings and aid distribution points to run. The number of troops under the Dukes' umbrella has risen to well over 500 with the addition of such diverse attachments as search dog teams, NBC monitors, RMP personnel, US military media cells and a number of assets from our new support element, 3 Commando Brigade.

As I write Alma Company is once again on the move as the Battalion sets about dominating the whole of the Iraqi sector to the immediate south and east of Basra in order to allow the Royal Marines to return home.

Flexibility will remain our watchword as Operation Telic enters a new, less intense, but equally important phase.

Captain Dan Pawson

The East and West Riding Regiment

Commanding Officer's Introduction

As summer drew to a close and the Havercake March faded in the memory we thought that we might be able to draw breath, when Op FRESCO put paid to any thoughts of relaxation! Our role as Military Liaison Officers to West Yorkshire meant that Major Nigel Rhodes and the QM spent weeks preparing the ground for the FRESCO troops. It was particularly pleasing to see the 1st Battalion back on the patch, although perhaps in circumstances neither of us expected. The novelty has worn off and although it is always a pleasure to host the troops from a variety of regiments, the inconvenience caused by the portakabins and loss of classrooms and offices is becoming tedious, especially during the long periods of stand down. In addition, we have been working on our role as a Civil Contingency Reaction Force in response to a major disaster. Over 300 soldiers have volunteered for this duty so far, with

the Dukes contributing a large proportion of the force. Initial training included a study period attended by representatives from the emergency services and local authorities and also the New York National Guard who gave a presentation on 9/11.

We have also managed to maintain a full training programme, including a CAST, a Christmas weekend (where Ypres Company won the inter-company sports competition) and field firing. The Training Major is now planning hard for two annual camps in Bulgaria and Otterburn. Finally all this has been against the backdrop of events in the Middle East. While we have not yet made a significant contribution, nine soldiers have been mobilised (three of them from the Dukes' companies). Our thoughts are with them and their families and we wish them all a safe and speedy return.

YPRES COMPANY

Following a two year posting as Officer Commanding E&WRR Regimental Recruit Training Team, it was indeed a privilege to return to Huddersfield in September and assume command of Ypres Company.

Not being a native Yorkshireman I was pleased to find that in my absence nothing much in the Company has changed. The same personalities and sense of humour prevailed, as did the Yorkshire battle cry of "how much?" in the bar.

However, time for reminiscing was short and I quickly found myself being absorbed into the hectic and demanding training and events programme that typifies the modern TA Infantry Company.

The last quarter of 2002 saw the Company concentrating on platoon level infantry skills, with joint exercises with Fontenay Company at Catterick Training Area. Then providing honour guards and troops for Remembrance Services and parades in the Dukes' heartland of Huddersfield, Halifax, Keighley and Skipton. On the same weekend the Company conducted its annual Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner at Huddersfield TAC, with the Commanding Officer E&WRR and Deputy Honorary Colonel Charles Dent in attendance. That night we bid farewell to my predecessor, Major Jeremy Hughes, who is now on a FTRS engagement with HQ 2 Division and WO2 Ward whose civilian employment has also taken him to Edinburgh. We wish them both every success with their future careers.

The year culminated in grand style with the Company seizing first place at the Regimental sports weekend,

with particularly commendable performances from the football and volleyball teams. Apologies to the volleyball team for my contribution; I appear to be suffering skill fade.

In the new year the Company turned its attention to ITD training, concentrating on basic individual military skills. However, these weekends took on a greater importance than usual this year as the Regiment prepares for its new role as part of the Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF).

This MACA tasking is aimed to provide a mobile rapid reaction force capable of assisting the emergency services in dealing with an array of civil emergencies. The horrific events of 11 September 2001 clearly illustrated the need and benefit of the maintenance of such a force.

The associated planning processes for the role were rehearsed in late January, as the Company command team was put through its paces in a Regimental CCRF TEWT weekend. The weekend included guest speakers from the Police, Fire and Ambulance services and two members of the New York National Guard who discussed their first hand experiences of the Twin Tower tragedy.

The Company's soldiers had to volunteer for this role, which requires extra specialist training and the support for the task was excellent, with 78% of Ypres Company rising to the challenge. At grass roots level there is a general feeling that this is a great opportunity for the TA to operate locally in a credible role and further prove its worth.



The Colonel of the Regiment presents the Tercentenary Statuette to Major Mark Hunter, with Colonel Charles Dent looking on.

March brought with it a further highlight, as Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter presented the Company with a statuette commemorating the Tercentenary. The silver statuette depicts a present day Corporal and a Corporal of 1702 in period uniform. The Huddersfield TAC is steeped in the traditions of the 33rd and there are few better places in Yorkshire to display such a grand piece.

Looking to the future, the Company is in great shape to meet the challenges of the coming year and is

currently over-strength, with fifty new recruits being attested in the last twelve months. We continue to provide support to the regular army, with twelve soldiers on FTRS engagements this year in Bosnia, Cyprus and Kosovo. In addition, we have had the recent mobilisation of Corporal Armitage for Operation Telic. We wish them all the best and look forward to their return in the not too distant future.

Major M. K. Hunter

THE TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR

Major Peter Knight continues his story as he commands his Company in Britain after its return from France in June 1940

As I stepped ashore at Southampton it seemed to me that the war was over; it was not, it was just beginning. We were treated as heroes by the good people of that great port. The healing process had begun; with tea and sandwiches and sleep all the way to Leeds, by a most circuitous route, punctuated with stops at many stations at each of which there were more refreshments, more welcome smiles. The mothers of England were aroused for their young. But the country lay under the pall of a blackout at night and by day the dark clouds of war gathered without remission. At Leeds we found ourselves in the new council flats that had been built by the corporation not far from the city centre, an enormous round edifice which existed for years after. Here I was discovered by my wife and father who had come in search of me. They had had no news of me for many weeks and feared for my safety, due, I was told, to the alarming reports of the Battalion Padre who had preceded us. My recollections of this time are not so

clear cut; I must I think, have been suffering from shock and lack of sleep for a long while. At first we went to Preston in Lancashire for a time, the men doing pioneer work. Shortly afterwards we were sent to Dumfries. By this time the CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Llewelyn, Lu, had resumed command of the Battalion. He sent me on some local mission for which transport was required. I went to see the transport officer, Derek Holland, later to become Assistant Town Clerk Bradford, who loaned me a motorbike. I had not ridden one before, but I soon mastered the machine but was taken by surprise when the hand-throttle jammed at considerable speed as I was going down the high street in the town!

I was then despatched on a Company Commanders' course in Edinburgh and for five weeks Gwen was able to join me. We found some lodgings in Colington outside the city in the house of a university professor. I remember the charming and hospitable way in which his wife dealt with our query whether they were willing

to put us up. We must have been very trusting to suppose that they might take pity on us and, they very generous to respond so warmly to us - sassenachs at that! I shall remark later upon the generous hospitality of the Scottish folk and now I reflect again how often in such troublous times so many people responded to our needs. The Company Commanders' course was not very good in my estimation. I did not enjoy a good relationship with my course instructor who had not seen active service and was not inspiring. After the course I returned to my unit and my wife returned home.

The Battalion was then moved to Alloa near Stirling for sundry duties. 'A' Company was billeted in the schoolhouse in a little village called Airth of which I retain many happy associations. On our arrival the village constable was most helpful. I had set aside the headmaster's study for myself, but as evening fell the constable approached me with an envelope containing an invitation to stay at Airth Castle, close to the village and owned by Mr and Mrs Forrester. Here I stayed in great style and comfort for some time whilst we carried out our further training and duties. My hosts were extremely agreeable and treated me as one of the family, for they had a young daughter only. I cannot remember how long I stayed there but it was several weeks. It spanned the month of September during the German blitz of London and the south east of England for each night when we listened to the news we were heartened by the reports of RAF successes. One night the figure was a double century. My host and hostess were two most attractive people, most solicitous for my comfort and wellbeing and did not make me feel in the least the inconvenience I must have been to them. It was a time of recuperation. My host poured out his scotch liberally for me of an evening, took me shooting with him, and entertained me to dinner each night. They had servants, of course, who treated me with great courtesy. My batman Kenneth Ward attended me each morning. One day his curiosity got the better of him and whilst handling my 4.5 colt pistol (Officers, for the use of) managed to blow the leg off a small table in my bedroom! He was very shamefaced. Sibyl Forrester took the news in her stride.

Once a week the local unit of the Home Guard paraded on the lawn in front of the castle and were drilled by my CSM or one of my other NCOs. One of the Home Guard soldiers was called Fish. One parade evening he brought my host a fine salmon which, Sandy Forrester told me later, he had poached from his own river! In the meantime my men in the village were being entertained by the local inhabitants. Regular dances were organised for their benefit and many Scottish reels were danced with the local lasses. From time to time we were visited either by officers from Battalion HQ or from Brigade. Once by a General from Scottish Command. I remember he quizzed me on my experiences in France. We were doing a route march and he joined us for a while until I frightened the life out of him by my sudden cry "enemy aircraft - you're all a lot of bloody monkeys get off the ground!" The drill was for the men to clamber into the trees at the side of the road. The General was not very amused but I think I earned full marks for originality.

On another occasion we received a visit from the GOC-in-C, General Sir Alan Brooke and the CIGS (Chief of the General Staff). This was for me a most traumatic occasion made all the worse as I had only about an hour's notice. But I was partly to blame for the very near military disaster that followed. It was like this. Companies were required to send a copy of their weekly training programmes to Battalion HQ by way of report on their activities. For each Saturday morning I had inserted in the training slot 'Interior Economy' a well understood euphemism for cleaning quarters. I then received instructions from the CO to the effect that Saturday mornings would be devoted to training and cleaning quarters would be carried out in men's time. As I didn't agree with this, I used to fill in the Saturday slot on the training programme with some exercise or another - 'Company in Attack', 'Company in Defence' and carry on with cleaning quarters regardless of the programme. On the particular Saturday morning of the visitation from on high I received a telephone call from the CO - once more Major Jimmy Ogden, the CO having again left the Battalion to take charge of a troop carrier unit I later heard. The conversation went somewhat as follows:

Me : Hello, this is Captain Knight speaking.

CO : Peter, this is the CO. Be prepared for a visit from the Commander-in-Chief together with the Divisional Commander.

Me : But Sir I'm not ready for an inspection this morning, the Company is doing Interior Economy.

CO : Your training programme shows that you are doing an exercise - 'Defence of Airth Railway Station'.

Me : But you know I always do Interior Economy on Saturday mornings.

CO : I don't know any such thing.

Me : What about the other companies?

CO : They are all doing Interior Economy! Get on with it.

The great thing about being CO is you can always have the last word.

I got on my bicycle and hared down to Company HQ and quickly gave orders to my officers and the CSM. The platoon officers and section leaders from each platoon were to get into our sole company truck and the CSM was to march the rest of the company to Airth railway station as quickly as possible. On arrival we all got out of the truck and I explained the situation, made up a story and told the section leaders where they had to take up positions with their imaginary men - pending the arrival of the rest of the Company under the CSM. All too soon the vast entourage of cars arrived at the RV - the railway station - where I waited with much trepidation. Suddenly I was surrounded by a large number of high ranking officers from GHQ, Division and Brigade together with the CO and Adjutant of the Battalion. I was introduced by the Brigade Major and then had to explain the tactical situation to the GOC and assembled company. I had to repeat the story I had

already told my officers and embellished the account as much as I dared. We all marched off, the GOC Home Forces, Sir Alan Brooke, taking the lead with me alongside and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir John Dill, in close company. We came to a crossroad, the GOC stopped and turning to the CIGS said: "Where would you put your anti-tank rifles?" They then had a discussion poking about in the hedges at either side of the road trying to find the best positions. The rest of us stood by and awaited the outcome. Then we moved off. The GOC said he was rather pushed for time but could he see one section. I took him to where Corporal Fannon (a very smart NCO who always had the right answers) and his section were supposed to be. He always told me what I wanted to know, but I never felt quite confident about what he said! As the GOC quizzed him I knew we were alright. With the greatest aplomb he outlined the situation, pointed out where his imaginary men were and added some embellishments of his own to the outline story so hurriedly thought up but a few minutes before. The GOC was evidently impressed for, turning to the CIGS he said how well the company had been concealed!

The Brigade Major pressed forward and said that the cavalcade would have to move on if they were to visit the rest of the units on their schedule. As they were all getting back into their cars I asked the Brigade Major where they were heading. He indicated the road down which, I could see in the distance, the rest of the company in column of march. I said "please do not go that way Sir" and pointing to another road suggested that it would be more direct. Off they went, the way I had indicated, leaving me with the Commanding Officer and Adjutant.

At that point the rest of the company arrived much to the CO's astonishment! Quick thinking borne of utter desperation had again won the day. As the CO said to me, as he realised the full implications of all that he had seen - or failed to see, if you follow me - "Peter I don't know how you do it". A great moment of triumph for me for which I should have felt shame. All I felt was relief! Thank heaven I was never called upon for an encore! In future my training programme showed Saturday mornings devoted to 'Interior Economy'.

to be continued ...

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

Smallbore Shooting Competition

During December 2002 and January 2003, detachments took part in the Company smallbore shooting competition and we did very well, with Keighley detachment coming out as Senior winners and Halifax detachment being the Junior winners.

Both these teams now go forward to the County smallbore championships on 15 February 2003, so we wish them both good luck and hope that they can maintain this standard against detachments from the rest of the County.

Cadet 100 Badges

While visiting Bisley to take part in the Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting, two of our Cadets achieved the Cadet 100 badges. They are Corporal Naylor of Keighley detachment and Corporal Grange of Halifax detachment. Congratulations to them both.

Christmas Weekend

November saw us holding our usual Cadet Christmas weekend at CTC Strensall. We had some 160 Cadets with us for the festivities, and, as usual, the adult staff served the Cadets' evening meal while wearing fancy dress (and, as usual, we had some very strange outfits!) This was followed by the customary entertainment with skits etc from the Cadets and the staff organised a Generation Game show for the Cadets, and, following their success at the Christmas weekend two years ago, Pete Cole and his Bongo boys performed again (the OC and three officers playing drums with a black light display) which went down very well.

Adult Training Weekend

This took place at CTC in January and is our yearly refresher and skills test for the staff. On the Saturday

evening we had a Curry Supper where we hosted Lieutenant Colonel Whitmore, CO East and West Riding Regiment, and Major Tim Pennett, OC 269 (WR) Battery, Royal Artillery.

Army Benevolent Fund

Halifax detachment has been fund raising for the Army Benevolent Fund throughout the year and they rounded the year off just before Christmas with a bag-packing day at the local supermarket. The amount raised, together with funds raised earlier in the year, gave them a total of £901 to hand over to the ABF. They have since received a letter of thanks from the ABF notifying them that they are the winners of the Army Benevolent Fund Trophy for this year. The trophy will be presented to the detachment shortly. Well done Halifax.

Lord Lieutenant's Certificates

This year has seen the award of two Lord Lieutenant's Certificates to 'D' Company staff, first to Captain Steve Marren, Staff Officer Admin at 'D' Company Headquarters, and also to Captain Michelle Sumner, who is now working on our County Training Team. Congratulations and well done to both of them.

Captain S. A. Marren

Exercise Iron Duke 2002

This year's competition took on a new look, with the East and West Riding Regiment responsible for the co-ordination and administration of three Annual Cadet Competitions over the same weekend. Silver Bugle for the Light Infantry Cadets, White Horse for the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire Cadets, and Iron Duke for our own Cadets.

For the second year running the Competition was in danger of being cancelled, this year due to the firemen's strike. Wathgill Camp had been booked for the event, but was taken over by a regular unit which had priority for the strike. It was therefore decided to run with a one-day competition at Strensall to avoid cancellation. The main emphasis was on the march, shoot and assault course, all key skills for the Cadets, with additional military interest stands as concurrent activities. These included observation, judging distance, grenade throwing and various command tasks.

Over 300 Cadets from all three Cap Badges took part in the competitions, which were very well organised by the East and West Riding Regiment. WO2 'Baz' Roberts, SPSI of Fontenay Company, and his team were instrumental in ensuring that the Competition ran as smoothly as possible, even after the late arrival of the

Halifax Cadets who had a slow puncture problem on route.

Over the last few years the Cadet Detachments from Yorkshire North and West had held the trophy. This year however, after a very close-run competition, the trophy went to Birdwell Detachment from Humberside and South Yorkshire.

Corporal Nicola Chesney, the team captain of Birdwell, should be congratulated on her excellent leadership skills and above all the remainder of the team for their determination and professionalism.

Lieutenant Colonel Drake, who has had a close affiliation with the Dukes' Cadets from his time as Commanding Officer of 3 DWR, kindly presented the prizes.

The overall scores and final placing were as follows:-

STAND & TEAM SCORE	MIRFIELD	HUDDS	HALIFAX	THONGS BRIDGE	SPEN VALLEY	BIRDWELL	ENDCLIFFE	BARNLEY	DARFIELD	WATH / WOMBWELL
ASSAULT COURSE	2	1	5	8	10	10	6	7	4	3
MARCH	4	8	7	10	2	5	7	10	1	4
SHOOT	6	5	7	8	1	10	9	4	4	2
KIM'S GAME	10	4	4	7	7	8	4	10	7	1
TOTAL SCORE	22	18	23	33	20	33	26	31	16	10
PLACING	6	8	5	2	7	1	4	3	9	10

Captain A. Pigg



Lieutenant Colonel Drake presents the Iron Duke Trophy to Corporal Nicola Chesney.



Lieutenant Colonel Drake presents the runner-up Plaque to Sergeant Lambert.

THE BRECON MYTH

The Dukes have enjoyed much success both with students and directing staff at the Infantry Training Centre Wales. This training establishment, which is centred on the Welsh tourist town of Brecon, has a much-feared reputation for destroying soldiers and their careers. The Training Centre has a proud history of training as close to the safety margin as possible, in order to produce exciting and testing training. The Centre ethos mimics that of its owners, Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA) "Train in, not select out". The stories of hardship endured by students attending courses in mid-Wales are often the result of failed students returning to their units trying to find excuses for their own poor performance.

The truth is that to fail any course within the Infantry Training Centre Wales is very difficult. The individual is taught the subject matter, then rehearsed and finally tested. If there are problems then the student is given a second chance to prove himself. Every student attending a course is assessed throughout the training period as an individual. For example the student Platoon Sergeant will not be given "appointment fail" if the Platoon Commander gets lost on the march to the forming up point. He may be criticised for not helping to navigate, but he will be fairly judged on his own performance. Each week the directing staff sit through a grading meeting to discuss the students and their performance of that week. The Platoon Commander or syndicate instructor will then write a weekly report in the student's report book which the student will read, sign and have a chance to reply to the positive and negative criticism. Alongside the stories of woe are also the stories of character clashes. Let it be stressed now that there is no such thing as a character clash in any ATRA training establishment. Each course has its own training plan which is constructed by the course design cell. With the training plan comes the assessment plan; this describes how a grade is awarded for each of the objectives the student must pass to complete the course satisfactorily. The assessment areas for the tactics courses are as follows:

1. Course preparation
2. Estimate and planning
3. Orders
4. Liaison
5. Delegation/supervision/prioritisation and timings
6. Command and Control
7. Achievement of mission
8. Leadership
9. Attitude and effort
10. Initiative and anticipation
11. Battlefield awareness
12. Robustness
13. Fieldcraft
14. Military knowledge
15. Communication

All these assessment areas fall into a system by which the student is graded. The assessment system concentrates on the following headings:

1. Initial assessments
2. Physical tests (failure to pass the BCFT is no longer a return to unit offence)
3. Written assessment
4. Battle procedure assessment
5. Command appointments

The course assessment plan has produced an electronic grading system, which utilises a weighted scoring system for each activity conducted. The directing staff grade each activity from a scoring system of 1 to 25. This score is then inserted into a Microsoft Excel formulated document, which in turn reveals the student's grade for the event and the final overall course grade. This procedure ensures a fair grading system for the student.

Having served at the Infantry Training Centre for two years, the effort that is put in by all the directing and supporting staff to conduct fair and testing courses is enormous. Each training company within the Infantry Training Centre Wales wants to achieve a 100% pass rate on every course conducted. The mentality of each instructor is that it is his responsibility to the Infantry to train every individual to the required standard who walks through the gates of the Brecon training centre. Of the individuals who attended any of the fourteen courses conducted at the training centre only 3% have failed. This excellent pass rate should dispel the rumours of Brecon and encourage any student about to attend a course.

What does the future hold? The Platoon Commanders' Division move from Warminster to Brecon will commence in September 2003, with the first course conducted in January 2004. It will be a much-awaited and a welcomed chance to train all Officers, SNCOs and JNCOs of the Infantry in the same place. Young Officers should be encouraged by this move and relish the challenges which await them in Brecon.

Captain J. P. Hinchliffe
OC Sniper Division



Captain J. P. Hinchliffe and WO1 (RSM) C. Hosty.

LEADERSHIP

We are most grateful to Colonel Peter Mitchell, who commanded our 1st Battalion in 1972-75, for his permission to publish extracts from a talk on Leadership that he gave to the officers of 1 RBGW in September 2002. We feel that this extract, which covers operations in Korea, is particularly relevant as we mark the 50th Anniversary of that conflict. Ed.

When I was first asked to talk to you on the subject of Leadership in its widest sense, I was rather hesitant, since by definition you are all leaders and I know that as a young officer I would have regarded someone who had fought in the Boer War fifty years before as being wildly out of date. That, although I have difficulty in believing it, is the same time difference as between me and you, although there have not been two world wars in between to intensify social and tactical changes and equipment development and as a result things have been more evolutionary over the past few decades. Anyway it was put to me that my experiences as an infantry officer since 1952 could be useful in highlighting various circumstances of the past and how they were approached and dealt with at the time.

So on that basis I am very pleased to be here and to have the opportunity of talking to you, the members of a Regiment in which my nephew is serving and in one of whose constituent regiments (The Royal Berkshires), my stepfather and both my godfathers served, and with which I retain links through one of my oldest friends, Desmond Redding. I was last in this Mess some three years ago when the Dukes were doing their spell of public duties, which rather to my surprise they thoroughly enjoyed.

I was commissioned into the Regiment from Sandhurst in July 1952 and after various courses, embarked in January 1953 on the 28 day troopship run to Kure, Japan, where the Commonwealth Division, which was fighting in Korea as part of a UN force, had its base and battle school. It is worth reminding ourselves that, at that time, the British Army of strength of around about 400,000 had 85,000 troops in West Germany, facing a massive Soviet force whose war plan involved reaching the Channel ports in 72 hours.

Our journey took us past Gibraltar and Malta, both significant RN bases for the Mediterranean Fleet, with small garrisons, missing Cyprus which was peaceful at the time (although Enosis was becoming an issue and the Grivas campaign broke out a couple of years later) then through the Canal Zone with a large garrison protecting the vast bases there and the vital sea link to the Far East, air travel being in its infancy. Already low level attacks were taking place on our forces in the zone, culminating in the Suez Crisis of 1956. We stopped at Aden, where a garrison was securing the important refuelling facility, keeping the peace locally, and protecting the frontier with Yemen.

It sounds rather a Cook's tour because our next stop was Colombo, Ceylon, a naval and Air Force base, then to Singapore, the HQ and base for the long-running major campaign against the Communist Terrorists in Malaya.

In Hong Kong there was a divisional garrison to protect the colony against the perceived threat from the Chinese Communists who had recently won their long war against Chiang Kai Shek's nationalists (who went to Formosa) and whose "volunteers" were fighting against us in Korea. So finally we arrived in Kure. I have deliberately taken some time over this trip to emphasise the world-wide nature, size, scale and diversity of the challenges facing the British Army at that time, and I have not mentioned the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya, or independence movements in British Guiana both of which took up further infantry units. Overstretch was endemic, with battalions of National Servicemen, both at junior rank and young officer level. Looking back, the level of commitment and competence shown by these young men during their two years of service was quite remarkable, even if the equipments and procedures were relatively simple by today's standards.

After a short spell at the battle school in the mountains behind the city (the battle indoctrination was dangerous and scary and certainly would not be allowed today), I joined my battalion, part of 29 Brigade. The whole Commonwealth Division was in Corps reserve at the time, but we moved back up into the line in April. The war had at this stage reached a stalemate; the North Korean initial attack in 1950 had been close to complete success, but the UN counter attack had reached the Korea/Chinese border on the Yalu river. This brought in the Chinese so called "volunteers" who drove the UN forces back to roughly the original frontier between the two Koreas, where both sides dug in on ridge lines facing each other over paddy fields, but there were areas where the lines were a good deal closer as shall be seen.

The battalion was about 750 strong, two thirds of whom were National Service, supplemented in rifle platoons by six or so Katcoms, who were Korean soldiers attached to British battalions to increase strength. If one was lucky, the Korean NCO would speak a few words of English, so their employability was very limited. We tended to deal with any disciplinary problems in a direct and internal fashion within the platoon since, if a Katcom was returned to the Korean Army, he was likely to be shot for letting down the nation. Weapons within the platoon were the bolt-operated rifle as a personal weapon, two bren guns per section, doubling the normal allocation, the unpopular sten gun (SMG), prone to accidental discharge and without much knock down power for NCOs (I bought myself a M1 Carbine for a pittance for patrol use), and one Browning belt-fed 300 MG per platoon. We also had one 2 inch mortar mostly used to provide night illumination by para flare. For communications, in addition to field telephones whose lines got cut in any intense artillery fire, there was one 88 radio for platoon HQ and others for patrols. Rations were almost all the hated compo, cooked by the CQMS and brought up in hayboxes, we envied the US with their much more luxurious packs.

Medical cover was provided by an RMO and a first aid post at Battalion HQ, and we had a RAMC Corporal

with each Company. Platoon Commanders carried two morphine syringes for immediate use on casualties. Behind there was the usual chain of medical support and, for the first time, helicopters were used for casevac.

We were each given fifty cigarettes a week; mail took a week or so to arrive and get back so communication with family and friends was pretty tenuous. No phones, television, newspapers - other than the Divisional news sheet. NAAFI operated behind the front and concert parties did visit. Films were shown when in reserve, so, by the standard of the times, we were well looked after and I certainly don't recall morale being a problem.

In this static situation and with the luxury of total air domination, action all took place at night, so our days were spent in personal and unit administration, rest, briefing and preparation for the night activities. During stand to at last light, a favourite time for a Chinese assault, the standing patrols would go out so as to be in position before the enemy got across no man's land. These were sited up to 100 metres in front of our lines on a likely approach to give early warning of an attack, and were composed of six to eight men equipped with a sniperscope (an early night vision device) and as many submachine guns as could be spared, since any action was likely to be ferocious and at very close quarters. A little later the recce and fighting patrols would go out - these were normally led by a junior officer and the aim was to dominate no man's land, ambush likely enemy routes and gain intelligence.

In early May the Battalion took over the Hook feature from the Black Watch and immediately started to strengthen the defences, most importantly by providing substantial overhead cover for both fighting positions and the communication trenches, against what seemed a likely attack in the near future. This feeling was confirmed by that most unlikely event, a Chinese deserter, who said that an assault on the Hook position by an eight company force was imminent. Patrol activity was reinforced and our standing patrols whose positions were well known to the Chinese were attacked most nights in a vain attempt to force us to give them up. The CO took the decision that these patrols should be led by junior NCOs rather than YOs, so that platoon commanders would be in the main defences when the attack occurred. Some small but nasty actions took place, and we had a number of casualties. Enemy shellfire during the day and night on the main company positions was obviously registering on targets and did cause some disruption. After about ten days of this

preparatory activity during which about 10,000 shells were fired at the battalion, the attack took place at last light on 28 May. Considerable damage to the Hook defences had occurred during the build up, and the assault troops did break through the wire onto the feature. However, the defenders remained in the bunkers and tunnels fighting off the enemy who was forced to remain in the open, sustaining large casualties from our artillery firing VT fused munitions. A counter-attack cleared the feature and subsequent attempts by the Chinese to form up were destroyed by our artillery.

This was a major battle and you might be interested in some statistics. That night our Divisional artillery fired over 32,000 rounds and Corps artillery fired a further 5,814. Approximately a further 10,000 shells were fired by the Chinese. Our casualties that night were three officers and seventeen men killed, two officers and eighty-four wounded, with twenty men missing. In addition we had a further fifty casualties during the build up to the battle, giving a total of 176 men, which was a high proportion of the rifle company strengths. These figures did not rate much interest at home at the time, as the population was used to long casualty lists from the second world war, and it is an interesting commentary on changing attitudes that such a figure would today result in considerable press interest. A major factor in the success was the calm, measured manner of the CO, who had to take decisions which he knew would lead to casualties, but which were necessary for success. He had foreseen that the initial attack was likely to gain a foothold, but planned that our troops should stand fast, fighting from bunkers and tunnels, with reinforcements being fed in from the reserve company to clear the remaining enemy off the position. However the decisive factor in the successful defence was the impact of the artillery. I have already mentioned the use of VT fuze on the Hook itself, and at the same time the planned pattern of defensive fire tasks and interdiction of the Chinese forming up areas, and routes, caused chaos to their attack plans. Overall it was estimated from radio intercepts that Chinese casualties in the battle were 250 killed and 800 wounded, effectively destroying the assault brigade. It should be said that the forward observation teams from the Royal Artillery, having steadfastly remained in post controlling fire throughout the battle, sustained casualties of three killed and eleven wounded.

to be continued ...

THE CHALLENGE OF THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

We continue with David Gilbert-Smith's reflections on military life in the new century. Those with first-hand knowledge of service in the SAS Regiment may find the early paragraphs surprising; on the other hand, those with first-hand knowledge of David Gilbert-Smith may not! Ed.

Afternote: Alas; we have now learned that David died on 24 March, after a courageous battle against cancer. We publish his article confident that it would have been his wish that we should do so. Ed.

Answering an ever-driving need for greater challenges I joined the SAS in 1961.

After passing my Selection Course and basic Parachute Course I arrived at Hereford feeling very pleased with myself. My Squadron Commander greeted me with the 'suggestion' that it might be a good idea to spend two to three days in the Brecon Beacons getting to know my new Troop. After having chased across the Brecon Beacons all day long Geordie, the Troop Sergeant, suggested in the evening that we all went for a pie and a pint at the local pub.

"Great idea" I said. Once there he said "What'll you have?" "A pint of cider please." I saw him grimace. I looked around as he ordered and suddenly noticed that all the 'boys' had disappeared and we were left alone. I took a deep satisfying gulp and put the glass down. Geordie was watching my every movement. He pursed his lips and said "You come walking into the Regiment with your three shiny stars on your shoulders and your medals flapping on your chest and you think that we will follow you. Well, we won't." It was said as a factual statement. There was no emotion in his voice.

I could not believe what I had just heard! I was dumbstruck. Sergeants did not speak to their officers like that! I became conscious that he was watching me curiously as he awaited my re-action. After a long pause I said "Go on then, Geordie, what are you wanting to tell me?" "Ah" he said "Let's grab our drinks. There are a couple of seats in the corner." We settled ourselves in for a long session.

He led off with a question "Why do you think we won't follow you?" I paused then said "I suppose it's because I'm brand new and you don't know me from Adam" "Partially" he replied, "You have just joined us and through no fault of your own you know nothing about the Regiment." I noted his appellation for the SAS. He looked around for a suitable analogy.

"You're a bit of a rigger player aren't you?" I nodded, "Well imagine that you have arrived here as the appointed Captain of our team only to find that it's not rugby union that we play but rugby league! It's not that rugby league is a better or worse game than rugby union it is just that the two codes are totally different in spite of having some things in common. Hence we have a totally different modus operandi, a different culture, attitude and way of doing things, a different style of leadership about which you know nothing at this moment." The penny began to drop.

"So the need is to learn all you can about rugby league and develop your prowess at playing it and captaining the team before we can accept you as our skipper." That made sense. I thought of the difficulties that our Dukes rugby league boys had in changing from one code to another.

"Who carries the responsibility in the meantime?" I asked. "You do" he said with a smile. "But what if the troop won't follow me?" I asked. "Responsibility and followership are not necessarily mutually inclusive" he said "When you have our trust, respect and confidence in your competence then you will have our loyal following. Work it out for yourself" he said "Would you follow a newly appointed Captain who had only played rugby league?"

"What's the quickest way to learn" I asked. "Well, the greatest asset we have is our brains. So the best way to learn is to ask the right questions in order to find and apply the right answers. You will find most of the deepest wells of knowledge and experience are in your own Troop, as well as the Squadron Officers obviously. It will mean unlearning all the years of conventional stuff that has been regimented into you and learning afresh all our ways. For instance in the conventional army the guy at the top is the one who is expected to do all the thinking and the rest of us blindly follow his

orders without question. "Ours not to reason why ... Our but to do and die" and all that stuff. This has worked well for the conventional army and has helped to win our battles over the last three hundred years. Here we like to do our thinking. If we stick with the rigger analogy the pack is like the regimented conventional army, they have to shove and work together as a single cohesive force, whilst the SAS are more like the outsiders. Here we are all thinking soldiers who like to be involved in the operational planning. Here we all take responsibility for achieving success on the ground. It's your job to sort through the ideas to find the best ones and then form them into a plan and strategy. The more you delegate the better. Always remember, our lives are the best weapon we have and we never aim to squander them needlessly."

He could see I had gone very thoughtful. "Can you give me an example of the sort of thing I have to 'unlearn'" I said. "Well, for instance, in the conventional army you are taught to make up your mind, make your decision and stick to it through thick and thin, otherwise you will get 'order, counter order and disorder'. This is drilled into every officer. Here we learn to do the exact opposite, to keep all our options open for as long as we can and play our cards according to circumstances." I thought of our opposing Chinese Commander in the battle of the Hook who had so obviously made up his mind some three weeks before the battle whilst probably knowing that a disaffected soldier had slipped across the lines and spilt the beans to us. No wonder he was trounced.

"How long will it take to unlearn all the old and learn afresh all the new?" "How long is a piece of string?" he answered "That depends on you. The more you can handle 'feedback' the quicker it will be. The Regiment believes in saying what they truly think and feel in a constructive and positive way to your face, not to criticise people behind their backs; that's plainly destructive. Some new Troop Officers have the biggest trouble with handling criticism simply because they haven't learnt how to handle power and have too big a damaged ego." I nodded knowingly as I empathised with their problems having struggled with criticism myself.

"It's best to listen to feedback, acknowledge it and say nothing. Then you can sort it through quietly in your mind later. If you cannot handle criticism and reject it out of hand the troop will lose confidence, trust and respect in you and you'll end up with no following."

Geordie turned out to be not only a great coach but an excellent three directional leader, downwards, outwards and upwards as well, particularly upwards!

For obvious reasons the SAS does not want its former members to write about its inner secrets and modus operandi. Suffice it to say therefore the two points I soon noticed were, first, how the SAS had carved out its own special niche in the Army and had cleverly placed its former members in the top echelons of power. Sir Charles Guthrie who served with me and who was a very determined opponent on the rigger field is at the time of writing now CGS. One cannot get any higher than that! The second point was that it had established its own infrastructure so as to be always forward

looking and well ahead of the game. Its great asset that distinguished itself from others was its well known Selection Course to enable it to pick the particular mature thinking soldiers that it wanted.

I had two very enjoyable and fruitful tours with the Regiment with a short interim break back with the Dukes when I had the pleasure of playing under Dick Mundell's captaincy to win the Army Cup. Always go out at the top they say. I was 37 and all the excitement of active service and small wars I now craved seemed to be going out of army life as Prime Minister Wilson brought the army back with his 'no more East of Suez' policy. I left imagining I would settle in easily enough in civvy street, a gentle new challenge.

How wrong I was! I came out of the army as if I had landed on a new planet. I spun like a top completely out of control for the next two years desperately hawking my wares and calling card 'have gun will travel' around the embassies of the world that had wars going on, South Africa, America (Vietnam) etc. All the taken-for-granted army structure, order and administration, the travel, the responsibility, the regular 'fix' of danger and excitement, the wonderful comradeship were missing. I could not understand the very different values of civvy street where it appeared that anything goes and the devil take the hindmost. Where one had formerly been used to those old fashioned values of trust, integrity, loyalty, honour, transparency there was now dissembling, betrayal and back stabbing.

I eventually ended up in the Israeli Embassy. The Military Attaché there listened carefully to my 'sell' and then said "Major Gilbert-Smith I can see you have a lot to give. Why don't you offer it to your own country?". It spun me in my tracks. I thanked him for his help, went out into Regents Park and walked round it endlessly until it was dark. In the process I came to realise that I had indeed a rich learning from the Dukes and the SAS, specifically about leadership and teambuilding, that could be adapted and developed into a much needed place, British industry and commerce. Leadership was a dirty word in British industry at that time, the only thing that mattered being 'management'. There was little thought about the people. No wonder there were strikes, such poor performance and bad results in those days.

In hindsight I can see a tremendous need for the Dukes and /or the army at large to set up a support system to act as a sort of 'Charon' to gently ferry former soldiers across the equivalent of a River Styx from military life to a reincarnation in a civvy world on the far bank.

I soon realised that before I could get anywhere with my new found purpose I had to do some thorough research and development in Industry. Thus I spent the next six years doing exactly that before establishing the Leadership Trust in 1975.

From my 'River Styxian' transitional experience of losing control of myself and spinning like a top I came to realise that *all leadership starts with oneself, with learning to know and control oneself first so that then and only then can one control and lead others*. This became the fundamental principle of the Leadership Trust and resulted in the research and creation of the Trust's original psychology to enable people to do just that.

So what are the challenges of the 21st century that the Dukes face? The obvious internal ones any of which could have a marked derogatory effect on discipline, order, control and effectiveness are recruitment, the coming of woman power to compliment manpower, the subordinating of military law to the European courts, and the legalising of homosexuals in the Services. Of these four perhaps the most difficult to assimilate is 'woman power' in order to gain the best values both for women and the army. So, of the four let us just look at the first.

For centuries past the easiest way to make good aggressive soldiers has been to remove women from the front line. Once the gentling sex is out of the way testosterone will then flow freely so that male aggression, violence, and single minded ruthlessness can be directed to hunting and killing the enemy. Sadly in the process of making good killers the side effects will include rape and pillage.

Having a single sex army for over three hundred years has inevitably created a two tier system, making men into 'military misogynists' and relegating women to feeling they are second class citizens, only having their uses in the kitchen, bedroom and in running the family.

Now because of army recruiting problems and political correctness we are attempting to go the other way by putting women in the front line to kill and be killed like any man. I believe this is morally indefensible and wrong. Why?

It is not that women are not as brave or cannot hack it physically in the front line. They can. If anything they are more used to having to endure pain in its many forms than men. Men and women are as brave as each other. One only has to look at the track record in the second world war of SOE agents such as Violet Zsabo and Odette Churchill. Conversely men can make good nurses. Each sex can perform in each others *natural* role for short spells. So why is it?

It is simply that women are *biophilus* by nature; life creating and life preserving. Nature's purpose for them is to be the home maker with the gentling role. They are not designed either mentally, physically or emotionally to be killers.

In contrast men are *necrophilus* by nature, death loving, death dealing, with the hunter /killer / provider role.

Am I saying that we men are born with a killer instinct? Yes I am! I well remember in the Borneo confrontation the thrill that ran round the team going on a 'banjo' job and the huge smiles of the Borneo head hunters with their sharp pointed teeth who were our lead scouts. On our return I recall, too, how swiftly we resumed the thin veneer of civilisation under a hot shower before donning our tuxedos followed by a quiet drink and dinner in our four star hotel. The key, I learnt, is not to deny and fight our natural instincts but to *accept* and understand them. Then we can learn how best to handle them and turn them to positive ends.

Each human being is an admixture of male and female genes. For instance an average man is say 75% male genes, 25% female. The average woman is the opposite.

This enables each man to fulfil his hunter / killer / provider role and yet be a loving, sensitive, protective husband and father at home.

Conversely each woman can fulfil nature's demand of being the warm loving wife and mother of the family. However, let a predator threaten her offspring and she can instantly turn into a ruthless killer to protect them.

Each sex's brain works differently to fulfil their respective natural roles as defined above. Man, the hunter / killer is *naturally* more single minded so as to focus *exclusively* on his 'quarry' for, if he fails to make the kill, he and his family will not survive. He has the ability to block out and bury his feelings so as not to be distracted in making his kill. In modern times the 'substitute' quarry can be business, football, or competing with the car in front and trying to overtake it! Men are more apt to be more set in their ways, more logical and consistent.

Women's brains are more open-minded and multi-functional. Thus they can sense where their children are, what they are up to, as they chat on the telephone to a friend yet at the same time be able to listen to the next door neighbour's marital spat. They are more apt to be flexible and thus have little difficulty in changing their minds as often as they want which may make them appear inconsistent yet gives them a great strength. Women, in contrast to men, do not close down on their feelings and their instincts in battle are first to tend the wounded rather than to 'stonewall' their feelings and go for the kill no matter what!

So why doesn't the army play into women's *strengths* rather than their weaknesses? Women in general make naturally good managers, excellent organisers and are very gifted in the 'intelligence role' and in networking and communication. All this and more they have to be to fulfil their prime role in bringing up the family, looking after hubby, their parents and elderly grandparents whilst all the time somehow managing to live within the family budget! Not many men can do that! When translated to an army career one can see the tremendous value they would have immediately behind the front line. They were never primarily designed to be ruthless frontline killers.

There's nothing worse than women aping men except men aping women! Putting women in the front line with men will cause enormous problems, least of all falling in love with each other, as nature intended, and forgetting all about the enemy!

What about the external challenges facing the Dukes?

The obvious ones are the ever changing battlegrounds, the different types of opponent and the constant giant leaps forward of technological knowledge and weaponry. In addition to war on land, sea and air there is the added battleground of space.

A look back at history will soon tell us, however that new weaponry and new technology can be double-edged weapons. All the big war winning discoveries and inventions from the stone age spear through to the bow and arrow, gunpowder, bolt action rifles, machine guns, artillery in all its forms, the tank, massed bomber assaults, to the coming of the atomic and nuclear bombs and all the advanced weaponry, developed since then to the present time depends on the human factor, the man behind the weapon.

In order to apply advanced weaponry one first has to have the *vision* to see the potential of new weapons and their application on the battlefield. The responsible commander then has to be able to devise the right strategy, tactics and modus operandi for their use on the battlefield and then provide the training and leadership to apply these weapons to achieve success in action.

World War One provides a wonderful example of just this. The British Army had the war winning weapon, the tank, in its clutches almost right from the start of hostilities despite the War Office turning down a prototype idea for the tank just before the war. The generals of the day on both sides soon however became locked in the nihilist strategy of winning the war by attrition, the aim being to kill more of the enemy than he did of one's own side. Their vision had narrowed exclusively to the single minded hunting and killing of the 'threat' that was in front of them, unable under those extreme pressures to be able to stand back and see the bigger picture. Closed minds are rarely inventive.

It took creative giants like Winston Churchill and Lloyd George to see the tank's potential, to produce it and insist it was tried out. Yet it wasn't until the last year and a half of the war that the tactics, modus operandi, training, co-ordination with the other arms, the infantry and artillery, and the right leadership had been established to ensure it brought victory. Significantly then the British in true character threw away all the advantages they had built up at the end of the war. Their enemy in contrast grabbed all their ideas gratefully and produced the most formidable army the world had ever seen.

Advanced technology can, however, be a double edged weapon. It is significant that in the last fifty years the most powerful nations with all their advanced weaponry have often been defeated by unconventional rag tag armies of guerillas. One has only to look back to the early 50s to see the formidable, newly formed French Colonial army, soundly beaten by the Vietnamese General Giap and his peasant army at Dien Bien Phu.

This was followed a comparatively short time afterwards with the comprehensive defeat of the world's number one superpower, America, in Vietnam by the very same General Giap. This in turn was followed by the crushing defeat of the world's second superpower, the Russians, by a motley group of Afghan rebels. Subsequently the 'cold war' defeat of the Russian superpower and all its satellites proved that wars do not always have to be won only by battles and casualties. They can be won by equally powerful weapons such as the economy.

So what does all this tell us? That it is not so much the weapons themselves as the man behind them that counts. And who is behind them? Why, it is you and me the same old human being whose genes have little changed over the last few million years. We, who start life with the same brain and faculties as every previous human has always had over that same time frame yet who are now frantically trying to catch up with and cope with an ever faster and more stressful world.

The challenge lies within ourselves. It is our human fallibility that creates disasters and failures. Arrogance, underestimating the enemy, corruption of power by power, moral weakness, massive ego problems, rigid fixated minds, a lack of will and courage, a need of aggrandisement driven by feelings of impotence, lack of sufficient intelligence of the right sort, all this and more will decide the difference between defeat or victory.

So having travelled the full circle we come right back again to the starting point, to ourselves. The brain is the greatest asset we have and the lives of our men and ourselves are our greatest weapons. Leadership is the factor that directs and controls all this; the leadership that depends on *knowing and controlling ourselves first so that then, and only then, can we lead and control others.*

As long as mankind is on the world there will always be wars. Man will always be fighting man for territory and sovereignty. He will always be energised by his testosterone into violence and killing. The more overcrowded the planet becomes the more wars there will be.

Man will always need an army and within it the infantry to take and hold ground. Thus the Dukes will always be needed, whether in their existing specialist infantry role or in a much broader context to fulfil different roles and requirements.

Wars will be different.

Will countries always feel they have to declare war first on their enemies as in the 'olden' days and then, as if playing a game of chess, have to knock out all the pawns, bishops, knights, rooks and the opposing Queen before they can checkmate the Black King? Or can we now 'change the rules' and develop the capability to leap over all the chess pieces and clobber the opposing

king in one straight move? Or is it simpler and easier to destroy an enemy from within?

So what am I advocating?

That we carve out our own special niche in the Army? Create our own Special Operations Company, with its own selection course, capable of operating in all terrain, desert, mountain, water, air with flying / glider / parachute capabilities, all trained in counter terrorism? Our own Intelligence unit and Operational Research in order to keep ourselves ahead of the field? Our own sub-unit on constant stand by ready to go to any future Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Gulf, East Timor essentially to bring back all the latest experience and information for the benefit of the Battalion?

To have our own language centres so that we may have our own trained interpreters capable of speaking the language of our present and future allies and enemies? To have our own fully qualified paramedics, some with psychological know how, in every sub-unit? To have our own computer unit so as to be able to hack into enemy and allies military computers? To have a sub-unit fully trained up in the latest nuclear, biological and chemical warfare? To have a broadly based Battalion with Officers constantly coming and going from a steady stream of *relevant* attachments to enrich and broaden their own knowledge and capability as well as that of the Dukes? To institute a career development programme for every Officer from the moment they arrive to ensure their fullest and broadest education and experience in soldiering?

Far be it for me to advocate anything. The Dukes' Officers I met recently struck me as having all the necessary intelligence and determination to ensure for themselves that the Dukes survive and prosper long into the future.

Let fortune favour the brave.

A SHORT FAMILY HISTORY

To my knowledge only four members of my family have been members of the Armed Forces. I joined, for National Service, on 17 September 1953 with John Berkshire, James Faithful and John Raybould. All of us were subalterns in Gibraltar with the 1st Battalion DWR. But enough of that has been written and spoken about already. It is the previous three members of my family who deserve the interest. My father, who was a Major during WW2, spent all his service in India, Burma and China. He was in the RAMC, spending hours flying over the 'Hump', once escaping the advancing Japanese at Kweilin. He was very reticent about his time there, except to say that he suffered badly from dysentery and malaria, usually, while flying but there were many wounded and injured from the battlefields to be cared for and saved. He could not be ill. Perhaps he had a hand in saving a 'Duke' or two!

The first member of the family to serve did so in 1640, a Lieutenant Thomas Fuller who came from Bedford. In what regiment he served I have not been able to find out but he went to the New World, Connecticut, liked a sermon he heard in church, and decided to stay. Oh, what small things decide a future!

It is the third member of the family who was the real soldier, who saw front line action. During the American Civil War, aged 20 he joined the 120th New York Regiment, State Volunteers, a new regiment. Emory Stratton Turner enlisted on 22 August 1862 at Kingston and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in D Company. On 27 August two colours were presented to the Regiment now called the Washington Guards. Their first engagement was the second battle of Bull Run but they were closer to Washington than the battlefield. Then followed Antietam, the bloodiest single day in the war in which 2nd Lieutenant Turner played a part. However the war did not cease in its intensity for there followed the disaster at Fredricksburg. The 120th were mostly in reserve and were now in General Sickles III Corps, he who advanced in front of the line at Gettysburg. At the battle of Chancellorsville there were 66 casualties. Then followed Gettysburg and here the regiment suffered 203 casualties out of a strength of 383. For half an hour they withstood basically alone the assault by Confederate brigades during the evening of the second day along Emmetsburg Road. During that late evening 2nd Lieutenant Turner, while bringing back the colours with

others, was severely wounded in the right arm. In October his arm was amputated. The 120th lost 17 officers that evening.

When the fighting ceased that second day the battlefield was an area of carnage. In contrast, "The night was calm and beautiful" as the official history put it. All, blue and gray, lay silent or crying out for water or in pain. 2nd Lieutenant Turner was discharged as unfit for duty. The regiment was in sixteen battles and belonged to the '300'. This was for all those regiments out of over 2,000 in the war who lost eight or more officers in any one battle. The regiment, out of a total enrolment of 1,562 during the war, lost killed 333. Let me quote from its original commanding officer, now General, Sharpe while dedicating the memorial to the

regiment at Gettysburg: "The Eye could not be turned in any direction along on line without seeing men fall at every moment. All the details of these colours that we bring with us today were successively shot down. Yet none shrank from the honour of carrying them."

Thank goodness I never had to bear the privations of my father and great grandfather, but I'm sure what is here will awake memories in some readers. The bravery of soldiers are not bound by colour, race or nationality; rather the pride of a body of men named a regiment overrides it all. Because of my pride in my American ancestors my nickname in the Dukes was Hiram. I wonder why?

B. T. Fell

JOHN DOUGLAS JOHNSTONE

We are most grateful to Mrs Maureen C. Van Dinter, of Wauwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, for her kind permission to publish extracts from her research into the history of her great-great-grandfather, John Douglas Johnstone, sometime Commanding Officer of the 33rd of Foot.

John Douglas Johnstone Senior was born in Lisbellaw, Co Fermanagh, in 1809. *(In a house which some Dukes will have visited when it was in the ownership of friends from our days in Palace Barracks in 1957-59. Ed)*

He joined the 33rd as an Ensign in 1827, having paid the purchase price of the day, and was gazetted as a Lieutenant in October 1834. Having been posted to Gibraltar, his son, John Douglas Junior (also later to join the 33rd), was born there in 1836. John Douglas Senior became a Major in 1849 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1855, assuming command of the 33rd in March of that year.

Just prior to the Crimean War the Regiment had served in the West Indies, Nova Scotia, Scotland and Manchester. After a brief appearance in London for the Duke of Wellington's funeral, it was sent to Ireland to

obtain recruits. While in Ireland the Regiment was presented with a new stand of colours and the next day began embarkation for Constantinople, sailing via Malta.

The Regiment landed in Constantinople on 10 April 1854. It went on to fight at Sebastopol, the Alma and Inkerman. On 19 April 1855 Johnstone, the Commanding Officer, was struck by grapeshot in the attack on the Great Redan in Sevastopol. Later his left arm had to be amputated in the hospital at Scutari, and he was evacuated from the Crimea.

After recovery from the Crimean War, Colonel Johnstone was sent, with the Regiment, to Mauritius in 1857, but the Indian Mutiny caused it to be moved to Bombay. However, Johnstone fell ill in 1858 and left for England in 1859, retiring from the army in 1860. He later bought property in Ireland and died in Dublin in 1863.

Editor's Note: How the cycle of British military life does repeat itself; Ireland, Gibraltar, West Indies, Malta, India, State Funerals, Colours Parades, War ... but, in between, periods of prosperity and peace.

MAKING YOUR WILL?

Please don't forget the Regiment

The Friends of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund was started in 1998. The fund has been and is an invaluable resource in helping to sustain and build the Regiment we are all so proud of and to foster the regimental spirit it relies upon. There is much more we could and should be doing in the future and so ensure the Regiment retains its character and place in the Army as a living testimony to all those who have served in our ranks.

If you are able to help the fund through a bequest, or in any other way, please do.

The Friends of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund is a registered charity and any bequests made to it are not subject to inheritance tax.

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

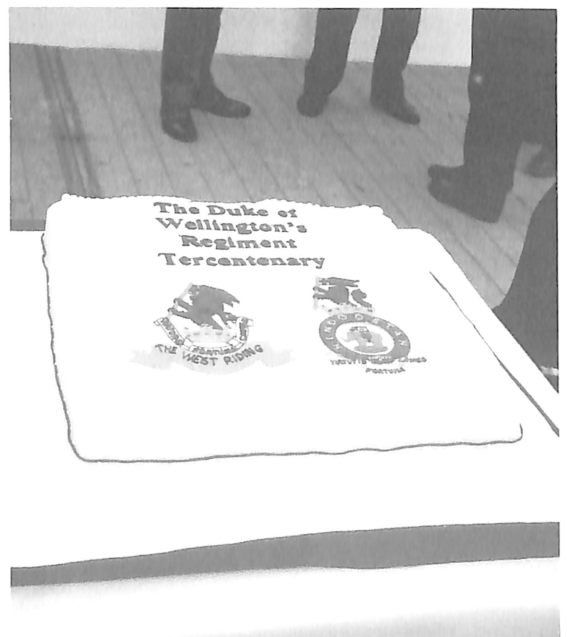
FLASHBACK TO OUR TERCENTENARY YEAR



The Colonel of the Regiment presents Sergeant John Burns with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in Halifax Town Hall on November 2002.



The Colonel of the Regiment presents a statuette to the Director of Music, Captain Gary Clegg on 2 November 2002, in recognition of the sterling work of the King's Division Normandy Band during the Tercentenary year.



A small, but delicious, part of the celebration reminds us of all the excellent work done by the chefs and many others who never appeared on stage.



Father and son: WO2 Buckingham with his father, Major E. Buckingham, who served with the 1st Battalion in the seventies.



Bill Norman (right) greets ex-Bandmaster Brian Bowyer, who now lives in Canada.



A happy reunion. Left to right Messrs Arundel, Grey and their ladies, Sugden and Greenway. There were many such reunions that weekend.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: The Laurels
Denton, Grantham
Lincs, NG32 1JZ
18 February 2003

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

You ask in the Winter 2002 issue for any other comments on your own recollections of the Colour Presentation Weekend.

In truth there can be little, if anything significant, to add to your admirable paragraphs. However, on returning home, I looked again at the Officers' photograph of the last Presentation of Colours at Catterick in April, 1981. Of those then on parade I can count some twelve of us who, our service now finished, were present at the Osnabrück weekend as spectators. There may have been one or two more, but I don't think so. Significantly, the only officer taking part in both parades, was the Commanding Officer, Duncan Bruce. Most fittingly, in 1981, he was then carrying the Honorary Queen's Colour which was marched off parade in Osnabrück.

I am sure that this singular event merits mention in your columns.

Yours sincerely,
Donald Isles

From: Ampleforth Abbey
York, YO62 4EN
2 July 2002

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

On the weekend of 22/23 June, Tercentenary events and entertainments in Belfast Barracks were brilliant beyond belief. But a word is needed about the setting - the ancient cathedral city on the Hase River's left bank.

History tells us that the crucial European Peace of Westphalia (1648) was signed by all states by the *instrumentum pacis Osnabrugense*, establishing enduring principles such as the ideal of a united 'Christendom of Europe', which lead steadily to the League of nations, then the United Nations operating essentially under 1648's agreed conventions - signed in the 'Hall of Peace' in the Rathaus, next to the church we used on Sunday!

The Times of 28 May told us that England's first Hanoverian monarch, George I (who spoke minimal English), was born in 1660 in Osnabrück. It told us too on 22 June that Erich Maria Remarque, author of 'All Quiet on the Western Front' (1929), was equally born in Osnabrück in 1898. Today there is a Remarque Peace Centre (Friedenszentrum) in the Platz des Westfälischen Friedens - where his archives are kept and his life is in a permanent exhibition.

Who knew on our Parade and Pageant day that it was E. M. Remarque's 104th birthday?

Yours faithfully,
John Stacpoole

From: 1 The Nook
Roe Green
Worsley, M28 2UA
23 January 2003

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to see the wonderful coverage of the Presentation of the Colours in the Iron Duke received this week. It was even more pleasurable for me to see that the Consecration was performed by a personal friend of mine, the Rev David Wilkes.

I was a member of A Company of the 1st Battalion in Italy in 1944 - and witnessed much gallantry there. On return to civilian life I joined Worsley Methodist Church and, for a while, David was our young parson. He left us to join the Army and we are pleased that he has risen to his present position.

Thanks again for the Iron Duke - it is looked forward to - and read avidly.

Yours sincerely
Alf Wallwork

From: 36 Northcote Avenue
Sheffield
South Yorks, S2 3AX

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

As a proud ex-soldier of the 1/7th Battalion, I was pleased to see that you published an obituary in your last edition for Peter Tandy. He served in the 1/7th Battalion from D Day throughout the North West Europe campaign as a competent infantryman until the end of hostilities.

He was a good comrade and he had many friends who will remember him with fondness.

Yours sincerely
George Marsden

From: 48 East Witton
Leyburn
North Yorkshire
DL8 4SL
24 March 2003

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Some will recall with gratitude the support given to 1 DWR when in Korea by the Royal Artillery and especially 20th Field Regiment. They with others played a major role in helping the battalion to hold the Hook 28/29 May 1953.

Rosemary and I were lucky to have put our names down to attend their Old Comrades Association's 14th Annual Reunion Dinner in Crewe on 22 March. I had been asked to propose the toast to 20th Field Regiment and was told that the toast to the Dukes was to be proposed by their President, Lieutenant-Colonel Benny Goodman, OBE, BEM.

The Chairman, Mr Geoff Fawcett, greeted us most warmly and presented Rosemary with the most enormous bouquet of flowers. There were about forty members present. Sadly 20th Field's old Commanding Officer, Colonel Geoffrey Brennan, CBE, DSO, now aged 94, was unable to be present.

I made particular mention of our BC, Major Bill Mackay, DSO, MC, of 45 Battery and his FOO, Captain Gordon. Gordon won the MC that night and Bill one to add to his MC won in Burma. I was glad to pay

particular tribute to the young National Service officers and men who fought in that campaign. The President was most kind in his remarks about the Dukes. In all it was a memorable evening.

Mr Fawcett who owns a notable collection of military medals produced one awarded to a man called Rice of the 33rd for his part in the battle of Magdala. That was indeed a bonus.

Yours sincerely
H. S. Le Messurier

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: 12 noon at the Union Jack Club on 15 June, 14 September (AGM), 18 October (Dinner).

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 G. B. Anderson, 72 Stanington Road, Malin Bridge, Sheffield, S6 5FL.

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.

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.

* * * * *

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

Readers will remember that in 1998, following the suggestion of our Korean War Veterans, it was decided, for very sensible reasons, to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Korean War rather than wait for the 50th Anniversary, and it was made clear that the Regiment would not be able to repeat the efforts or expense of that splendid weekend five years later. However, on a much smaller scale, the Regiment intends to mark the 50th Anniversary with a Reception for all Dukes' Korean Veterans and their partners in Bradford City Hall immediately prior to the annual Regimental Association Dinner at the Bradford Hilton on Saturday 7 June 2003. All DWR Korean Veterans (on our mailing list) will be sent details of the event.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION DINNER 2003

Readers should by now have received details of this year's Dinner to be held in the Bradford Hilton at 8.00pm on Saturday 7 June 2003. You will also have received in the same envelope your annual raffle tickets! I am sure readers will be aware that the Reunion Dinner is very heavily subsidised from Regimental funds and the income from the raffle goes someway to offset this. Please support the raffle.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Because of the Korean Veterans' reception, the annual meeting, which normally takes place immediately before the Dinner, will have to be rearranged. Details will be given to Branches in due course.

REGIMENTAL SERVICE 2003

This year's Service is to be held in York Minster at 12.30pm (note the changed time) on Saturday 20 September 2003. It is planned that, following the Service, a buffet lunch will be provided, on pre-payment, for all members of the Regimental Association, in St Peter's School, York. Further details of the service and lunch will be posted to you in due course.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 10 NOVEMBER '02

All our readers will be aware of the significance of Remembrance Sunday and many will be involved every year with one, or more, of the parades and Services of Remembrance which are held in November up and down the country, including, of course, at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Less well known, perhaps, is the Field of Remembrance, which is established every year alongside Westminster Abbey by the Royal British Legion. The Field of Remembrance consists of a series of plots marked in the grass dedicated to the many elements of the armed forces which have taken part in conflicts down the years, in which crosses of remembrance may be placed by units or individuals. The London Branch of our Regimental Association has for many years both set up the Regimental plot on the Thursday and gathered there on Remembrance Sunday itself.

The Service of Dedication of the Field of Remembrance, which is held in Westminster Abbey on the Thursday, and attended by the Top Brass of Whitehall, was for a great many years attended by Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Although, so far as we know, no member of the London Branch has ever attended the Service, Judith Greenway and Renata Butler, who were setting up the plot, did sing along with the Service in the south porch on the 75th Anniversary of the Armistice in 1993 and much enjoyed it.

The Queen Mum always made a point of walking through the Field of Remembrance after the Service and talking to some of those gathered there and the Iron Duke has from time to time reported her meetings with London Branch members. Since her death there has been much speculation over who might take her place. On Thursday 7 November 2002 the Queen herself attended and we are pleased to report that she spoke to Keith Jagger, Secretary of the London Branch.

Brigadier Johnny Walker, having originally suggested that the Regiment might, as part of its Tercentenary celebrations, take part for the first time in the main Whitehall parade, did well to obtain permission for this from the Royal British Legion. So a strong contingent, headed by the Colonel of the Regiment, formed up in the rain on Horse Guards on Sunday 10 November 2002. Luckily, as they stepped off, the rain lifted and they were able to enjoy the Parade and the Service in Whitehall to the full. The experience was enhanced by their good view of a large screen which was relaying the BBC coverage of the proceedings.

Meanwhile, back at the Garden of Remembrance, Fred Richardson, a past Branch Chairman, was very kindly deputising for the current Chairman, who, with

the Branch Secretary, had deserted their normal posts to join the marching contingent. However, we are pleased to report that normality was restored when they were reunited with their Branch in the usual pub after the event.

J.B.K.G.



The Field of Remembrance
Her Majesty the Queen moves on after speaking to Keith Jagger (on right with back to camera).



Fred Richardson (on left) at the Regimental plot with Telford Mallinson.



Before the Parade
The Colonel of the Regiment briefs Keith Jagger ... or is it vice versa?



After the Parade
Part of the marching contingent on Horse Guards Parade.

SKIPTON BRANCH

In celebration of the Regiment's Tercentenary, Skipton Branch organised a small-bore shooting competition in which teams of six drawn from serving and ex-members of the Regimental family of Dukes took part. Entry for teams badged Dukes throughout the recruiting area, from Settle in the North, Sheffield in the South and Huddersfield and Halifax in the West.

The contest was for the newly-donated Lieutenant Colonel D. L. Bennett Memorial Trophy. Connected to the Dukes for approximately fifty years, Lieutenant Colonel Bennett was shooting officer. He taught many of today's experts their trade. On the presentation evening the Colonel's lady kindly came along to the TA Centre in Huddersfield to present the trophy. The medal presentation was by Major Bob Heron RHQ.

Results - Highest Possible Score 100

1st - South Yorkshire

1.	Major B. Johnson	100
2.	Sergeant I. Newsome	99
3.	Sml Smith	95
4.	Colour Sergeant Petinger	92
5.	Corporal Ross	91
6.	Corporal Dack	91
TOTAL		562

2nd - Regimental Association Veterans, Skipton

1.	D. J. Normanshire	98
2.	B. Blood	97
3.	E. Ramsbotham	95
4.	R. Holroyd	94
5.	A. Bentley	90
6.	A. Blood	85
TOTAL		559

3rd - West Yorkshire

1.	Lieutenant A. Millett	93
2.	SS1 Shaw	90
3.	Corporal Naylor	80
4.	Captain I. Lomas	75
5.	Lance Corporal Roberts	61
6.	Major P. Cole	60
TOTAL		459

Gold Medal

Major B. Johnson - 100/100

Silver Medal

Sergeant I. Newsome - 99/100

Bronze Medal

D. J. Normanshire - 98/100

The trophy winners were South Yorkshire (County Champions) and the runners-up were Skipton Branch of the Regimental Association.

A mere three points out of a possible 600 separated first and second place. This reflects the standard of skill. The Regimental Association team, with an average age of 65, shows that skills learned years ago have not been forgotten. Congratulations to South Yorkshire's team. Maybe next year after more practice we may reverse the result. An invitation to take part is extended to all Dukes.

Those interested in taking part should ring Ernest Ramsbottom on 01756 790085. The competition will be held in future on a date as close as possible to 18 June - Waterloo Day.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr E. D. Atkinson, 7 Granville Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 5LB.

Mr M. Dowdy, Barley House, 99 Downham Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3DY.

Mr M. R. Hodgkinson, Callico House, PO Box 417, Vieux Fort, St Lucia, West Indies.

Major (Ret'd) A. L. Jackson, HQ 4 Armoured Bde, RO3 G1 Discipline, Quebec Barracks, BFPO 36.

Mr J. W. Kelly, 24 Redford Meadow, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 1SH.

Mr L. J. O'Sullivan, Flat 1 Cottage Mews, 25/27 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 1DG.

Mr J. Richards, 113 Stalham Road, Hoveton, Norwich, NR12 8EF.

Mr D. I. Richardson MBE, 16A Church Street, Helmdon, Brackley, Northants, NN13 5JQ.

Mr J. A. Shenton, 2 Maypole Barn, Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5RB.

Mr C. Silcox, 22 Hillside Avenue, Luddenden Foot, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 6PA.

Mr M. J. Stone, 15 Bath Road, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 7EP.

Mr C. Sullivan, 129 Grange Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leics, EL13 1EZ.

Mr C. J. Wykes, Tythe Cottage, 10 Church Street, Abbotsbury, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 4JJ.

* Mr J. M. Allerton, 40 Emmanuel Close, Mildenhall, Suffolk, TP28 7PF.

* Mr G. B. Anderson, 72 Stanington Road, Malin Bridge, Sheffield, S6 5FL.

* Mr J. A. Cuffley, 1 Broome Court, Burgh Heath, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 6DR.

* Mr B. Eastwood, 25 St John's Avenue, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 0NF.

* Mr R. A. Meadows, Blencathra, 13 Woodland Way, Huntington, York, YO32 9NX.

* Mr T. Moore, 229 Rochester Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4TW.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...**The Great Duke**

The Great Duke may have been greater even than we thought. We have it from an impeccable source that the historian Andrew Roberts was speaking recently to members of the Franco-British Society. In his talk he referred to Mademoiselle George, who was allegedly mistress of both Napoleon and Wellington, and who reported, later in life, that Wellington was much the better in bed. At that point, a voice in the audience called out "Beaucoup". The voice was that of the current Duke of Wellington!

Wellington's Duel

The Duke was prominent in the foundation of the staunchly Anglican King's College London (KCL) - he had chaired the public meeting to launch the project.

But, at the same time, Wellington supported the Catholic Emancipation Bill in Parliament. This infuriated many of the ardently Protestant KCL supporters. One of these was the Earl of Winchelsea, who withdrew his pledge of funds for the College in protest, and accused the Duke in the press of "...an insidious design for the infringement of our liberties and the introduction of popery into every Department of State". Wellington furiously demanded an apology, and when Winchelsea tried to bargain with him about his involvement in the KCL scheme, took this as a further insult and challenged the Earl to a duel. This took place at 8.00am on 21 March 1829 at Battersea Fields. Both men avoided bloodshed by deliberately firing wide. They are reported to have adjourned to Brookes Club for a hearty breakfast.

Proposed Reunion of National Service Officers who served in Korea

We have received notice of an Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School Reunion for National Service Officers who served in Korea. It will take the form of a lunch on Friday 12 September 2003, at 12.30 for 1.00pm, at the Institute of Directors (formerly the United Service Club), 116 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Those who are interested in attending should contact Keith M. Taylor, PO Box 100, London W6 0ZJ. Tel: 0208 741 7789, or fax 0208 741 0333.

Old Comrades

Mr Robert W. Lampe has e-mailed

In 1968 I was serving in the US Navy aboard the heavy cruiser USS Saint Paul and during a weeklong stay in Hong Kong met a Paul Fargie who was at that time a member of the Dukes. I believe he held the rank of Sergeant at the time. We became close friends and exchanged postal addresses and had communicated for quite some time. In early 1969 I was posted to a gunboat squadron in Vietnam and while on patrol one day my barracks was hit by mortar fire and all of my kit was destroyed including my address book. If you could please help me locate him and get back in contact with him I would be very grateful.

He may be contacted at: "Robert Lampe"<dances with wolves49@hotmail.com>

Second World War Experience Centre

Readers may like to be aware of the Second World War Experience Centre, at:

6-8 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2DS. Tel: 0113 245 0475

E-mail: enquiries@war-experience.org

The centre would welcome all forms of assistance, from practical volunteer work, to donations of documents, artefacts etc. It is funded entirely by charitable donations, so financial support will also be welcome.

Museums in the North East

Bill Craddock, our source in the North East, tells us that Tyne & Wear Museum is to become the Hub Museum for the region. He has also sent us a story about one Archibald Reed (born in 1766), who became Mayor of Newcastle six times. As Mayor he entertained the Duke of Wellington at the Mansion House and in the

Assembly Rooms. Apparently, he was popular as Mayor because he spent his £2,000 allowance on entertaining and charity, rather than on himself like other more unscrupulous mayors of the day.

The War of Spanish Succession

Since we have been celebrating our three hundred years of existence, we make no apology for reprinting the following extract from Iron Duke No 67 of June 1947, which has been retrieved for us by Bill Norman.

The 33rd in the War of the Spanish Succession

The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, Spring, 1947, contains an article entitled "Sidelight on a Side Show - Spain and Portugal in the Spanish Succession War", by C. T. Atkinson, in which the following reference to the 33rd Regiment appears. The article emphasises the importance of the Nicholls' Collection in the Bodleian Library as supplementing Colonel Parnell's "The War of Succession in Spain, 1702-11":-

An example of the additional items in the Nicholls' collection is the account in the London Post (1 June, 1705) of the storming of the minor fortress of Valenza on the Spanish-Portuguese frontier (8 May, 1705). This emphasizes more fully than Colonel Parnell does the credit due to Duncanson's Regiment, the 33rd (1st Duke of Wellington's). The assault was headed by 200 English and Dutch grenadiers, under a Huguenot, Dubourgay, then commanding the grenadier company of Blood's (17th Royal Leicestershire). They were supported by two Portuguese regiments but met a most stubborn resistance and were eventually forced back, whereupon the Portuguese fell into disorder. On this Duncanson's "advancing most bravely and with colours flying", pushed forward through them, "entered the breach though the same was undermined" and forced their way into the town, driving the defenders back into the castle, where they soon surrendered. Duncanson's, it may be noted, were the one regiment of the original force of 1704 who served right through to Brihuega. They had not only advanced with Galway to Madrid but had done well at Almanza; reformed by Galway in Catalonia after that battle, they were again to the fore at Saragossa. If any regiment's colours should bear "Spain and Portugal 1704-1710", the 33rd's should, especially as they have nothing to show for their two campaigns in the Netherlands, 1702 and 1703, under Marlborough, where they took part in several sieges.

Lee's History of the 33rd gives a very inadequate account of these campaigns, and as regards 1703 states that "The 33rd, however, took no part in the Marlborough campaigns, but remained in readiness for marching when called on."

EDITOR

Poetry of the Korean War

Korean Veterans may like to be aware of this publication, edited by Reuben Holroyd, which has been published by the BKVA. It is available at a cost of £7.50 (including p&p) from the General Secretary BKVA Frank Ellison, 12 Fields Crescent, Hollingworth, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 8JR.

Obituaries

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

Captain Anders Frank Sven Westman

Anders F. S. Westman died on 15 December 2002. He joined the 9th Battalion from the Artists' Rifles in August 1941, shortly prior to the Battalion being stationed at Kirkee near Poona in India, where it was converted to the 146 Regiment Royal Armoured Corps.

Captain Westman at that time was OC Reconnaissance Troop and saw service in Burma when finally the allies pushed the Japanese eastward to defeat.

When demobilised in 1946, Anders Westman rejoined the family company who were steel importers from Sweden; eventually he became Chairman of the company.

Anders' wife Jill, whom he met in India, died in January 2002; they leave a devoted family of four children and nine grandchildren.

Anders is greatly missed by his family and friends from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment; he was one of those people you were proud to call "Friend".

WO1 (RSM) R. Todd

Ex-RSM Roland (Reg) Todd died suddenly at his home in Stamford Bridge near York on 21 January 2003, at the age of 73.

Reg, born in Doncaster in 1929, first joined the army in 1946 at the age of 17. Following his basic training at Elgin, Scotland, he then saw service with the Green Howards in Suez, Malaya and Singapore. It was in Singapore where he met and married Edna in 1950. In 1952 Reg returned to the UK and retired from the army. Unable to settle in civilian life Reg again enlisted into the Green Howards in North Yorkshire and then to Germany. In about 1955/56 Reg was posted to the Dukes Territorial Army in Halifax and then around 1957 posted to 1 DWR in Northern Ireland. He remained with the 1st Battalion until 1962, in Brentwood and Colchester, including the deployments to Kenya in 1960 and 1961. In 1962 Reg was posted as a Warrant Officer to 17 Gurkha Division in Singapore and then on to Brunei. He rejoined the Dukes as a Company Sergeant Major in 1965, in Osnabrück. He was CSM of C Company until 1967, when, after returning from the Battalion's six month UN tour in Cyprus he was promoted to WO1 and returned to Cyprus to be RSM of the York and Lancaster Regiment until it disbanded in 1968. Subsequent postings in York, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland and Germany took Reg to his retirement from the army in 1976. He was then employed as a security officer for the Foreign Office and over the next fifteen years Reg and Edna lived in Peking, Trinidad, Syria, Aden, Norway, Ethiopia and Denmark, before finally settling down in Stamford Bridge in 1991. They both decided that after living in 51 countries and 40 houses, this was to be their last move.

The funeral service was held at St John's Church, Stamford Bridge on 30 January and was attended by members of the York Branch of the Regimental Association.

Mr James Simpson, MM

James (Jimmy) Simpson, who served in the 7th Battalion from 1944-48, died on 29 December 2002 at the age of 78.

Jimmy, as a Private (A/Cpl), was awarded his Military Medal in October 1944 in recognition of gallantry and distinguished service in North West Europe. The citation for his award reads as follows:

"On 13 July 1944, this NCO, who is only 19 years of age, was a member of a fighting patrol of six men, commanded by one Lieut John Lappin. During two attacks on an enemy platoon, who were in prepared positions, near Tessel-Bretteville, Normandy, this NCO showed exemplary courage and leadership when he personally assisted Lieut Lappin to cover the withdrawal of the patrol after the attack, without sustaining casualties. His personal courage, coolness and leadership were an inspiration to other members of the patrol. Twelve of the enemy were killed during the operation."

Jimmy's funeral service took place at St Peter's RC Church, Bradford, followed by cremation, on 13 January 2003. At his family's request, Mr David Peckover (ex DWR) sounded the Last Post.

RHQ has also been notified of the following deaths:

Brigadier P. P. de la H. Moran died on 18 March 2003, aged 87. His funeral took place in Guildford on 27 March 2003. An obituary will be published in our next edition.

Major D. S. Gilbert-Smith MC died on 24 March 2003, aged 71. A private funeral was followed by a Memorial Service in Tewkesbury Abbey on 31 March 2003. An obituary will be published in our next edition.

Mr Albert Berry, ex-4th Battalion 1939-46, died on 3 September 2002, aged 80. In 1970/71 Albert was Mayor of Halifax and again in 1988/89 Mayor of Calderdale. A Halifax man who had been a Councillor for 46 years.

Mr W. H. Wiseman (William), a member of the Skipton Branch of the Regimental Association, died on 21 January 2003.

Mr Donald Cockroft, ex-Sergeant 9th Battalion (146 Regiment RAC) died on 6 January 2003, aged 83. His funeral service was held in Slaithwaite Parish Church on 15 January. Donald and his wife Marie have been great supporters of Regimental Association events and the annual 9th Battalion Reunion in Leeds.

Mr Kenneth Winship (Ken), ex-9th Battalion (146 Regiment RAC) 1941-44, a member of the Mossley Branch of the Regimental Association and a regular attendee at the 9th Battalion Reunion, died at home in Stalybridge on 18 December 2002. He was 93 years old.

Mr Timothy Tighe (Tim), who served in the 1st Battalion 1983-85, died of cancer on 24 January 2003, at the age of 38. Tim was the eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Tighe, MBE, DWR.