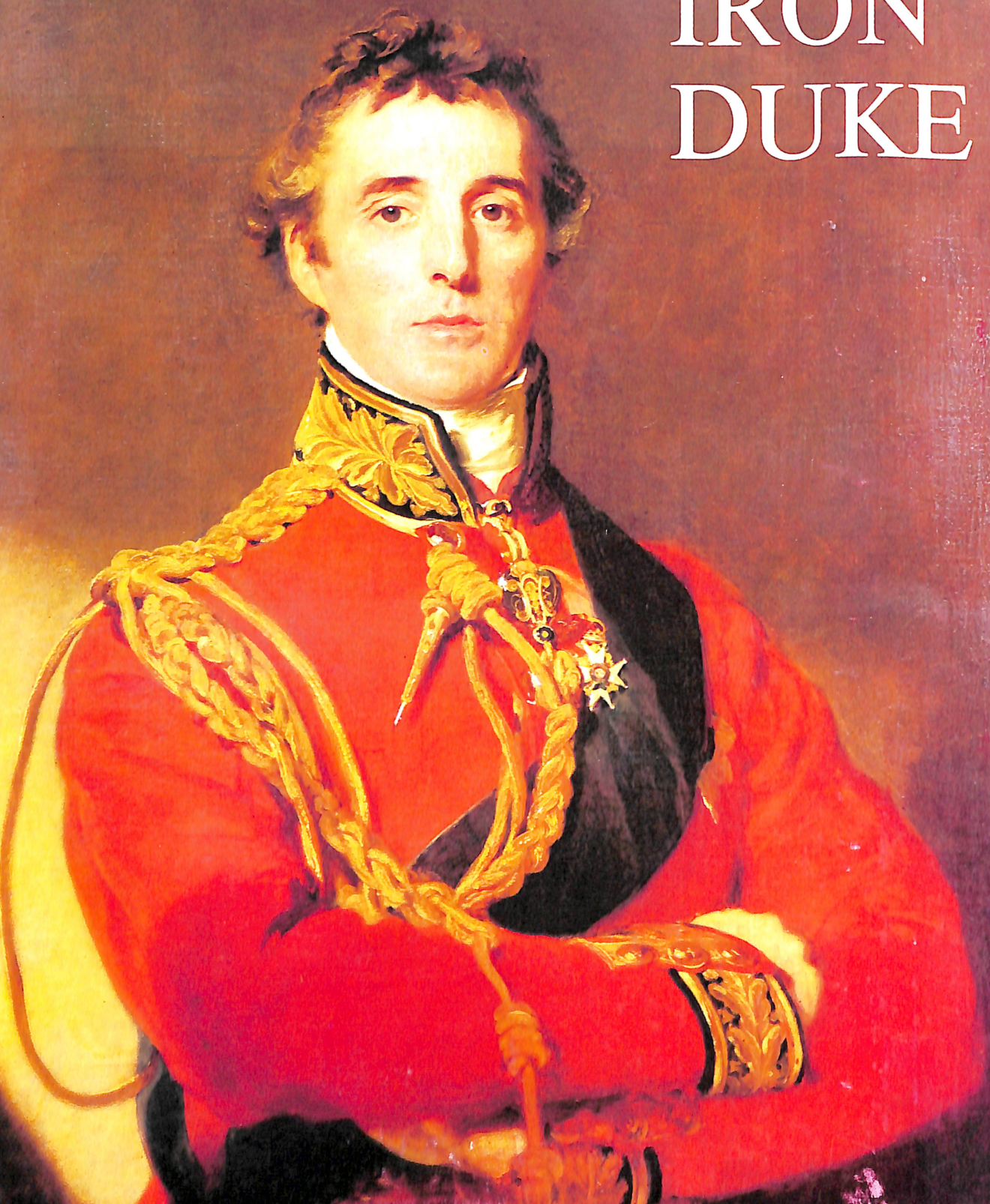


AUTUMN 2004
No. 255

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. LXXIX

Autumn 2004

No. 255

BUSINESS NOTES

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

Editor:

Brigadier J. B. K. Greenway, CBE, Starbarrow,
35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7AT.
Telephone: 01252 514786 E-mail: jbkgandjpg@aol.com

Business Manager:

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

**Copy for the 2004 Winter issue should
reach the Editor by 1 October 2004**

This publication contains official information. It should be treated with
discretion by the recipient.

The opinions expressed in the articles of the journal are those of the
authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and view, official or
otherwise, of the Regiment or the MOD.

All advertisements are published in good faith and the publishers cannot
accept responsibility for the quality of the goods or services provided by
advertisers. Readers are advised to take the appropriate professional
advice before entering into any commitments.

Acknowledgement

The portrait of The Duke by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A. (canvas
1814), is reproduced on our cover, without fee, by kind permission of
the Victoria and Albert Museum (Crown Copyright).

'The Iron Duke' Crown Copyright

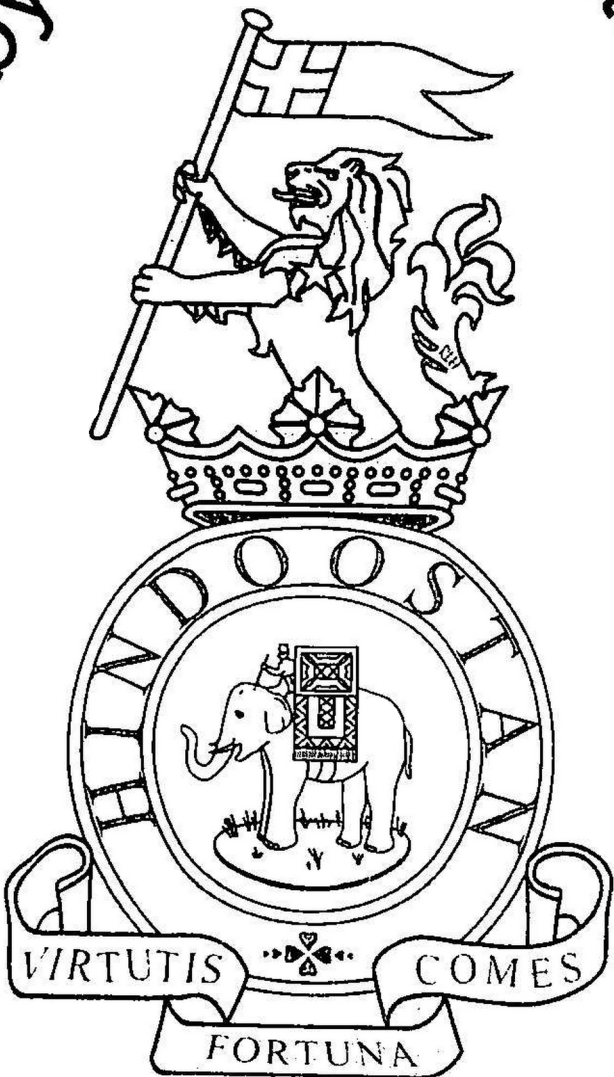
CONTENTS

Regimental Items for Sale	58
The Regiment	59
Regimental Headquarters	61
1st Battalion	63
The East and West Riding Regiment	82
The Territorials of Yesteryear : Stanley Langley's War	88
A Memorial Cross at Marsden	90
The Haines Diary	90
'D' Company Yorkshire (N&W) Army Cadet Force	93
Roberts Around the World	94
Freemasonry and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment	95
Memories	97
Demobilisation	98
A Boy's Life in the Army - 1929	99
Snippets from the Archives - Days Gone By	101
Letters to the Editor	102
Regimental Association	106
Keeping in touch	107
Change of address / new subscribers	109
Obituaries	109



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

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 P. M. Lewis

Adjutant: Captain J. A. Glossop

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 S. Caine

East and West Riding Regiment

CO: Lieutenant Colonel M. A. Lodge

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: Captain M. R. Watson

ARMY CADET FORCE - DWR

Yorkshire (North & West)

D Company Detachments

OC: Major J. Greenlee

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

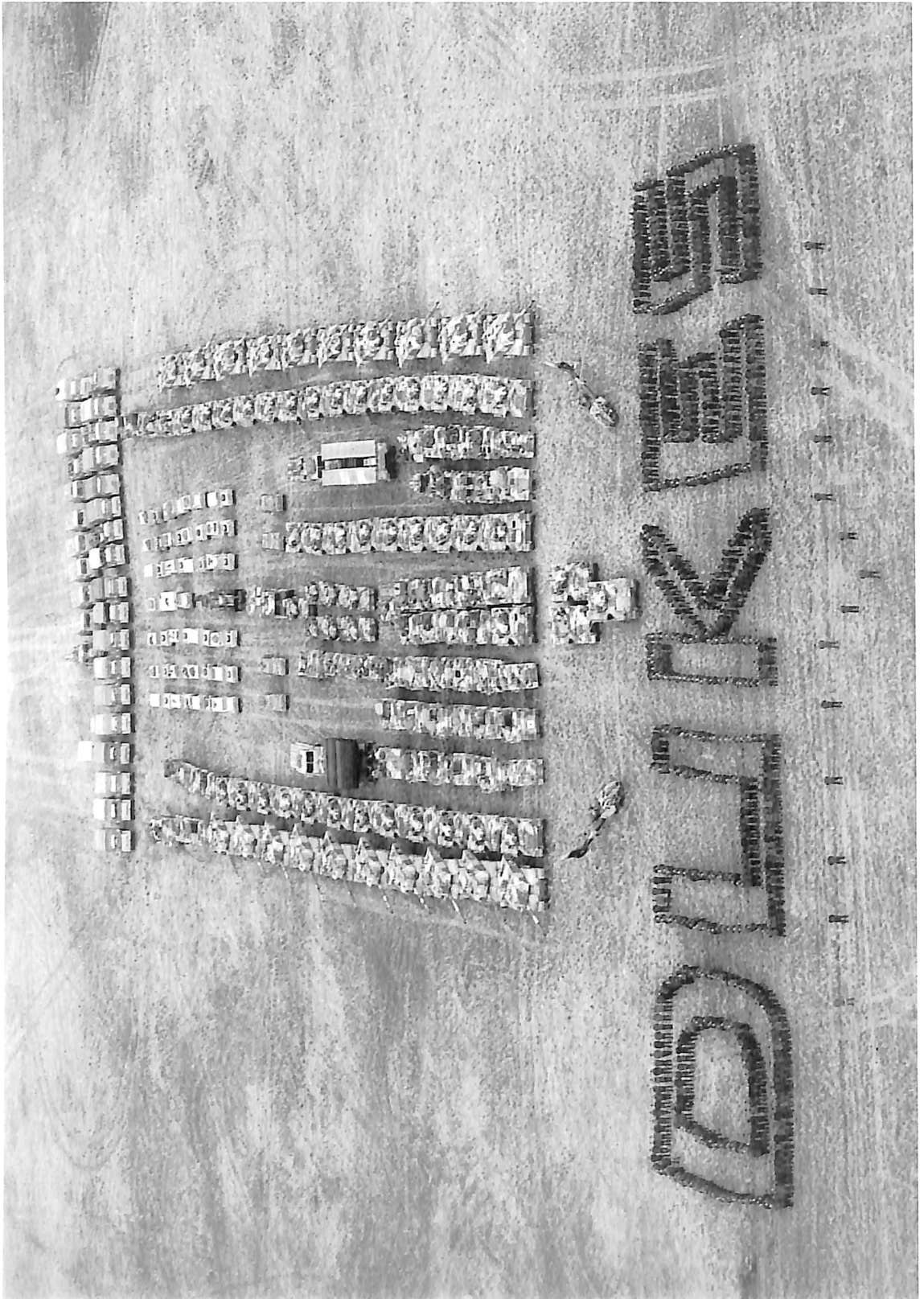
Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel Muhammed Siddiq Akbar

AFFILIATED SHIPS OF THE ROYAL NAVY

H.M.S. Iron Duke

BFPO 309

Commander P. Carden, RN



1 DWR Battle Group on the Canadian Prairies - Spring 2004.

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Notes

THE FUTURE OF THE REGIMENT

Readers will by now be aware of the Government's extensive Defence Review and the fact that there are plans for the reduction of the Infantry by four battalions. At the time of going to print insufficient detail has been provided for any sensible comment to be made in the Iron Duke. Readers can be assured that the Colonel of the Regiment is giving the matter his close attention and he will see that full information is disseminated at the appropriate time.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We send our warm congratulations to the following on their awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

CBE: Brigadier A. D. Meek

MBE: Major D. P. Monteith

HER MAJESTY'S LORD LIEUTENANT FOR WEST YORKSHIRE

Mr John Lyles retired on 8 May 2004, having held the appointment of Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire for twelve years. During this time, in his capacity as the Queen's representative, he played an important part in our Regimental ceremonial life in West Yorkshire, taking part in all our major activities, including Freedom Parades, the Tercentenary and the Parade to mark the 45th Anniversary of the War in Korea.

On 24 April 2004, in Halifax Town Hall, following the Regimental Service, the Colonel of the Regiment presented Mr Lyles with a Spode Plate as a token of our

gratitude for all the support he gave to the Regiment during his tenure.

Mr Lyles has been succeeded as Lord Lieutenant by Dr Ingrid Roscoe.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS' DINNER

The Colonel-in-Chief presided at the annual Officers' Dinner, which was held at Jury's Hotel, Great Russell Street, London, on 6 June 2004. The Colonel of the Regiment and 74 Officers attended.

1 DWR 1943-45 OVERSEAS DINING CLUB

Major T. F. Huskisson presided at the 59th Annual Reunion of the 1 DWR Overseas Dining Club at Armoury House on 12 March 2004. This year, for the first time, a lunch was held instead of a dinner. The Colonel of the Regiment was present, together with the following guests: Brigadier W. R. Mundell, Major D. L. J. Harrap and Major R. Heron. Members present were: G. Bullock, R. J. Diacon, E. J. M. Goodman-Smith, D. E. Isles, H. S. Le Messurier, D. Siddall and J. Wilson. The bad weather prevented the attendance of our MO, A. Paterson and M. H. Curtis. After lunch the Colonel gave a much-appreciated short talk and slide show on the recent visit to Anzio and the Gothic Line by a Dukes' party in September last year.

Sadly, we now know that Fred Huskisson died on 25 April and Michael Curtis died on 3 July. We publish their obituaries on pages 110 and 111 ... Ed.



Left to right, standing: W. R. Mundell, E. M. Goodman-Smith, H. S. Le Messurier, R. F. Diacon, A. D. Siddall, G. Bullock. Seated: J. Wilson, T. F. Huskisson, Colonel of the Regiment, D. E. Isles.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

In our last edition we referred to the work being done by several volunteers for the Regimental Archives. Although not located at Bankfield, the Archives are part of the Regimental Museum and we are pleased to record that the Heritage Lottery Fund has made a grant of £49,800, against a total project cost of £60,000, for the redevelopment of the Museum. Brigadier Dick Mundell, Chairman of the Trustees of the Regimental Museum and Archives, wishes to record his thanks both to Regimental Headquarters and to Calderdale Museum Services for their support in obtaining this very welcome grant. It is intended to develop the displays with the story of the Regiment seen "Through Soldiers' Eyes", demonstrating the links between the Regiment and the local community.

EDITORIAL REFLECTIONS

In commenting upon the Regiment's Tercentenary in Spring 2002, on page 5 of issue 248, we reflected: "...For service to the nation is what soldiering has been all about. And yet... and yet... the 1st Battalion in Bosnia, or Kosovo and others in Sierra Leone and elsewhere have also been serving a broader purpose, which might be described as serving the cause of international civilised behaviour. This means that we must continue to operate from a strong moral base and with careful control".

Alas; it was with sorrow that we greeted reports of the appalling treatment allegedly meted out by some Coalition soldiers to prisoners in Iraq, which was widely reported by the media and which is now, quite rightly, subject to disciplinary action.

In commenting upon the deployment of the Coalition Forces into Iraq in Spring 2003, on page 6 of issue 251, we reflected: "...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" ... "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".

Alas; one has to doubt whether our American allies and even our own political leaders yet understand the need for, let alone the means of, winning the hearts and minds of non-combatants, whilst deploying armed forces against armed opponents.

We are glad, therefore, that this edition of the Iron Duke contains much good news: from the 1st Battalion, from Ypres and Fontenay Companies and from our Cadet Detachments, with interesting first-hand tales from some splendid Old Dukes.

COMMANDING OFFICER LIEUTENANT COLONEL P. M. LEWIS

Lieutenant Colonel Phil Lewis was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in April 1981. He joined the 1st Battalion in Lydd and Hythe during preparations for an operational tour to South Armagh and assumed command of the 1st Battalion on 17 July 2004 in Osnabrück during preparations for a deployment to Iraq on Op Telic 5.



Lieutenant Colonel P. M. Lewis.

Within the Battalion he has served as a rifle and Milan platoon commander, Company and Battalion Operations Officer. He has commanded both Somme and Alma Company and as Battalion Second in Command was responsible in 2000 for overseeing the Battalion's move from Hounslow to Germany, conversion to Armoured Infantry and the deployment to Kosovo on Op Agricola 5.

Away from the Battalion he served as a recruit platoon commander at the former King's Division Depot at Strensall, with the Territorial Army as Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers in Huddersfield and on a two-year secondment to the Brigade of Gurkhas in the Far East.

In 1996 he was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service as a Grade 3 Operations Staff Officer in Headquarters Northern Ireland. As a Grade 2 he served in the Ministry of Defence on the Chief of the General Staff's personal staff and, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2001, he was appointed to a Grade 1 Staff appointment within the Defence Logistics Organisation in Andover. Most recently he has returned from a six-month operational deployment with the United Nations in Sierra Leone, where he was the Chief Military Intelligence Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Lewis is married to Sally; they have four children and three dogs, with that, and looking after the Battalion, they feel they will have little time for anything else!

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 S. CAINE

WO1 (RSM) Sean Caine assumed the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion in April 2002. He joined the army in 1982 at Taunton, Somerset, as a Junior Soldier and joined 3 Platoon in Alma Company in Gibraltar in 1983, deploying to Portugal and Belize, before joining the Reconnaissance/Close Observation Platoon as a Lance Corporal for four-and-a-half years.

In 1990 he was posted to Depot, The King's Division, at Strensall, as Corporal Instructor, returning to the 1st Battalion in 1992 as a Platoon Sergeant in Corunna Company, deploying to Kenya and Bosnia, where he earned a Mention in Despatches.

In 1995 he became a Colour Sergeant Instructor at Brecon, on the Junior Tactics Wing, returning to the Battalion in 1996 as CQMS of Corunna Company and deploying on a six-week exercise to Oman. He spent a year as Officers' Mess Manager and then became CSM Alma Company for part of the Battalion's tour on Public Duties in London.

Moving on to RQMS(M) in 2000, during the conversion to Armoured Infantry, with a six-month operational tour in Kosovo, he was promoted to WO1 in March 2002 and became the Regimental Sergeant Major at Sennelager Training Centre, a long-standing WO1's post for the Dukes. This is not the first time that WO1 Caine has taken over from WO1 Taylor and

he hopes it will not be the last. Both come from the same town, Wath on Dearne, they went to the same school and knew each other before joining the army.

WO1 Caine is married to Maxine and they have three sons.



WO1 (RSM) Sean Caine (left) takes over from WO1 (now Captain) M. Taylor.

1st Battalion

Commanding Officer's Introduction

With only five weeks left in command, ground rush is starting to bite and there has been little time to reflect on over two years of frenetic activity. We have just returned from six weeks in Canada on Exercise Medicine Man 1 and, after a brief pause to reconfigure, we shift from War Fighting training to Peace Support training for Iraq, although the line between the two seems to be increasingly blurred.

Canada proved to be quite simply the best training that any of us have ever been involved in. Starved of resources and opportunities to train in other years, the Battalion over the last five months has had the full weight of the British Army's training organisation thrown at it and with it the most intense scrutiny that any of us have faced in our military careers. A generation of officers and soldiers has been privileged to train to the highest level possible on the most demanding exercise that the Army runs. The set-up at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) is hugely impressive and over the course of Exercise Medicine Man some £20 million was spent in training the Dukes' Battle Group. In total, thirty days were endured on the Prairie, with the time roughly divided into half field firing and half Tactical Engagement Simulation against a live, 'free thinking' enemy provided by 2 RTR and 1 Fusiliers, entitled the Opposing Force (OPFOR).

The live fire phase saw the Battle Group fire its full range of weaponry, building up from Platoon and Troop attacks to full-scale Battle Group operations. Over the final four days of the phase the Battle Group conducted a continuous live fire exercise covering the principal Operations of War. The last day will long live in the memory and started with the Battle Group conducting a night attack, both dismounted and mounted, supported by Recce, Armour, Artillery, Mortars, Milan and Engineers. This was followed by a long Advance to Contact, with several obstacle crossings, including breaching an enemy minefield (with Giant Viper) and several Quick Attacks using the full weight of the combat power available. An Armoured Infantry Battle Group is a powerful and potent force and when manoeuvred well, with the effect synchronised, it is very impressive. Once the field firing was complete, the Battle Group fitted the simulation equipment and went into training prior to pitting its wits against OPFOR on the final test exercise (Totalise).

We knew that the Battle Group had done well over the preceding 23 days of Exercise Medicine Man 1, but the ultimate test of a Battle Group and its final grade is down to its performance on Totalise in front of GOC 1st Armoured Division - no pressure! Totalise surpassed all our expectations and the Battle Group won all seven

missions against the OPFOR, which is unprecedented in the history of BATUS. It was a stunning result; units can normally expect to win less than 50% of missions, and the praise for our performance is still reverberating from Canada. The GOC stated 'The Dukes' Battle Group seized avidly on the superb training opportunity afforded to them. I thought they were tremendous - unreservedly a High CP4', while Commander BATUS stated that 'we were the best Battle Group he had seen'. It doesn't get much better and we left Canada happy that we had cemented our reputation (once more) as a Battalion and in the process, dispelled a few (Cavalry inspired) myths about the Infantry's ability to deliver Armoured Warfare.

Unfortunately there is little opportunity to take stock and have fun this summer. Next week the Battalion deploys to Sennelager (again) to start the training package for Operation Telic 5. We have three weeks of training before summer leave and two Brigade exercises in the autumn prior to deployment to Iraq in October. Concurrently all our armoured vehicles are being prepared for deployment and we expect the first shipload to sail in late September. The challenges of Operation Telic 5 may well require different levels of intensity over the course of six months and we will be capable of delivering high intensity Armoured War Fighting at one end of the spectrum and low level Peace Support Operations at the other. I believe that the Battalion could not be better prepared to meet the exacting demands of operations in Iraq.

Commanding the Dukes has been an exceptional privilege, the last two years have flown by and a huge amount has been achieved. I have never known a busier period, but also know how lucky I am to have experienced such an exciting command. As I pass over

the baton to Lieutenant Colonel Philip Lewis, it is with great pride that I look back on the standards of professionalism consistently produced by our soldiers. We have been well tested; through events as diverse in nature as the Tercentenary, Operation Fresco (the Fire Strike), Operation Telic (Iraq), Operation Oculus (Kosovo) and Exercise Medicine Man (Canada), all hugely challenging and asking very different questions of us. In competition within 4th Armoured Brigade the Battalion remains unbeaten, sweeping the board in military skills and sporting events. Now, with BATUS completed the Dukes are recognised as the best-trained Armoured Infantry Battalion in the Army. We remain fully manned, although the battle for retention has become increasingly difficult in our fifth year in Germany and the relentless pace of operations has taken its toll. My one regret is not winning the Cup, we gave it our best shot and I know that Dukes' Rugby is in good health and one year soon our name will be back on the silverware.

My thanks to my team who have been superb and recognised as such in Brigade Headquarters, to the Colonel and RHQ for their support and encouragement and finally to my family who have seen so little of me but supported the Battalion brilliantly. I am delighted and very proud that Louise has been awarded a General Officer Commanding's Commendation for her work with the wives and families and especially for the way she pulled everything together during our sudden and unexpected deployment to Iraq.

Finally, I wish Lieutenant Colonel Philip Lewis and Sally all the best for a very successful tour with him in command and I look forward to hearing of our exploits in Iraq where I know that the Dukes will be outstanding. Fortune Favours the Brave.

ALMA COMPANY

I am dredging my memory to pick up where we left off last time ... January at Bergen-Hohne gunnery camp. This has now passed into 1st Battalion folklore - appalling weather (lots of fog and snow) and endless hours trying to make the Warriors work. Why the army won't pay a few extra euros to allow us to do these things in the summer when the weather is good enough to actually see what we are shooting at I'll never know! In true Dukes' style the lads moaned for Britain and then achieved outstanding results in shocking conditions. That was all the crews and dismounts trained and through the mandatory pre-Canada shoots.

Next stop was Sennelager where Alma Company deployed as OPFOR for the Scots Guards' Warrior conversion exercise. Funnily enough this was another bitterly cold and snowy experience. This exercise proved very useful as it gave the Company lots of scope to get used to living, working and fighting from the Warriors. We also discovered that if we hid in the edge of a wood with a few anti armour weapons we could destroy the entire Scots Guards Battle Group before they got within 500 metres of us. Top gun awards to Sergeant Lister and Corporal Risdale who managed to "kill" 23 Warriors in seventeen minutes using only

one Warrior and one 94mm Light Anti-tank Weapon! At one stage we all thought that CSM Cole had performed miracles by storming a minefield breach single handedly in his 432 after the rest of the Company had been killed off. It was only later that we realized he had no simulation kit on his vehicle and as a result he was indestructible!

A bit more in-barracks work and simulator training for vehicle crews and then we were back out to Sennelager for a week's Company exercise. By now we had 7 Platoon with us who would work with Alma throughout Canada. The exercise was once again focused at the very lowest level and we ended the week happy that we could live and fight safely from the vehicles. At one stage eight of our ten Warriors were off the road. The decision was made that the Company would dismount completely and tab the 10km to the objective - funnily enough six of the eight broken Warriors were miraculously fixed within an hour! We finished for Easter leave tired but feeling ready for Canada. We were all sick of the sight of Sennelager, as it becomes very small when driving around it in Warrior. A number of the Company had already deployed to Canada as part of the advance party and the



Typical weather for field firing! Bergen-Hohne Gunnery Camp, January '04.

rest of us flew out in mid to late April. Just before we deployed the Commanding Officer announced the latest promotions and within Alma our congratulations go to Lance Corporal (now Corporal) Jump QLR, and Privates (now Lance Corporal Jones, Ayre, Chappell and Unwin - all thoroughly well deserved.

And so to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). The few days before we deployed out onto the Prairie were hectic to say the least. As we were taking part in the first Medman exercise of the season the vehicles had been in storage for six months. This meant that the crews had a huge amount of work to do to get the wagons ready for thirty days of fairly extreme

activity. What was a major advantage was that the lads very quickly realized that the more "track bashing" they did at this stage the less they would have to do out on the Prairie when they were cold, wet and tired. A constant frustration throughout the exercise was the reliability (both gun systems and automotively) of the Warriors. This was due largely to the fact that they had not been used for six months and that spares were initially slow to be released to the Battle Group. By the end of thirty days' hard use though, the Alma fleet was in pretty good shape, as most of the faults had been identified and fixed; for the last five days we had thirteen of the fourteen Warriors good to go.



**OC Alma (Major Fox) and 2i/c Alma (Captain Williams) pretending it's a good day to be in the army!
BATUS in the snow.**



That's better - some sunshine for an Alma Company briefing.

I had heard a lot about the Infantry training at BATUS being the poor relation of the Cavalry training. If the Alma Company experience is anything to go by I can state that the Infantry training is now outstanding. The permanent Infantry staff, Major Stephen Seagrave of the Irish Guards and Captain Phil Nathan of the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment have spent days and weeks creating some fantastic and above all very realistic ranges. There are huge Soviet-style zig zag trench systems, lung-bursting battle inoculation ranges and brilliant trench-clearance complexes. The whole package is designed to take the Warrior Company from pairs fire and manoeuvre, all the way up to live firing Company night attacks, with live fire support provided by AS90 guns firing 155mm high explosive (HE) and illumination (illum), Challenger 2 tanks firing 120mm high explosive squash head (HESH) and 7.62mm co-ax machine gun and our own Mortar and Milan platoons firing as well.

This live fire package filled the first twelve days of the exercise and proved to be progressive and realistic, so that the Company was easily able to cope (safely) with the complex nature of mounted and dismounted Company attacks in light and darkness by the end of day twelve. For the dismounts I suspect the grenade trench clearance range was probably the highlight; for the Platoon Commanders and Warrior crews I think the Platoon Attacks (day and night) were the highlight. For me there were two really enjoyable missions. The first was a Company group advance to contact. During the course of a very hot and long day we destroyed an enemy recon screen, seized an opposed river crossing (and the Sappers kindly built a new bridge to replace

the one that was blown), assaulted a village and finished with a deliberate attack against an immense Soviet trench system. To help Alma achieve this I had under command a section of Sappers, a section of Milan, Mortars on call and three sniper pairs. The whole day was fast and furious and made all the more enjoyable as every part of the day involved firing realistic (very large!) quantities of live ammunition. By the close of that day I think every man in the Company had finally realized that massive weights of accurate, suppressive fire from every weapon system available was the only way to maintain momentum in the attack. Perhaps this is an obvious point to make - but it seems young soldiers don't really understand this until they have seen the devastating effect properly coordinated and concentrated all arms fire can have. The second mission I really enjoyed was a Company dismounted night attack against a dispersed enemy platoon-plus sized position dug in on a steep hillside, suitably named "Ironside Ridge". We debussed in dead ground some 2km short of the position and moved up to the FUP with the two lead platoons advancing either side of me with their sections in single file. Every man was marked with a small blue cylinder (light) in the back of his helmet so that the safety staff knew where everyone was. Just short of the FUP the assaulting platoons shook out into assault formation as we had rehearsed before dark. It was really impressive seeing a swarm of little blue lights shake out as 1 Platoon on the left and 3 Platoon on the right moved into extended line without a word being uttered. As we approached the FUP the fireplan began with the 155 and 81mm HE and illum softening up the objective. At H minus five minutes eight Challenger 2

tanks from D Squadron of the RDG fired a volley of 120mm into the objective (they were 1500 metres away but the ground beneath us shook violently and the muzzle flash turned night into day) and then kept up a steady rate of 120mm and 7.62mm chain gun as we moved from the FUP across the valley floor towards the forward edge of the enemy positions. As we closed with

the forward positions, overhead fire from GPMG sustained fire raked the hillside and the platoons were released. Chaos followed as Platoon Commanders, Platoon Sergeants and Section Commanders raced around controlling the battle ensuring that each position was clear before pushing troops forward to take the next trench or bunker.



1 Section at Grenade Range.



Preparing to throw ...

All the time 7 Platoon were snapping at my heels waiting for the order to push through and assault into depth - they finally got their wish as they moved through the hillside which was now well ablaze thanks to the illum and tracer. As Alma Company reorganized on the smouldering hillside we could see Burma Company pushing through the low ground to our left on their run in to attack an enemy depth platoon. This attack was truly the opportunity of a lifetime - what made it even more rewarding were the complimentary remarks made about the quality of soldiering within the Company from the safety staff (who were drawn from a wide variety of Infantry cap badges). Notably many people commented on the grip, aggression and sheer will to win of all the Junior NCOs in the Company - as always, the Company Commander's biggest problem is not pushing the Platoons forward - it's reining them back once they have launched! Unfortunately during the live phase Private Wilkinson was shot in the chest. He is obviously a man with nine lives; the bullet entered his chest, left through his armpit, re-entered his armpit and left through the back of his shoulder. Despite this, the round missed all internal organs, all arteries and bones on its way through. Thankfully Yorkshire soldiers are a tough breed - Private Wilkinson was seen walking around saying "I think I've been shot" and it wasn't until Sergeant Brighthouse told him to stand still and lie down that first aid could commence! The casevac helicopter was on the scene within eight minutes and Private Wilkinson was in hospital in Medicine Hat within 47 minutes of being shot. His adventures don't end there though! Being a fit young lad he was up and about in no time and was transferred back to the medical centre in Camp Crowfoot within a few days. Once Commander 4 Brigade arrived in BATUS he told

Captain Renihan (OC Camp Crowfoot)) that he was about to visit Private Wilkinson. This request came literally two minutes after the medical centre had rung Captain Renihan to tell him that young Wilkinson had gone walk-about and was not there! Fortunately the Brigadier saw the funny side - after all nobody had actually told Private Wilkinson that he was quite badly injured and shouldn't leave the med centre! He is now enjoying the high life back home in Rotherham - everyone in Alma wishes him a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing him back with us in the not too distant future.

Following the live firing, we swapped all our live ammunition for blank and started the eighteen day laser simulation phase - this was to be where we were truly tested and, historically, where the OPFOR wreak havoc amongst the exercising battle group. This time it was not to be - from day one The Dukes' Battle Group were on the pace and we broke the OPFOR will to win within the first few days (I suspect the snow, rain and cold also dampened spirits). All the drills and procedures learnt and honed during live fire were now becoming really slick and success (just as it would be for real) was all about doing everything faster, harder and more violently than the enemy. The dismounts and vehicle crews were working well together as were all the different parts of the battle group - what soon became clear was that every man in the battle group knew what the endstate was for a given mission and they were all working towards it. As Warriors broke down or were destroyed by enemy fire, troops cross decked onto other wagons so they could stay in the fight - at some stages we had the CSM and the ambulance bringing dismounts forward as fast as they were taking casualties back!



7 Platoon Command team.



7 Platoon at ENDEX.

All in all the exercise was a resounding success for Alma Company and the battle group. Thankfully most of the team will still be together for Telic 5 in the autumn; they certainly now have a rock solid foundation on which to build. In closing the chapter on BATUS I would like to thank Lieutenant Chris Armitage, Sergeant Bulldog Coulson (OC and Platoon Sergeant of 7 Platoon) and all the men of 7 Platoon. I know it must have been frustrating being called 2 Platoon all the time, but your performance throughout the build-up training and BATUS was first class - hopefully you will all take a little bit of Alma Culture back to Corunna with you!

As ever, manpower continues to ebb and flow in the Company. Sergeant Jonny Bennett and family move on a short notice posting to Brecon in August where he will become one of the dreaded "Brecon Colour Sergeant Instructors", Sergeant Ady Rudd and his wife move to become part of the British Military Advisory Training Team in the Czech Republic, internally Lieutenant Chris Johnston, Sergeant Stu Brighthouse and Corporal Stu Jump all move across to Corunna Company to help rebalance the Battalion ORBAT, and Captain Garrath Williams leaves the army in August in order to join the Australian Army. To one and all we wish you good luck in the future and sincere thanks for all your hard work with Alma Company.

All thoughts of a quiet few weeks before summer leave were dashed as soon as we returned from Canada. Guess what? That's right! We're off back to Sennelager to start our pre-Iraq training for a few weeks (what joy). Details in the next edition but hopefully this might be our one exercise a year at Sennelager without snow;

still, it is a winter tour to Iraq and it can get quite cold out there ...

Major Paul Fox
OC Alma Company



Mark, Anna and Adam ... excuse me, but where did she spring from?



Alma Company Officers at ENDEX

BURMA COMPANY

Post BATUS, Burma Company has undergone a significant change in personnel. The OC, Major Tom Vallings, was posted at short notice to Northern Ireland and replaced by Major Phil Wilson. Major Vallings had very little time to celebrate the Company's success at BATUS prior to catching a flight back to Germany and moving house. Unfortunately there was no time for a true 'Vallings'-style send off, although, considering his next appointment, this may have been no bad thing! Within 48 hours of storming the trenches on the last company assault (it remains a mystery how he managed to always be the last man standing in the Company), he was handing over the Company and running around trying to locate all the kit he had hoarded over two years. Major Wilson moved to the Company after commanding Somme for over two years and will stay with Burma through the tour to Iraq. CSM Wilson completed his stint with the Company and moved internally to become the Regimental Career Management Officer. The new Sergeant Major, WO2 Hind, took over after a very busy period as the Battalion Operations Warrant Officer. All the former Platoon Commanders have moved on to new postings; Lieutenant Smart will now be polishing his boots and training a new generation of recruits as a Platoon Commander at ATR Pirbright, Lieutenant Brown has moved to ITC Catterick and will be joined by Lieutenant Tetlow, once he completes an unexpected second Medman in BATUS as the Brigade Commander's Vehicle Commander. Lieutenant Dan Holloway has

taken over 6 Platoon and Lieutenant Bob Carman is now in Command of 4 Platoon. To complete the clean out, Lieutenant Crawford is now the Company 2IC, a position so valiantly filled by Lieutenant Smart in Canada! In the absence of a third Platoon Commander, Sergeant Walkinshaw will command 5 Platoon for the immediate future. Further changes are planned with the CQMS, Colour Sergeant Hughes, due posting in October.

Burma Company enjoyed a hugely successful exercise in Canada. It was a fitting Swan Song for a team that had been together for the deployment to Iraq and, after a long period of training, it was excellent to see the Company perform so well. The Dukes were the first battle group to trial the new thirty day Medman. For most this was the longest continuous exercise they had undertaken in their careers. The elements conspired to provide a significant challenge with temperatures ranging from the mid twenties to below zero in a couple of hours. The package itself was superb and provided the Company with an opportunity to get the basics right before progressing on to battle group level operations. Those that have been there will know the excellent training opportunities BATUS has to offer and for the platoons the live firing phase proved to be challenging but also a lot of fun. The culmination of the live training was an integrated company night attack with Mortars, Artillery, Milan and Snipers adding to the overall effect. This was an experience that won't be forgotten in a hurry and the reality of conducting an

attack closed down at night highlighted just how difficult armoured warfare can be. The TES phase of the exercise was also hugely enjoyable. Again we had the opportunity to start at the very lowest level and conduct progressive training in preparation for battle group operations. The Platoons were put through their paces in head to head test stands against OPFOR and, pleasingly, they performed extremely well. The Company also faced a set of test stands, the highlight of which was an outstanding dawn attack where the OPFOR were so surprised that most of them were still in their 'doss' bags as the platoons rampaged through the position. The Battle Group enjoyed unprecedented success in Canada, and Burma played a key part in this.

On a lighter note, the Company has proof that prolonged operational commitments can have advantages. As a result of a whirlwind romance during Operation Fresco, Private Perry is due to marry a policewoman, Anna, who was attached to the Company for the duration of the fire strike. Quite how he went

about wooing her whilst conducting his fire fighting duties we will not expand on here. However, the wedding promises to be a spectacular event and there are even rumours that a Green Goddess will make an appearance (this should be fine as long as the reception is not too far away from the ceremony). We wish them both well.

After a couple of quiet weeks in camp the pace will pick up again prior to summer leave. Training for Iraq is due to start in earnest in the next couple of weeks. This training will require the company to deploy, somewhat predictably, to Sennelager and do the build-up training with which we have become all too familiar of late. It is clear that with so many changes to personnel and the current situation in Iraq, there is no room for complacency. BATUS is now a memory, Basra beckons and we have a lot to achieve over the coming months in order to be ready for what promises to be a very demanding operational tour.

Major Phil Wilson

SOMME COMPANY

In January Somme Company was in a degree of turmoil. Those that had completed the operational tour in Kosovo returned to work in the Battalion for the first time since April 2003. Those that had remained with the Battalion had spent the majority of 2003 attached to other companies after completing the tour to Iraq. Therefore, as Somme Company mustered for the first time after Christmas leave, we had the daunting prospect of producing four fully-trained and manned platoons ready to deploy to BATUS in April. We had aimed off to ensure that the correct number of people had completed the plethora of specialist courses required for the platoons to take to the Prairie in their armoured vehicles. Prior to Christmas leave we also completed Milan and Mortar Cadres in order to get the platoons up to strength. However, the Recce Platoon had provided the majority of the manpower for Waterloo Company and were not able to complete a cadre prior to Christmas and the Sniper Platoon found itself in a similar position. A quick look at the programme for the first part of the year told us that there was not going to be a great deal of time to train the platoons before being exposed to the rigours of Medman 1. Ultimately the Company enjoyed a hugely successful Medman, with all four platoons playing their part as the battle group systematically defeated the OPFOR.

Since the Sniper Platoon was created in 2002 there had been little opportunity to train and establish an 'esprit de corps'. The fire strike and operational commitments had prevented the initial attempts at developing the Platoon. The Platoon consisted of sixteen keen and enthusiastic young soldiers headed by Sergeant Blake. Although they lacked experience they made up for this with enthusiasm and they very quickly set about preparing for Canada. The snipers still don't have a dedicated armoured vehicle to provide mobility, protection and survivability in the Armoured

role; therefore the platoon deployed to Canada in four Landrovers. This transport imposed natural limitations on their utility and it took a while to learn how best to employ the snipers so that they could survive to have an effect on the enemy. We were aided in this by aviation and were lucky to have two Gazelles tasked to us at battle group level for the whole of Medman. This enabled us to insert the snipers into depth in order and 'get eyes on' early in the mission. Other significant problems hampered their employment, not least of which was the chronic issue of poor communications. We also took a while to learn how to recover the snipers after the mission was over! Ultimately the snipers had an excellent exercise and we learned a lot about how best to train and deploy them in the all arms battle.

Mortar Platoon had been able to achieve a more progressive build-up to BATUS. During Gunnery camp in Bergen Hohne they were able to complete their first live firing in over two years (so OC Mortars was at last able to enjoy a cigar after breaking his mortar virginity!) They subsequently deployed with 4 Regiment Royal Artillery on Exercise Shell Drake Spear where they played their part in a Divisional concentration of indirect fire assets. All this training paid dividends and they deployed to BATUS well prepared and very quickly made a huge impact (excuse the pun).

Recce Platoon had a critical role to play in BATUS being the main 'eyes and ears' of the battle group. Historically recce platoons have had a torrid time on the Prairie, where the lightly armoured Scimitar would very quickly fall prey to the theoretically superior OPFOR Salamanders and Sturgeons. The only way to remain in the game is to make maximum use of the ground and be as 'stealthy' as possible. The platoon had very limited training time prior to deploying and also had to complete a cadre for all the new personnel. This was a tall order but the quality and depth of the Platoon overcame all the obstacles, and again they enjoyed a very successful exercise.

Milan Platoon, like Mortars, had a far more progressive build-up to Canada. They also conducted live firing during the gunnery camp and, without labouring the point, the lack of practice over the last two years was apparent. Naturally they weren't helped by the weather conditions, which I must confess were appalling. The platoon made steady progress during BATUS and spent many long hours providing the predictable flank protection. On the final mission, with the battle hanging in the balance, they ultimately won the day by securing our Northern flank and holding off a last ditch armoured strike. They deserved the plaudits they received for their final action and they worked very hard to achieve the standard they got to.

In between all the other training the company also ran a potential NCO's Cadre for those private soldiers from Waterloo Company who weren't able to complete one in 2003. Time was tight and we had to condense a cadre into just two weeks. After a great deal of consultation and planning we finally got permission from HQ Infantry and the cadre was a huge success. The soldiers who completed it had already proven their ability and robustness by completing the arduous training package for operations in Kosovo and had proven their ability on the tour. Overall the cadre was a huge success and rewarded those that passed for a very challenging twelve months.

Major Phil Wilson

HOOK COMPANY

Extract from Hook Company Iron Duke notes (post Canada) c 1978 ...

"So many things have happened during the present period, that I feel they are best recorded by the individual departments within our empire.

The Company HQ elements continue to travel. Gone are the days when we stayed static. Major Palmer, Colour Sergeant Dickens, Corporal Greenwood, Lance Corporal Stoddart and Lance Corporal Harrison showed the flag in Canada. The CSM volunteered to help the MTO as the Unit emplanement officer (UEO) and promptly forgot to send himself."

Twenty six years later and it's a case of situation no change. Only nowadays you don't get R and R and OC Hook is the UEO. The Quartermaster no longer languishes in B Echelon, as he is far too busy controlling logistics from his armoured vehicle in Battle Group headquarters. B Echelon is commanded by the

As with the rest of the Battalion, changes are being implemented in the hierarchy of the Company. CSM Andy Williams is posted before Summer Leave to the Regimental Recruiting Team and will be replaced by WO2 Andy Knight. Colour Sergeant Mills is due to take over as CQMS, just reward after an unexpected attachment to the Signals Platoon. Colour Sergeant Burton who has been the Mortar Platoon 2IC for as long as anyone can remember is moving back to Warminster to pass on his extensive knowledge to a new generation of mortarmen. Finally, the long-suffering OC, Major Wilson, has escaped and is now firmly ensconced in OC Burma's office just fifteen metres away from the Somme offices. The new OC, Major Lees, PWO, arrives in the Battalion in August.

The Company is now preparing to start training for the operational tour to Iraq. It is still not clear whether Somme will deploy in its traditional role or provide multiples a la routine PSO. Currently we have been told to prepare for both options and therefore another busy period lies ahead as we go through the usual range of exercises and tests prior to deployment. Whatever Orbat the Company deploys with, it promises to be a very challenging tour.

Regimental Admin Officer (paymaster). Step up is controlled by OC Hook.

A1 Echelon is still the responsibility of the MTO and A2 is commanded by the Technical Quartermaster, both groups successfully beat off sustained enemy attacks on several occasions throughout the exercise. The signallers still ensure we can communicate, the Regimental Signals Officer still gets shouted at by the CO. The intelligence section still stick maps together (and make us wear gas masks far too frequently).

The indefatigable LAD still fix vehicles in all weather and at all times of the day and night. The chefs still feed us far too well and satellite navigation systems make everything happen twenty times faster than ever. Oh ... and the present CSM, WO2 Morroney, also volunteered to help the UEO and promptly forgot to send himself.

Major A. J. Sutcliffe
OC Hook/UEO/OC Step Up

OFFICERS' MESS

I am not saying that it is an onerous task being the PMC of the Officers' Mess (or having to write about it three times a year) but it is with a sense of relief that I write my last set of Mess notes before handing over to Major Phil Wilson! In the last edition I doubtless left you on the edge of your seats waiting to hear what social escapades the erudite young Officers of the 1st Battalion had been involved in; I will start where I left you last time, with the 1 DWR Battle Group Officers' dinner night.

Some seventy two Officers sat down (for those of you who have been in the dining room you will know how much of a squeeze this was) to the very finest hospitality the Dukes can offer. Amongst them were Commander 4th Armoured Brigade, A and D Squadrons of the Royal Dragoon Guards (who recruit from the West Riding!), 3/29 (Corunna) Battery from 4th Regiment RA, 4th Armoured Engineer Squadron from 21 Engineer Regiment (whose OC is a Halifax lad) as well as Officers from all sorts of other supporting arms.

Pre-dinner drinks turned into something of a Colditz style muster parade as an over-zealous photographer held us for some time under arc lamps in order to ensure the photo "captured the atmosphere" (thankfully it was worth the wait as the photo did turn out well). The food and wine were excellent and dinner was followed by a stirring and suitably brief burst of Regimental history from each of the cap badges represented. Lieutenant Toby Smart did the Mess proud with his rendition of the subbies salute to bygone Dukes. Despite the Commanding Officer's gut feeling, Mess Rugby began shortly after the Brigade Commander left. Once the fog had cleared the next day (or a couple of days later for some) it soon became apparent that we had broken a couple of Dragoons during the rugby - although they were at pains to point out that they didn't think they had ever been to a better dinner night! Our apologies go to the Commanding Officer of the Royal Dragoon Guards for reducing the number of Troop Leaders he had available for Canada!

The rest of the period has been fairly quiet with the deployment to Canada but, just like last summer, we will be making up for lost time between now and summer leave. There is a massive turn over in the Mess this summer. By the time you read these notes we will have said goodbye to Colonel Duncan and Louise who move to Upavon, Brian and Adele Thomas who move to 20 Brigade in Sennelager, Garrath and Clare Williams (Garrath is leaving the army to join the Australian Army), Tom and Lulu Vallings who have moved (at

short notice) to 8 Brigade in Northern Ireland, Rob Palfrey who moves to the MOD in London (where he might be able to sort out his social life!), Barrington Payne who moves to Warminster as an instructor at Mortar Division, Sarah Bradley-Walker who moves on after two years of looking after our assorted and generally weary vehicle fleet, Adam Brown who moves to ITC Catterick and Toby Smart who moves to ATR Pirbright and I am moving to the Defence Procurement Agency in Bristol in August. In addition we have already said farewell to Palmer Junior who moved from Adjutant to HQ 4 Division in Aldershot back in April. Ed Smith has gone to Australia on Exercise Long Look (playing rugby) and we welcome Captain Tim Rutherford of the Australian Army who is now 21C Corunna Company. We welcome back Jim Glossop who has taken over as Adjutant and Dan Ogilvie who has taken over Ops Officer. We also welcome the arrival of 2nd Lieutenants Bob Carmen and Dan Holloway who have finally arrived from the months of training that Platoon Commanders now receive.

In the next edition there should be accounts of the Mess (en masse) crashing the 4 Brigade summer ball in July and doubtless tales of various parties welcoming back Colonel Phil and Sally and assorted others who are likely to return. Finally, a correction: in the last issue Captain Garrath Price married Clare. In fact Captain Garrath Williams married Clare!

Major Paul Fox, PMC

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

After a short but detailed handover, the reins of PMC were handed to me from WO2 Nick Wilson in early January. The engine room was building up a head of steam prior to the start of the training year and it was evident that we would not be able to draw breath again until early June after Batus. The social calendar was looking thin to say the least but a date had to be set to dine out WO1 (RSM) Taylor. Time in camp was limited, what with company exercises the CAST and CATT, so much of the preparation work for the evening was left in the very capable hands of Colour Sergeant Knocker Goodall and Sergeant Tim Morgan. They, as always, came up trumps and a very successful and enjoyable night was had around the table with the ladies on 27 March.

A well-earned Easter break was taken during the first two weeks of April. But just before we fell out the Mess was able to welcome back WO1 Caine who assumed the post of RSM post leave. As we were returning to Belfast Barracks the advance party had already departed for Canada to start the take-over of the vehicles and stores required for exercise Medicine Man One. Once all the Battle Group were complete in Canada, the Mess held a short meeting prior to D-Day, and then we were off on a thirty-day exercise with few opportunities for breaks or rest.

All Mess members would have to be on top of their game if we were to do well. It is worth noting at this

point that WO2 (RQMS) Paddy Buckingham was not planning to deploy, but was looking forward to running things from the comfort of his own bed in Camp Crowfoot. This was short lived when a nod and a wink from the QM saw him sign for a vehicle and trailer and have Private 'Trav' Travis assigned as his commander/buddy rifleman. The fun and games were about to begin. Included now is a paragraph taken from a statement signed by Paddy while filling in his FMT 3 (accident report form) I quote: "...while I was proceeding down the Rattlesnake Road at a sensible speed, imagine my surprise to see my trailer full of ammunition pull out and attempt to overtake me. After taking what I considered to be an evasive action the trailer, now with a mind of its own, decided to overturn and spill its contents all over the road." The point to note in this case is that the now modified trailer was recovered, re-filled and the ammunition delivered on time, if a little muddy. WO2 (RAOWO or Chief Clerk in old parlance) Pauline Heron who had hitched a lift with Paddy has since vowed never to travel with him again. Paddy's luck was wearing thin again when the vehicle he was following in convoy stopped and started to reverse. Paddy was quoted as saying: "Imagine my surprise when the vehicle in front stopped and just reversed into me. I had nowhere to go". The one good thing that came from all this was that it was easy to spot him arriving with a modified trailer and front left wing!

With the exercise going well, WO2 (OPSWO) Richie Hind, whose full time role was to sort out the battlefield discipline of main HQ (not an easy job), was given the chance to lead an intelligence-gathering Recce Patrol, deep behind enemy lines. An opportunity too good to miss, he led his warriors from the Recce Platoon in four Landrovers towards the objectives. He overcame many a problem, not the least two vehicles bogged in, no comms and the threat of capture. He and a small band of brothers after tabbing most of the night achieved their mission and got the all-important eyes on the enemy. He was bursting with information but could not tell anyone so he tabbed all the way back again avoiding capture to deliver the information back to the Commanding Officer. Richie is said to be considering a number of offers from publishers for his story of Prairie Doo and a film is expected late next year. As you will have read in other articles in this edition, BATUS for the Dukes was an outstanding success and every member of the WO's

and Sergeants' Mess can take pride and credit for helping this happen.

Since our return we have had a very successful pub night function with two themed bars and a nightclub set up in the Mess and we are currently planning a ladies dinner night for 19 June to say farewell to the QM. There are a number of Mess members moving round about now, WO2 (CSM) Nick Wilson is handing over Burma Company to WO2 Richie Hind before taking over as RCMO. Colour Sergeant Shawn Burton is leaving the Mortar Platoon to take up a slot at Warminster Mortar Division as an instructor. Colour Sergeant Richard Mosley is moving back to the UK to complete his last six months and Sergeant Mick Wroe is posted to Huddersfield recruiting team. All is well with the Mess but we are about to move back into top gear again as we prepare for Op Telic.

WO2 A. D. Williams, PMC

BATTLE GROUP PLANS - EVOLUTION OR REINVENTION?

You will read elsewhere the tales of daring do and bravery from the Rifle Companies and Support Platoons during Medicine Man 1, but be under no illusion; the real work was done in Battle Group Headquarters! Rather than a Cook's Tour of Battle Group Headquarters' BATUS experience this article will highlight how the Headquarters planned its missions. The purpose is not to bask in any temporary glory, as it is recognised it was "just an exercise" (albeit a £20 million exercise), but to stimulate discussion from Dukes past and present on how commanders have initiated, developed and delivered plans in different environments, utilizing different or no technology, using a variety of mind-sorting processes against the challenge of time, space, enemy and higher command's constraints.

Having undergone extensive and exhaustive training prior to deployment to Canada, the plans team (CO, 2IC, OC Plans, Major Malcolm Norman; OC ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Recce), Major Phil Wilson; OC Engineers, Major Paul Buttery, 4 Armoured Engineer Squadron; OC Guns, Major Andy Lewis Battery Commander 3/29 (Corunna) Battery; Int Officer, Captain Richard Payne; Ops Officer, Captain Rob Palfrey; and BG Log Officer (QM in old money). Major Brian Thomas), were extremely well swept up and rehearsed in dealing with both short-notice "fire brigade" planning, as well as the more deliberate planning options. The question, as ever, was how adaptable was the process when faced with short time lines, concurrent operations, the friction of many moving parts and then and ultimately first contact with the "free play" OPFOR (Opposing Forces) enemy.

There is little doubt that the unprecedented success of the battle group in BATUS was due to the grit and determination of the soldiers, the grip and drive of the JNCOs and SNCOs, the initiative and example of the Platoon Commanders, the tactical ability and speed of thought of the Company and Squadron Commanders

- and a simple plan. A simple plan that cut through the myriad of factors, deductions, implied and specified tasks and a simple plan from which the Commanding Officer was able to develop and adapt as the situation and the enemy changed. Whilst all this is an unchanging constant, and a flick through past copies of the Iron Duke pays testimony to that legacy, it is interesting to reflect on how the planning process has changed, developed and evolved during even my career; the appreciation replaced by the estimate, the estimate amended to include mission analysis and now further adapted to the "Seven Questions". As an analysis, all of these processes are methods of mind sorting a large amount of information into a workable and, more importantly, executable plan - but is any process better than the other? It may well be that the commander has an intuitive ability to "come up" with a solution, but it is only with the staff working through such a 'mind clearing' process that the refinements, control measures and coordinating instructions can be added. It is only working through a process that with limited time and most likely a high degree of sleep deprivation that "branches and sequels" to the plan can be developed as the "what if" and "worst case scenario" are played.

The BATUS experience has revealed that the current Seven Questions approach is a streamlined version of the laborious and rather unwieldy estimate process and recognizes that a commander does not necessarily have to come up with three courses of action and can shape the planning process with "intuitive" guidance and tactical "feel". The Seven Questions posed are as follows:

- What is the enemy doing and why?
- What have I been told to do and why?
- What effects (find, fix, strike, destroy, defeat, delay) do I want to have on the enemy?
- Where best can I accomplish each effect?

- What resources are required to accomplish each effect?
- When and where do the effects take place in relation to each other?
- What control measures do I need to impose?

An analysis of these questions will produce the commander's intent (what he is going to achieve), scheme of manoeuvre (how he will achieve it), main effort (the key to success), sub unit missions and tasks and the coordinating instructions that draw the plan together. The process is aided by a war gaming of blue and red forces and ideally a mission rehearsal with the sub unit commanders, which then allows the commander to rehearse a number of contingencies which might shape the plan as it develops in relation to space, time and the enemy. The raw products of this process are a set of written orders (which are reinforced by verbal orders including the vital commander's summary of execution) and a Decision Support Overlay which identifies where geographically the relevant effects will take place (killing areas, blocks), how the enemy will be shaped into those effects boxes (obstacles and use of the ground) and importantly when an event on the ground might cause the commander to make a timely decision (committal of his reserve). To many readers of the Iron Duke this will be second nature and I am sure that we may now be reinventing the planning wheel (I would be interested to know if we are reinventing the wheel and indeed how previous Dukes tackled the competing factors of too much information, too many tasks, too few men and too little time to deliver a plan), but clearly this is only the beginning of the process and the proof of the plan is in its execution.

Whilst the ultimate test of the process would be operational war fighting, there is no doubt that the friction of BATUS is an effective and realistic testing ground, particularly during the Tactical Engagement Simulation Phase of Ex Totalise, against a live enemy fitted with the capability to simulate engagement, with both vehicles and manpower being shown as casualties when accurately engaged. Whilst the rather hackneyed phrase of "no plan surviving first contact with the enemy" remains a historical fact, the ability of the plan to be adapted, with a variety of options and decision solutions generated, ensures that the plan does not stagnate in the chaos of battle (be that war fighting on operations or simulated on exercise). It was that skill that BATUS enabled the Dukes to rehearse the process, refine the approach and improve the system.

The ability of the commander to make a decision and execute that decision through his subordinates more quickly than the enemy commander, the ability of the subordinate commander to interpret that command and seize the initiative without constant referral to higher command for "permission" (the tenet of mission command) are ever constant factors which face the professional soldier and officer. The development of a simple, streamlined and product-focused planning process, which sorts the wheat from the chaff takes thought, rehearsal and refinement. The success of the Battle Group in BATUS justified the pre-training and sets the Battalion Headquarters in good stead for the operational tour of Iraq in late 2005.

Major M. D. Norman

OC Plans (and sometimes OC Corunna Company!)

BATUS : A PLATOON COMMANDER'S VIEW

In late May the Battalion departed to BATUS in mid-west Canada for what was described as "the best training you will do in the British Army". The prairie is the largest training area that the British Army uses and allows for some of the finest live firing packages available, with so few constraints on movement. The lack of constraints affords commanders the opportunity to make command decisions which are not overruled by safety.

Prior to leaving for BATUS the indignity of getting lost or geographically embarrassed was on every platoon commander's mind. The ground would be remarkably similar wherever you looked and the only way of navigating would be to use the contours of the ground. To that end, every platoon commander owes a debt of gratitude to the inventor of the Global Positioning System (GPS), which gives an accurate eight figure grid of your location via satellite. The other more real worry however, was to ensure the safety of your platoon and ensure that every man that went to Canada, came back. Prior to leaving there was no secret that it was not unusual to deploy to BATUS and for individuals not to return, whether it be a live firing accident or more likely a road traffic accident. However, every preparation was made that our soldiers were as

well trained and as well educated as possible on the dangers and safety issues of the prairie.

On arrival in Canada, we made our way to Camp Crowfoot. This is where we would spend the first few days signing over vehicles, packing the vehicles with kit and equipment and servicing them with what spares were available. Initially things looked to be good with shiny new paintwork on each vehicle. However, on closer inspection and in the course of time we found this merely covered a number of vehicle faults that would need to be rectified.

Finally we deployed onto the prairie with the help of some low loader vehicles in order to conserve track mileage. As we feared, the prairie was as described: featureless. This was reinforced by the location of the drop-off point 'Lone Tree'. A point we would come to know well as, on a barren training area the size of Luxembourg, a single lone tree is at least one point you can utter "I know where I am now". After some low level and dry training (no ammunition) we started the live firing package phase.

This was a fantastic opportunity for junior commanders and platoon commanders to practise what we had discussed prior to deployment and what we had already learnt from company exercises at Sennelager. The



Featureless.

emphasis was firmly placed on the integration of Warrior and the dismount soldiers. The drills were practised relentlessly and we quickly improved. It was satisfying to hear the Observer Controllers had little to criticize us on and that we were doing extremely well despite our relative inexperience.

In the early stages we carried out platoon attacks working as an independent group. These early attacks, along with the platoon and troop attacks, were among the best. This was very much the Platoon and Troop Commanders' 'train set' and we were able to gain in confidence in both battlefield awareness and communications. As with all training, the level at which we operate increases in size and complexity and therefore speed. The obvious next step was to work as a Company and then a Company/Squadron Group. Each time the grouping increased in size, the less control one had as a Platoon Commander, mainly due to the lack of air time on the nets. Therefore sub units had to be well-rehearsed and have robust standard operating procedures. Then the final step, the move to a combined arms live firing battle group. With the sheer numbers it becomes clear as to why as much real estate is required. As we had almost come to expect by this stage, everything went extremely well.

No sooner had the live firing stopped than we were preparing the vehicles for TES. TES is 'Laser Quest' on a large scale. The sequence of events would be similar to the live firing. Initially we would practise at low level and build back up to battle group level, culminating with Exercise Totalise, a seven-mission exercise against an opposing force. OPFOR made up from 2RTR and IRRF, recently returned from a successful war fighting

role in Iraq. Without doubt, the day of platoon stands and the day of company stands were amongst the most enjoyable. At this stage though, it was clear that the TES kit was going to prove as difficult to keep working as the Warrior itself. This became increasingly frustrating as the TES phase went on, as combat power was being lost due to technical difficulty. However the training value from the TES is fantastic. They had the ability to kill you, by following Warriors and even individual soldiers, should they stray into a mine field, cross a river, and even if you were struck by artillery.

As a result of the training and the willingness of the soldiers to change practices when instructed to do so by the hierarchy and by the Observer Controllers, meant that the Battle Group was able to succeed in winning an unprecedented seven missions to OPFOR's zero. This was epitomized when Private Staniland tabbed 5kms to get to a position. His vehicle had been M Killed (immobilized) and having been briefed of the requirement to get to the objective, which had been defined by the CO, he picked up his kit and tabbed to the position in sweltering heat. On arrival, the battle was still in flow with a number of casualties. Once the position had been destroyed and the attention of the enemy had switched to Alma's assault he then helped carry the dead and wounded and was personally praised by Commander BATUS at the Battle Group After Action Review.

As a platoon commander the need to be aware of both your one up, and two up commanders and have an understanding and knowledge of their intent is critical. However sometimes it's just instinct, and you can't teach that.

BATUS for the Dukes' Battle Group was a tremendous success, as it was at company and platoon level. It provided tough, realistic and valuable training in a difficult environment, where one day you were in a snow blizzard and the next you were getting sunburnt. It was an opportunity to have your platoon together and to train as a cohesive unit, a difficult prospect in these days of so many commitments. The training we received and the success that was generated gave me the

confidence to say that my Platoon was ready to deploy to a war situation in an armoured role. We now know the mechanics and procedures having practised them in live firing, and with TES against another battle group, and have proved ourselves in the toughest armoured infantry training environment.

Lieutenant M. Crawford, OC 9 Platoon
(attached to Burma Company for Medman)

A PLATOON SERGEANT'S VIEWS OF BATUS

All crews qualified, dismounts ready to go, what else could prepare us for Canada apart from the tactical side to come? Hmm...the weather was spot on at Bergen Hohne with snow! I laugh to myself as I type this article in the comfort of my pad only a few days since returning from Canada. Am I showing my age when the mnemonic Haversackies springs to mind from the days in Norway? This came to mind when I experienced all four seasons in two days in Canada. Before deploying to BATUS Corunna Company formed two platoons and were split, 7 Platoon going to Alma Company under the command of Major Fox and the companies undertook different exercises ranging from CATT to CAST, company exercises in Sennelager Training Area with help from the Armoured Infantry Advisory Team. The Battalion now was well trained, motivated and ready for the forthcoming challenges. It was 25 years since the Dukes were last in Canada, I was told by my father: luckily I didn't bump into any look-alikes of myself!

From D-day + 1 the lads undertook different live firing phases in which they enjoyed the massive arcs of fire and the freedom of movement. This included sections in defence, battle inoculation and not forgetting trench clearing with live grenades, which all dismounts enjoyed the most. Alma Company then progressed onto platoon and company day and night attacks, then integrated with Challenger tanks and other Battalion assets, this phase was good to keep us in line with light role tactics.

Next came the blank firing phase and the fit of TES kit as we donned our vests, each person looking like a storm trooper and those bloody antennas with which BATUS staff could keep a watchful eye on our every move, someone somewhere would always be poked in the eye! After each phase we looked forward to the maintainance days, which included a shower, even though we would be covered in dust walking back, a barbecue, and a bit of time for personal admin.

However, good points to the TES kit is that once you're shot by the enemy it starts to beep and displays what kind of injuries you have sustained, plus you could not fire your rifle; even Warriors could not move or transmit on the radio.

Then we would have to extract the casualties and treat them in order of priority, this is something that has become second nature, and something that is only really practised properly at BATUS. The next few weeks we engaged in combat with the OPFOR in all phases of war, heavy casualties sustained on both sides but Alma Company was victorious on its missions winning 7-0 against the OPFOR. BATUS history has not seen the OPFOR beaten very often - probably not since the last time the Dukes were there. Credit must be given to the young privates to the most senior officer for effort and aggression, leadership and decision-making from both crews and dismounts, not to mention Lance Corporals and soldiers doing section commanders and 2IC roles.

As with anything there are down sides. With Medman 1 the Warriors were poorly maintained (having sat in winter storage for six months) which resulted in losing the vehicles in battle, sometimes at key stages, due to breaking down. Added to delay in the availability of parts, we lost dismounts and the fire power sometimes for days at a time, during which the blokes lost good training time. In addition, only 50% of the lads went on adventure training and there was no R and R at the end.

These are the following things I will take away from Canada from my point of view: with the loss of casualties and the platoon rebalanced do we have enough ammo to go again? ... Yes Sir, or should I say yes Sergeant? You are one or two bullets away from the next rank; knowing the overall battle plan the mission and tasks, aggression, being proactive, anticipation at all levels; knowing all these will leave you the last man standing. Experience is gained rather than given.

Sergeant J. Coulson
Platoon Sergeant 7 Platoon



"Dave" models the TES equipment, showing sensor points and antenna.

N.B. During a couple of missions Sergeant Coulson ended up commanding what was left of Alma Company - he seized the initiative and carried the day - if we had been doing this for real he would now be at Buckingham Palace collecting his MC and Bar!

OC Alma Company

SECTION COMMANDERS' BATTLE COURSE

After a well-deserved rest following Op Telic it was time to pack my bags and head for the dizzy heights of Dering lines at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Wales to carry out my Section Commanders' Battle Course (SCBC). All the Brecon myths start to play mind tricks on you as you hear all the rumours from the people that have already been to Brecon. Having been and successfully completed the course I now know that the rumours and myths are just that.

The first phase of the course is seven weeks skill at arms, in which you learn how to instruct on all the infantry weapon systems, which is a good part of the course. It can get a little tedious after a while having to stay up till all hours preparing two lessons every night which turned out to be quite a laugh.

The long weekend now approaching for a well-deserved break and this is where the real fun begins! Eight weeks with the scary Colour Sergeant instructors is now here and things change dramatically. We all knew what was coming with the first three weeks in camp doing fitness and written tests. The remainder is mostly in the field which kicks off nicely with attack week, where we were put through our paces doing section and platoon attacks all day. This was very enjoyable but demanding, then all the training was put into practice for the remainder of the course, getting command appointment after command appointment. One of the better things on the course was a nice little

tab over Pen-y-Fan which consisted of a 20km march in sections over the black mountains carrying 44lbs. Happily my section was the fastest home and we were awarded a crate of Stella on our return to camp - some welcome refreshment.

Before we knew it the final exercise was upon us. We took off in a Chinook from Dering lines onto a defensive area for one week in defence whilst carrying out standing patrols and various other tasks. On the completion of that week the light was well and truly at the end of the tunnel, with just the final week in Cellini village to conduct the Fighting In Someone's House (FISH) phase. After attacking the village we then had to defend it, also carrying out anti-armour and anti-personnel ambushes by day and night, which kept us extremely busy. After all this it was time to get on the Bedford for one last time back to camp for tea and medals. All in all it was a hard course but thoroughly enjoyable - if you are heading that way in the future don't believe the hype - you don't need to be superman to pass the course!

Lance Corporal D. A. Bagnall
Alma Company

N.B. Lance Corporal Bagnall achieved a good pass on his course. As a result he is posted to ITC Catterick as a Corporal Instructor - congratulations and good luck!

OC Alma Company

ARMY RUGBY UNION SEMI-FINAL 1 DWR v 7 RHA

This season's Army Rugby Union cup run came to an end after a spirited performance in the semi-final against 7 RHA.

The Dukes' team had looked promising all season, undefeated and boasting Army and Combined Services players Lieutenant Ed Smith and 2 Lieutenant Chris Johnson. We had been prepared meticulously by our coach, Captain Finlay Bibby, who as the ex-Army Captain would have certainly hooked had he not been suffering from a complicated broken arm that has prevented him from training and playing during the year. The Battalion commitments have been demanding this season. With a brigade training year effectively being shoe horned into six months, OC Rugby, Major Vallings, needed to juggle time and commitments to facilitate both. Most training and preparation was done in personal time, spare weekends and evenings and Finlay successfully moulded a robust, well-drilled squad with focused goals and the necessary flair to do well.

Progression to the semi-final was almost a formality, the Dukes handsomely defeating the Black Watch by 42 points in the quarter-final. We realised we would meet 7 RHA on route to the final and preparations now focused on beating the Gunners. They were our match in 1999 when we met them in the Final at Aldershot and we were aware of their abilities.

The draw was made for 11 February at JHQ Riendahlen, Germany. The first time for several years that the game had been played in BFG, the venue clearly suited the Battalion. A period of intensive training preceded the day and cometh the hour the 22 man squad could have been no better prepared. A huge Dukes' crowd made the three hour journey from Osnabrück to line the touchline and out-shout the odd maroon beret of the Airborne Gunners.

The game was a hard-fought affair. 7 RHA attract most rugby players within the Royal Artillery, including several Combined Services and a couple of top level club players. It became evident early on that we were in a tough game. The pack had the edge in the bruising encounter up front, but, unusually for the Dukes, the backline was at times outclassed, particularly out wide against a fantastically quick and decisive Artillery back three. The first half was evenly contested, with the Dukes' pack scoring twice, one through No 8 Captain Ed Colver and the second a glorious break-away try by the athletic second row Private "King" Tuikoro. Smith converted both. The second period was not so enjoyable. The experience and temperament, borne of competing at club level week in, week out in the UK was evident from 7 RHA. They spread the ball wide keeping it from our forwards and allowing their raw pace at full back and wings to slowly pile on the points.

By the third quarter the score had risen to 27-14 in favour of the opposition. Some accurate kicking both from hand and the tee pinned us down and cemented their lead. The team never gave in and some inspirational performances by Major Miles Hayman (AGC) and Private "Luva" Luvawaqa proved we still had a sting in our tail at the end.

This disappointing result marked the end of an enjoyable season of Rugby Union in the Battalion, however Lieutenants Smith and Johnston went on to tour South Africa and then compete in the Army's Navy fixture at Twickenham.

Captain P. Lee
OC Mortars

BATTALION FOOTBALL

Following the Battalion's exit from the Army Cup, the final effort of the season was centred on a good run in the Infantry Cup. The draw for the quarter-finals teamed the Dukes up with a home fixture against 1 RRF. There was a good crowd at the game as the Fusiliers brought two coach loads of supporters to cheer on their team.

The Dukes dominated the first half playing some good football, but without achieving the breakthrough. The game, as expected, was hard-fought owing to the excellent fitness displayed by both teams. The game continued in the same vein in the second half and both teams were reduced to ten men when Corporal Smith was sent off, rather harshly, for a second bookable offence. The Dukes continued to press and our fitness began to tell and we, deservedly, went ahead in the 70th minute. Private Reynolds swung in an excellent free kick and Private Shinn rose brilliantly at the far post to head home the winner - knocking himself out in the process! We had several great chances to finish the game off but they all went begging. However in the end it was a comfortable 1-0 win. It was an excellent team performance but displays of note were put in by Privates Bishop and Catchpole at the back, Private Gill in mid-field and Private Shinn up front.

The Battalion was drawn against 1 Staffords in the semi-final and the fixture was played at Tidworth. The Dukes continued where they had left off in the previous game and penned the Staffords into their own half for the first thirty minutes. We hit the bar and had two attempts cleared off the line before two excellent finishes by Lance Corporal Pearson put the Dukes into a commanding 2-0 lead. During this period of the game

we played our best football of the season thus far. On the stroke of half time the Staffords earned a corner and from the resulting clearance a great strike by their right back saw the deficit pulled back to 2-1. In the second half we never regained our form and as the game progressed the presence and drive in midfield of Corporal Smith (absent through suspension) was missed. In the last fifteen minutes the Staffords scored twice from set pieces and there was no way back for the Dukes. This was our biggest disappointment of the season and no one was more surprised at the end result than the Staffords players. Despite the result, the back four put in a good performance and the return of Private Hurd and Lance Corporal Fulton to the team were certainly positives.

The season has been difficult, with extremely limited opportunity to train due to commitments. It is therefore all the more satisfying to reflect upon what this season's squad of players has achieved: winners of the Brigade and Garrison six-a-side competition, winners of the Brigade and Garrison eleven-a-side competition, semi-finals of the Infantry Sixes, semi-finals of the Infantry Cup and quarter finalists in the Army Cup.

In addition, congratulations must go to Lance Corporal Collington and Private Reynolds who are now firmly established in the very successful Infantry Squad which won the Massey Trophy. Even more encouraging is the fact that there is potential for more of the Dukes' current squad to establish themselves in the coming seasons.

Captain D. Renihan AGC (SPS)
OC Football

ARMY RUGBY TRAINING CAMP SOUTH AFRICA - 2004

In preparation for the Inter-Services rugby the Army rugby team spent three weeks in and around Cape Town, South Africa, training and playing matches. The Dukes were represented by Lieutenants Ed Smith and Chris Johnston. The three weeks were predominantly spent training, with lots of fitness, pattern plays and video analysis sessions. With temperatures reaching 30 degrees centigrade these sessions became seriously gruelling, as some of them lasted for over three hours.

The first game was against Hamiltons Sea Point, reputedly the oldest rugby club in South Africa. Fortunately the kick off was in the early evening, as we had not yet acclimatised to the heat. It was very important for the Army team to start with a win and set the standard for the rest of the tour and the team didn't

disappoint. In a very physical game against a large pack and fast backs the Army was able to notch up a 21-14 win.

The second game was against Villagers, played on the hallowed turf of Newlands Rugby Stadium, as a curtain raiser for Stormers versus ACT Brumbies Super Twelve match. In a very even match with the lead changing hands in the heat of the midday sun, Villagers were able to hold on to win by 21-19. The game was fast and free-flowing with lots of flair being shown by both teams, the difference being in the tactical kicking of the Villagers' fly half.

The third game was against Tygerburg, a mostly black team that recruits from the shanties around Cape Town. On a hot, steamy night in front of a vociferous

crowd the Army were able to raise their game and as a result clawed out a 30-25 win. The game was extremely fast and furious, with the Tygerburg backs looking very dangerous. However due to some excellent last ditch defence the army was able to hold out.

The final game before the return to the UK was against Stellenbosch University, the biggest rugby club in the world with over fifty regular teams. Unfortunately the Army team did not play well and as a result a very good Stellenbosch team were able to win by the considerable margin of 71-25. The score did not reflect how keenly contested the game was.

It wasn't all work, and during the recovery days a number of activities took place. These included shark diving, trips up Table Mountain, to the Stellenbosch vineyards and to four Super Twelve matches. We were even allowed to sample the nightlife a couple of times, although training the next day would try to sweat some

of the alcohol out. The tour was very well run and was on a par with the sort of attitude and professionalism of premiership rugby teams. Not only was the coaching of a very high standard, but the back-up staff also worked hard, enabling the players to recover from small knocks and injuries quickly. As a result players were able to get the maximum out of the trip. This is in keeping with Andy Hickling's desire to take Army rugby to another level and have a more professional attitude.

Although the training camp was hard work, with some very tough, physical games, it was overall very good fun. The hospitality shown towards the team was second to none and as a result the Army coach invited some of the teams to the Army Sevens and other competitions. The training camp left the Army rugby team very well prepared and confident of retaining the Inter-Service Championship for another year.

Lieutenant Chris Johnston

THE DUKES WIVES' CLUB "A PRAT IN A HAT" PARTY

Various members of the 'Dukes' Wives Club' were wondering how to brighten up their social lives during the dull period following the Christmas festivities, when Nikki Ledingham received a letter from Regimental Headquarters requesting help in raising funds to enhance the Regimental Archives.

During discussions with some friends, Chrissie Craven suggested the theme of "A Prat in a Hat" party. This was enthusiastically taken up by the committee and a flurry of activity raised enough money for some decent raffle prizes, a disco and karaoke as well as a fish and chip supper.

Arms were twisted, bar staff found, tickets sold, and hats fabricated throughout the length and breadth of the Married Quarters' patch in Osnabrück.

The function took place in the Wellington Centre on Friday 12 March 2004, and was extremely successful, not only judged in terms of gallons of alcohol consumed but also, almost as importantly, by the fact that £470.00 was raised to donate to the Regimental Archives. The prize for the best hat was won by Chrissie Craven and the prize for the winning costume was awarded to 'the schoolgirl' (Claudette) - especially as Basher Bates was on the panel of judges.



Left to right: Chrissie Craven and Nikki Ledingham.

Nikki Ledingham would like to take this opportunity to thank the Unit Welfare Office for their hard work, the chefs for a first rate fish and chip supper and the disc jockey.

During the 'after-action-review' it was decided to hold similar themed wives' club functions in support of the Regimental Archives Conservation Programme in the future.



Left to right: Debbie Wallace and Lisa Wrigley.



Left to right: Steph Mounsey, Claudette Mosley, Julie Schofield.

The East and West Riding Regiment

Commanding Officer's Introduction

I have never known a busier and more challenging time to serve with the 'Yorkshire Territorial Infantry' than at present. Nor have I known a better time to be a Territorial soldier. The Regiment has just received back to its ranks forty Op Telic 3 soldiers who have done a magnificent job with ILI in Maysan Province (a selection of photographs from the tour are opposite). I should make note of the tremendous support our Territorials have received from their employers and families which enables them to continue to meet the considerable commitments being asked of them. We are about to mobilise a Force Protection Company of over 140 officers and soldiers under the Command of Captain Jim Cameron DWR(V) with WO2 Padley DWR(V) as CSM. At the time of writing ministerial authority has not yet been granted, but it is likely that the Company will deploy as a formed body to protect HQ MND (SE) in November 2004. On deployment of this Company the Regiment will have mobilised over 240 soldiers in support of the Regular Army within an eighteen month period. Coupled with twenty-five transferees into the Regular Army this year and ten individuals on FTRS and other forms of service this is a considerable



Tactical Recognition Flash

achievement. Indeed it is an historic achievement of which the East and West Riding Regiment should be proud.

Homeland Defence commitments continue with elements of the Regiment being on 6, 12 and 24 hours' notice to move to deploy in support of the Emergency Services. We have begun the preparation for Annual Camp which this year will be linked to mobilisation training and Peace Support Operations. Meanwhile the recruiting season is in full swing. The Regiment is closely tied into the Dukes' RRT and can now boast its own professional trailer and paintball range. Recruiting is buoyant and it is hoped that the target of full manning may be reached by March 2006.

I am pleased to report that the Regiment has been granted permission to wear a Tactical Recognition Flash. The Yorkshire Rose design dates back to the 49 Division TF in which all the units that go to make up The East and West Riding Regiment served. Finally our gallant football team was unfortunately knocked out in the quarter finals of the Minor Unit Cup. WO1 Craddock and his team are to be congratulated for their valiant effort.



Regimental Football Team.

The playing Dukes were WO2 Roberts, Private Stansfield, WO2 Padley, Privates Carter, Attewell, Tibble, WO1 (RSM) Craddock, Privates Mellor, Brook, Sergeant Burton.



**Lieutenant Newiss,
Fontenay Company.**



Private Winters, Corporal Butterworth and Private Lund, Fontenay Company.

FONTENAY (DWR) COMPANY

The recent months have been a time of change for Fontenay Company with a number of key positions having seen a change of personnel. The first to mention is that there has been a change of Officer Commanding, with Major Lee Whitworth having moved on and indeed retired from service with the TA. We wish Lee all the best for the future and in particular with his increasingly demanding career in Education. Major Whitworth is replaced by myself, Captain Michael Watson, and I am pleased to be returning to service with the infantry after a short period of time spent with the Royal Engineers. I have previously served with other Territorial Army infantry units over the years and it is therefore a great opportunity for me to take up the position of Company Commander with Fontenay Company.

The Machine Gun Platoon at Sheffield has also seen a change of personnel, with Colour Sergeant Watts due to move to a posting as CQMS at Catterick and the post of Machine Gun Platoon Permanent Staff Instructor now filled by Sergeant Ledingham. We are fortunate in that Colour Sergeant Watts will be with the Battalion for a short while whilst his posting is finalized and therefore we will still hopefully see him around for the time being. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the excellent work he has done for the Company and again send him our best wishes for his next posting. I would also take this opportunity of formally welcoming Sergeant Ledingham and recording that we look forward to the benefit of his substantial experience and support over the coming two years.

The final farewell which we must record is that of Captain Harry Baxendale who will be handing over the post of Permanent Staff Administrative Officer to Captain David Morris. Harry retires after serving for sixteen years with the Territorial Army and at the end of an Army Career spanning a total of forty-one years. Whilst I have only had the privilege of working with

Harry for a short while, it is clear that he has been a key member of the Company for many years and his detailed knowledge of the personnel and of Company matters in general has been of great assistance. Whilst Harry's wealth of knowledge and information will be greatly missed we wish him all the very best for his retirement and will look forward to welcoming Captain David Morris to the Company very shortly.



**Captain Harry Baxendale receiving a presentation
from Lieutenant Colonel Mark Lodge on his
retirement after 41 years and 6 months' service.**

1 DWR BATTLE GROUP ON EXERCISE



The car-sick crew of c/s 22 demand to change their driver.



Challenger 2 is seriously



Extract from RAF Air Transport Training film:
“Moving squaddies is simple - just put a little something in their tea.”

MEDICINE MAN AT BATUS, SPRING 2004



Harboured up ...

... to have on one's own side.



... with a sabre squadron of the Royal Dragoon Guards in close attendance.

Once the changes to personnel that I have outlined are completed, I anticipate that we can look forward to a period of stability within the Company which will enable it to consolidate and develop. At present there is a hard core of personnel who regularly support training weekends and whilst overall the numbers of soldiers on the books are good we need to work to improve attendance. Key to this is having the correct command structure in place and at present most key appointments are filled with personnel of the appropriate experience and qualification. There remain, however, vacancies at platoon commander level.

Attendance has clearly suffered as a result of key personnel having been deployed on Op Telic and we look forward to mid June when Lieutenant Newiss, Corporals Baldwin, Butterworth, Dolan, Wass, Whitehead, Privates Bailey, Crookes, Ellin, Lund, Robson, Williams and Winter come back on strength after their tour in Iraq. I have yet to meet this formidable crew and I am very much looking forward to welcoming them all back into the company after post tour leave is completed and anticipate that their experience will be of great value to the Company.

At the time of writing we are currently engaged upon a series of weekends which involve training for offensive operations. Much of the emphasis on these weekends has been placed upon being out in the field exercising and developing skills such as patrolling, deliberate attacks and generally improving personal skills and administration in the field. The emphasis on weekends such as this is to deploy straight into the field and for the Company to support itself throughout the

course of the weekend. It is, however, also important to ensure that the social life of the Company is maintained and therefore a number of social events are planned over the coming months. The first was an evening recently at the TA Centre which resulted in the bar being drunk dry with numbers attending being bolstered by personnel just returned from Iraq also coming along.

The main effort for the Company at present remains recruiting and retention and our recruiting effort is maintained by Sergeant Fitchett, who is working hard at trying to push as many new recruits through the selection and training process as possible.

The machine gun platoon at Sheffield continues to prosper under the leadership of WOII Yates and Colour Sergeant Johnson and has recently undertaken a number of training weekends involving live firing for the GPMG Match 9 competition. Unfortunately the first attempt at Otterburn was completely washed out with heavy rain and winds but they were subsequently able to shoot in not dissimilar conditions at Warcop.

I should also take this opportunity of offering my congratulations to our medic, Corporal Revill, on her recent and very much deserved promotion.

I would conclude by saying that I hope that the Company can look forward to a period of stability following the changes that have recently taken place and that we can look forward to a period during which most of our personnel are available to us for training. Time will be the judge of how long that period will last.

Captain M Watson
Officer Commanding

YPRES (DWR) COMPANY

Battlefield Tour - April 2004

In mid 2003 plans were made for celebrating Ypres Company's success as the Champion Company of the East and West Riding Regiment. There was also a desire to promote an interest and better understanding of our history as a Dukes' cap-badged company. To achieve both goals a tour of the battlefields of Ypres was planned. Many hours of preparation were undertaken by various members of the command team in order for things to run as smoothly as possible on the tour itself.

A small advance party set off to France on the evening of 1 April in order to arrange the final details before the arrival of the main party of thirty who travelled overnight on 2 April.

At 0830hrs on Saturday 3 April we all gathered in Ypres town centre. After a 'welcoming brief' from WO2 Roberts we pressed ahead with the programme. The first phase was to concentrate on the town of Ypres itself. Major Hunter introduced the tour with a history of the town, the role it played in the Great War and the hardship and destruction it endured. We then made our way to a small café Colour Sergeant Mallas had commandeered for his presentation. With a cup of coffee in one hand and trench maps in the other we listened intently as Colour Sergeant Mallas gave an

account of World War One on all fronts and described in detail the separate battle of Ypres and how they affected the frontline positions over the four years of fighting. To further illustrate the points that had been made and to create a better understanding of the horrors and hardships endured we moved into the rebuilt Cloth Hall and to the 'In Flanders Fields Museum'. The interactive display proved invaluable in getting the point across.

A visit to Ypres cannot be made without visiting the Menin Gate. This memorial lists thousands of Commonwealth soldiers who were lost on the Ypres Salient but have no known final resting place. It was here that Major Hunter laid a wreath, on behalf of all members of the Company, in remembrance of the fallen.

After a few moments to reflect on what we had seen and learnt, we returned to the vehicles. We now moved from the town and into the surrounding countryside to conduct phase two of the tour - walking the battlefields.

The area fought over around Ypres is vast and the individual battlefields are too numerous to visit in one day. As a result, two specific areas were chosen. One that is of great significance to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the second to illustrate, in part, trench warfare.

Our first destination was to be Hill 60. The aim was to highlight the story of this feature during the war with particular attention being given to the actions of the 2nd Battalion DWR in capturing the hill in mid April 1915. This was to take the form of a 'war walk' in which, after a brief ground orientation, the group started from the British front line trenches and walked across 'no-man's land' through the crater positions and onto the German first and second lines. At the same time a dialogue was given relating to locations and objectives of the Dukes' companies, the casualties they suffered and the acts of heroism that were shown. The enormity of this undertaking and the cost in human life for the capture and retention of what today seems a small insignificant feature definitely hit home. Unfortunately, time was pressing and we had to move on, with questions firing in from all directions about what had just been recounted.

Sanctuary Wood and the small section of preserved trenches, dugouts and saps was our next port of call. This visit allowed the group to see for themselves how trench systems were constructed and the living and

fighting conditions associated with them. There was also another opportunity to see some of the weapons and equipment from the period that has been stockpiled within the museum.

By now everyone had a pretty good understanding of the battles, conditions and horrors endured by the men who had fought in the war. It now remained to illustrate the human cost.

We moved on from Sanctuary Wood to Bard Cottage CWGC Cemetery to the NW of Ypres. It is in this area that the TA Dukes' Battalions of the 49th West Riding Division fought and died to hold the British line in 1915-16. This particular cemetery was begun by the 49th Division in June 1915 and is the final resting place of more than sixty Dukes, many of whom had joined up and trained at Ypres Company's drill halls in Huddersfield and Keighley. After recounting the history of the TA Dukes in the area, a small wooden cross was given to each member of the group along with a name and headstone number. Messages of remembrance were written and the crosses were placed at the headstones of the Regiment's fallen.



Ypres (DWR) Company group at the Menin Gate.

We once again climbed into the vehicles to drive to what was to be the final visit of the tour - Passchendaele and Tyne Cot CWGC Cemetery.

As we stood at the gates of Tyne Cot Cemetery and looked down from the ridge, Major Hunter described the actions that were made in attacking Passchendaele and capturing the German pillbox and bunker complex on which Tyne Cot Cemetery is constructed. We then moved inside to wander amongst the thousands of headstones, some of which list up to ten names, and to pay our respects to more soldiers of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment who rest there. A very sobering end to an excellent day.

The tour was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who had taken part. This, however, would not have been possible had it not been for the support and generosity of the Huddersfield and Keighley trustees and our Deputy Honorary Colonel, Charles Dent. On behalf of Ypres Company, I would like to offer our sincerest gratitude and thanks to them. I would also like to thank Cyril Ford of RHQ for the help he gave in my preparation and planning for this tour.

Lieutenant Stephen Jones

THE TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR STANLEY LANGLEY'S WAR

... continued from Issue No. 254 page 34.

Fort Grolman and Andrespol

When we completed the hospital job, I was taken to Fort Grolman, one of a ring of 19th century forts built around Posen (another fort was an extermination camp for local Jews and intelligentsia). There we had a British POW doctor who examined my hernia and gave me a six weeks' sick note. He suggested an operation and this was performed at Wronki in February, 1942. I was kept in that hospital for two months, which seems ridiculous for a hernia operation. The staff were in no hurry to send patients back to the camps and poor rations. The job was done by a marvellous Polish surgeon, who had a reputation for performing miracles on wounded soldiers. His name sounded like Jymbowski. He was assisted by a Scot, Dr Cameron, who gave me a local anaesthetic. They did a remarkable job, leaving only a small scar. There was another POW doctor there, Shirer, a South African Jew who defied the Germans. He said, "I am a Jew, but I am a British prisoner of war". They couldn't do much about it. He survived.

I went back to the fort in April to find they had brought a piano into the camp. So I started to play and this was a fine form of escape. It took your mind off food, at least for a while. We were always short of food. A Polish worker sold us forged bread coupons, which were taken out to the bakers by local women. They would bring loaves back, hidden under their skirts.

I noticed that on Saturday evenings trains would come into Posen carrying Russian prisoners from the front. They were put into a fenced area next to the railway. Some of our men had to go out to bury dead Russians. When they opened the doors of the cattle trucks they were filled with dead or starving men. The Germans were very callous about the whole thing. They would throw bodies into a pit, one still alive covered like the rest. It was understandable that the Russians' reaction to this was seen in their later treatment of German prisoners.

A new German Feldwebel, sergeant, called Meier arrived to take charge at the fort - and he was a bit of a so-and-so. When, after waiting for months, Red Cross parcels arrived, he wouldn't distribute them: "You have to wait". Next day, we lined up for work in the tunnel

leading out and our senior man, RSM Noble, declared that we were not leaving until the parcels had been given out. It was a stand off. Meier got all his guards lined up, their rifles cocked and pointed at us: "Go to work, or we open fire!" He meant it, too. Our RSM had to back down and we went off to work. Eventually, we got the parcels. It was rather strange that much later on Meier became quite mellow. Perhaps he had mixed so long with British prisoners that it had a softening effect.

Meier's second-in-command was Kempfer, another sergeant, and he was a splendid fellow from the start. We called him Tubby; small, the most inoffensive chap you have ever come across. Before the war he had run a bar in Hamburg. One day I went to do a job at his quarters outside the camp. Frau Kempfer was very concerned about me because of my situation; she presented me with a rosy apple. The whole family was really lovely.

In the Spring of 1943, half of us left Fort Grolman and went with our guards to a little place called Andrespol, on the outskirts of Lodz. The other half stayed behind, then went off to another fort in Posen. Because I was the pianist, it was decided that the piano would be sent on to us. When it arrived it was smashed to pieces. Our own people back at the fort were responsible! Because they had contributed money to help buy it, and didn't think that we at Andrespol should have it, they smashed it up. The only undamaged part was the soundboard, without which it would have been useless. Well, when it arrived the Germans were incensed. They said that if they had done it there would be hell to pay. It was disgusting that the British had done it. The Germans were right, of course.

At that time I was doing a particularly foul job, digging heavy blue clay that broke our shovels. The RSM sent for me and asked if I could repair the piano. I might have a month off to restore the instrument. I said, "If you give me a month off work, I'll build you a tank, never mind a piano". So I got it back together again. The strings however were all broken, so I was allowed to go into Lodz for a fresh set. I was no piano technician, however, luckily, I found just the right man: Johnny Kinghorn who had that very job in civilian life.

He finished off the restoration and tuned it. At Christmas the Germans came to borrow the piano for the guards' concert. The RSM said it was up to me, so I agreed.

The commandant at this camp was excellent. When we first arrived there, they had no water and no food for us. So he said that no man was to go out to work until water was laid on and there was food to eat. It took a few days. Now the commandant sent half a dozen of his men to collect the piano, with me in charge of the removal. We set it up in the guards' theatre. On the night of their concert I was allowed in and saw the commandant at the bar. "Good evening, Mr Langley!" he called out. He was a decent, civilized person. Afterwards, the piano was carefully returned.

It was cold that winter. George Carmichael, another highlander, was a trumpet player in our camp orchestra. He was also required to go round the camp at an unearthly hour blowing reveille. His mouthpiece used to freeze solid so that the notes were unrecognizable as any known bugle call. And this was in spite of his starting off with a bucket of boiling water in which to dip the trumpet. He had hardly got half way round the camp before his bucket was full of ice, making necessary a return trip to the cookhouse.

All in all, it wasn't a bad period at that camp near Lodz - apart from the fact that we were next door to a Jewish concentration camp. I remember going out one day and seeing a scaffold with five or six Jews hanging there. Under their terrible regime of suffering and brutality, some of those prisoners worked in a factory making saccharin tablets. If we could get close enough to them, without the SS noticing, they would exchange their tablets for anything we had.

By this time, we knew the war was going our way. We heard of the German defeat at Stalingrad a year ago, which even the Germans admitted, although they called it a tactical withdrawal. From our radio we knew the tide had turned.

Koenigshutte

Now the Red Army was in Poland, advancing westward. About May, 1944, the Germans moved us south-west to Koenigshutte (Chorzow), near Katowice. The camp was in the middle of a huge steel-making complex - still operating, although much of it had been sabotaged. (This place was about twenty-five miles from the notorious Auschwitz.)

We had a new set of guards and an *Unteroffizier* decided to show his authority. He stood in front of everybody, laying down the law. To demonstrate the punishment for serious offences, he pulled out his revolver and fired it into the air. Bang! Then one of our men said, "We've got a right Sam Sudden here!" This was a reference to some odd comic character of the 'thirties, and everybody burst out laughing. The Germans could not understand why, when they were laying the law down and trying to frighten us all to death, the British should all start laughing.

We were plagued by bedbugs at that steelworks' camp. We tried every way to get rid of them; yet, curiously, you could almost get fond of little living things like that. Eventually the Germans took action. Toilet facilities were primitive and communal: a cesspit

with a line of seats above it. This pit was emptied periodically by an elderly Pole with an ancient machine capable of pumping out waste incredibly quickly. It comprised a horse-drawn cylinder on wheels, with a long nozzle going down into the effluent and a sort of periscope pipe on top. The latter was lit when the operator used a hand pump to build up some gas pressure. On one occasion something went wrong. The machine, instead of sucking, went into reverse; the result may be imagined. Some wag in the camp wrote up in large white letters: "V.1 - Hitler's Secret Weapon". The victims of the mess-up probably agreed with that.

It was here that we experienced American air raids and also from the RAF flying up from Italy. The Germans would broadcast where the raiders were. They gave three warnings: they are coming; they are near here; now they are going to bomb us. We knew something about carpet-bombing, where they drop flares and then blitz everything in that area. We heard on the BBC that the Germans were relocating industries away from the Ruhr. One location was Koenigshutte - they were going to flatten it.

We were in our hut one night when four flares came down and we were right in the middle of them. (By this time we had built ourselves an air-raid shelter, with the guards' approval. I had a big part in that as I prepared the shuttering for the concrete.) We survived. In raids like that the Poles would empty the slag onto the slagheaps; the light from the molten metal showing the planes above what was going on down below.

We heard about the Normandy landings in June. We prisoners had to work in the steelworks, although I spent most of my time with wood. There wasn't much work done. Earlier, the locals had worked hard; but our example, and that of other foreign prisoners, in not helping energetically the German war effort, was catching.

At Christmas, 1944, Arthur Ryder, from Blackpool, was out working and saw a rabbit. He threw a stone and killed it. His little group ate the rabbit for their Christmas dinner. This little incident for them was like winning the lottery. The guards didn't do anything for us that Christmas, they just left us to it. No extra food, but no work.

The steelworks had a small organ, a harmonium. I was playing it one day for a crowd of us: "We'll hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line". Suddenly, I felt something sticking in my ribs. I turned round to see Rudi Brueckner, a fanatical Hitler Youth-type of guard, younger than the others. He had been on the Russian Front, got wounded, and was now stuck with us. He didn't like it, and he didn't like us. "I know what you are playing! Name and number!" he screamed. I never heard anything more about it. The commandant there was quite good, like the previous one.

Then Brueckner came into our hut one day and said that our untidy clothes line had got to go. Now this line, strung around the hut, was our radio aerial, so Angus McDonald went off and asked to see the commandant. As a reasonable German-speaker, Angus persuasively pointed out to the officer that we had a line up in order to keep everything neat and tidy. He bluffed his way as

a good NCO and the Teutonic mind before him agreed wholeheartedly.

It was Brueckner's men who found the radio. A moment's carelessness had left it in a Red Cross box, which searchers found. He was jubilant. We told him that we had had it for years, and went on to inform

him about how many German prisoners had been taken in France after the invasion. Then he was livid. What Brueckner didn't know was that we had enough parts to make another radio. And I had a tiny crystal set of my own.

... to be continued

A MEMORIAL CROSS AT MARSDEN

In 1991 Walter Horne MC TD erected a simple cross on Pule Hill to commemorate those members of 7 DWR who lost their lives in the Second World War and also the members of the 2/7th Battalion who had been involved, during the early months of the war, in guarding the Standedge Railway Cutting against possible IRA and German parachutist attacks.

By 1997 the cross had been vandalised and had even been missing for a period. Nick Horn, a local former Territorial Army soldier decided to replace the simple wooden cross with a larger one with a more permanent foundation. The new cross was dedicated by the Reverend Sue Pegg at a special service on 23 May, 2004, attended by Zena Horne, Walter's widow, their daughter, Jacqueline Armitage, and many family friends including members of the Huddersfield Branch of the Regimental Association. The cross is to be taken to the top of Pule Hill and erected on the same spot as the original by National Trust Volunteers.

Walter Horne was called up in September, 1939, joining the 2/7th Battalion. He later landed on the Normandy beaches on 11 June, 1944, with the 1/7th Battalion, as a sergeant. He was commissioned in the field during the Normandy campaign and, as a Second Lieutenant, on 30 October, 1944, he was engaged in an operation for which he was awarded the Military Cross. His citation reads:

"On 30 October, 1944, this officer's platoon was engaged with the enemy who were holding a portion of the anti-tank ditch defences north of Telberg, near

Roosendaal. The approaches to the enemy defences were over bare, open fields and throughout the day efforts to approach nearer to the ditch were subject to observed enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire. As part of larger operations, Second Lieutenant Horne's platoon was ordered to gain a footing by night as near the ditch as possible to protect the right flank and keep the enemy engaged. An enemy minefield was suspected as covering the enemy position. That night, in bright moonlight, Second Lieutenant Horne led his platoon through to their objective. On arrival near the objective it was found to be held by an enemy post. This was captured. The platoon was subject to close and heavy fire from at least four MGs and one 2cm mortar from a dug-in enemy platoon position 30 - 40 yards distant on the ditch defences. Second Lieutenant Horne ordered his platoon to withdraw from such an exposed position to another position, a short distance back, which was less exposed. Under conditions of bright moonlight, noise and the enemy minefield, this was a hazardous operation. With great courage, patience and skill Second Lieutenant Horne conducted the withdrawal personally, passing through the minefield twice and exposing himself to heavy fire at short range in the moonlight. With the aid of 77 grenades, he covered his sections out and withdrew every man to the new positions. Second Lieutenant Horne by his actions showed great courage under fire, skill and patient leadership and achieved, with conspicuous success, his task of fully engaging the enemy's attention during a difficult and anxious period of the operation."

THE HAINES DIARY

Albert Edward Haines (1899 to 2001) enlisted on 24 September 1917 and was posted to the 1/4 Battalion.

We started publication of his diary, superimposed upon the Official War Diary of 1/4 DWR in Issue No. 247, pp 135-138.

We now pick up the story in August 1918.

Albert Haines' Diary

1918, August

8th - 9th

4th

1/4th Battalion War Diary

Siege Camp

The Battalion was relieved in the Brown Line by the 1/4th Battalion KOYLI and on relief moved to its old billets in Siege Camp. Details as per Operation Order No. 201 attached.

Terdeghem

A contingent of 12 OR from the Battalion under the Command of 2 Lieutenant Mailly, attended the service held at Terdeghem on the fourth anniversary of the Declaration of War.

6th		<u>La Lovie</u> A contingent of 16 OR from the Battalion under command of 2 Lieutenant Mailly, paraded at La Lovie and were reviewed by His Majesty the King with contingents from other units of the 49th Division. Major W. C. Fenton, MC, was in command of the 147th Infantry Brigade contingent.
9th - 16th		<u>Siege Camp</u> The Battalion was in Div Reserve at Siege Camp. Time was occupied as follows: 1st day - Interior economy, reorganisation, baths, etc. 2-4 days - Platoon and Company training. 5-7 days - Work on the Reigersberg Switch: revetting, A-framing, gridding and bombing up. 8th day - Rest and baths.
10th	<i>10th</i> - Jerry shelled camp for four hours.	
11th	<i>11th</i> - Was wanted for signalling at La Louvre near Proven, arrived there about 6pm.	
12th	<i>12th</i> - Started course in Chateau Louvre grounds. Chateau occupied by 9th Division HQ.	
16th - 20th		<u>Ypres Left Sector Right Sub Sector</u> The Battalion relieved 5th Y & L Regiment in Right Sub Sector of the Left Brigade Sector. Enemy shelling was active on B Company front - N & S of the Railway Cutting, otherwise a very quiet tour. On the night 20/21 the Battalion was relieved by 5 A & S Hrs, 34th Division 113 Brigade and moved to O Camp.
18th	<i>18th</i> - Had a ramble round the beautiful grounds of La Louvre.	
21st - 22nd		<u>O. Camp</u> Battalion spent at O Camp cleaning up and interior economy. The transport moved off on 22nd to Recques Area. Captain Grantham proceeded to Nielles with billeting party.
21st	<i>21st</i> - 34 Division relieved us so we proceeded to Provence where we entrained for Andrecies. When we arrived there we marched to La Riedguse where we billeted at a farm C168.	
23rd		The Battalion moved by light Rly from Steentje to Proven, dinners were served at Proven and Battalion entrained at 2pm for Audricq. Battalion detrained at Audricq and marched to billets at Nielles.
24th		<u>Nielles</u> Battalion bathed and carried out interior economy. Coys all in good billets and all ranks comfortable.
25th		Day of rest. CO and Coy Commanders rode to training area and all arrangements made for training.
26th	Billets broke up as Division was shifting, was returned to the billets which was at Niells, about 8 kilometres from La Recousse. Had a walk round ... in the evening, a village nearby. Also went to a French cinema.	Day wet. Battalion was unable to go to training area. Training carried out in proximity of billets. Battalion put under two hours' notice for moving. Billeting parties and transport moved off during the afternoon by road.
27th	Stood to all day ready to move off.	Battalion stood to ready to move.
28th	Got up at 3am to move off. A miserable, wet day. Arrived at Nortkerque at about 7am. Hung about the station until 2pm when we were entrained. Arrived at other station 11pm. Too dark to see name of station. We then marched to our billets at Beauvios about 8 kilos from station, again billeted in a barn.	Battalion moved by tactical train from Nortkerque detraining at Wavrans, from Wavrans by march to Siracourt and Beavois.
29th	Visted a large aerodrome nearby. Greatly interested in all I saw.	<u>Siracourt</u> Battalion carried out training during the afternoon.

30th	Went to a tank proving ground just outside Pirriemont, about 4 kilos from here to practise a tank stunt. Was greatly interested in the type of tanks.	Battalion attended a tank demonstration.
31st	Stood by all afternoon ready to move off.	Battalion carried out training. Battalion put under three hours' notice of moving. <u>A. L. Mowat, Lieutenant Colonel</u> <u>Commanding 1/4 Duke of Wellington's Regiment</u>
<u>1918, September</u>		<u>Siracourt</u>
1st	Marched off at 5.30pm to Croix via Siracourt, a distance of 5 kilos. We were then put on motor buses and taken to a village about 4 kilos from Camblin L'Abbe, near Mont St Eloy, we then marched to a camp in the centre of Camblin L'Abbe.	1pm Transport moved by road to Camblain L'Abbe Area with Divisional Column. 6.15pm Battalion moved by bus to Camp at Camblain L'Abbe. (00207).
2nd	Had a walk round town, only a small place.	<u>Camblain</u> Battalion carried out six hours' training under Coy arrangements.
3rd	Went to Canadian YMCA theatre, saw a very fine review.	<u>L'Abbe</u> GOC Brigade left for tour of duty in England. Battalion paraded to wish him goodbye.
4th	Went to Villers Au Bois, about 4 kilos away, for a bath. Went to camp cinema in evening.	Brigadier General H. H. S. Morant, DSO (DLI) assumed Command of the Brigade. Coy tactical schemes. 2 Coys bathed at Villers Au Bois. Div under six hours' notice to move.
5th	Went to camp theatre, quite good but not as good as Tuesday.	2 Coys training with 'B' Coy 49 Div MGC. 2 Coys bathed at Villers Au Bois.
6th		2 Coys on range with Lewis Guns. 2 Coys tactical schemes.
7th		'A' Coy carried out a scheme with Contact Aeroplane. Remaining 3 Coys training.
8th		Church parade in VIII Corps. Theatre sermon by Dep. Chaplain General.
9th		Battalion in attack scheme with MGC and TMB. Very wet day.
10th - 11th		Coy tactical schemes
12th		Coy training. Two Coys lectured on German Machine Gun.
13th	Left upper camp at Camplin Labbe. Marched to Aubrey Camp, 2 kilos from Arras, via Mont St Eloy.	Battalion moved by march rout to Wakefield Camp near Roclincourt (00208). 147 Brigade in Brigade Res. to left Div XXII Corps front.
14th		<u>Wakefield Camp</u> Coy training.
15th		Church parade
16th		Battalion in demonstration open warfare attack with tanks by Bois De Berthonville.
17th		Coy training. 2 Coys bathed at Roclincourt.
18th		Coys firing German Machine Gun at St Catherine Range. Inter-company Ass. Football matches commenced. C beat D, C beat Hd, A beat B.

19th	Brigade exercise trench to trench attack. Inter Coy Rugby Football Competition commenced. HQ beat A Coy, B and D Coys drew. A Coy beat C in final soccer.
20th	Training under Coy arrangements.
21st	Training under Coy arrangements. Rugby Competition, HQ beat C Coy, D beat B Coy.
22nd	B Coy in demonstration attack on strong point with TMB, GOC said it was the most realistic show he had ever seen. The Battalion attended the demonstration after a Brigade Church parade. GOC Brigade took all mounted officers on a cross-country ride. HQ beat D Coy in Rugby final.
23rd	<u>Feuchy Area</u> The Battalion was relieved in Roclincourt Area by the 1/6 Seaforth Highlanders and moved to Feuchy Area where it replaced the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. The Div now came under 12 hours' notice to move. Details as per Operation Order No. 208 attached.
24th - 28th	Training daily under Coy arrangements in the vicinity of the Camp, the work of constructing new and improving old accommodation was taken in hand. On September 25 and 28 Battalion signallers took part in Brigade signal schemes.
29th	Church parade in the morning with 1/7 Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
30th	The Battalion took part in a Brigade tactical scheme (Attack across a river from two small bridgehead). <u>(Sgd) A. L. Mowat, Lieutenant Colonel</u> <u>Commanding 1/4 Battalion Duke of Wellington's</u> <u>(WR) Regiment</u>

... to be continued

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

As usual, the ACF calendar is quite full and it takes some doing keeping track of everything going on, but here are some of the highlights:

We have been concentrating this year on both adult and cadet courses and we have achieved a good result in the following:

Senior Cadet Instructors' Cadre

We had four cadets on this Cadre and they went away to Catterick from 10 - 17 April.

All four of our cadets achieved a grade 'A' result and they are now looking forward to continuing their cadet service and possibly coming through as adult instructors. They were all promoted following their grade A's on the course. They are: Cadet Sergeant Baker from Skipton, Cadet Sergeant Naylor from Keighley and Cadet Sergeants Notman and Kaur from Huddersfield. This is a great result for them and the Company, and they are now working more with the adult instructors and putting their new skills into practise. Well done to them all.

Adult Promotions

We have had two recent adult promotions. They are: Sergeant Kerry Naylor of Bingley Detachment to Staff Sergeant and Sergeant Kris Cole of Huddersfield Detachment also to Colour Sergeant.

Staff News

The following new members of staff have joined us and are settling down into the ACF routine. They are: SI Richard Johnson at Spen Valley Detachment DWR, SI Lucy Marren at Mirfield Detachment DWR, SIs Laura Leeming and Linda Knowles at Allerton Detachment RA, and SI Mark Christmas at Odsal Detachment RA. We welcome them all into the 'D' Company fold.

SSI Jackie Cook, who was at Odsal detachment, has now transferred over to Company HQ as Sports Officer and we also welcome SI Mary Lodge into Company HQ as Company Clerk.

Adults' KGVI Course

We have recently had four of our adults attend the King George VI Memorial Course at the Cadet Training

Centre, Frimley Park in Surrey. This course is the next progression in adult training and all four did well on the course, which teaches advanced leadership, planning and administration. They were: Lieutenant Simon Coleman, OC Thongsbridge Detachment, and SSI Mark Broadhead, also of Thongsbridge. SSI David Naylor, OC at Keighley and SSI Kerry Naylor, OC at Bingley detachment. They have all come back having enjoyed the course and we congratulate them on their good results.

Lieutenant Peter Lister

Lieutenant Peter Lister, OC at Odsal detachment RA (one of our detachments), has emigrated to Australia. This decision has taken quite a while to come about, but after making all the arrangements for his children's education etc, they finally departed these shores on 29 April. If they read this in Australia, we wish Peter and Julie all the best for their new life "down under". Since Peter left, Sergeant Chris Shiroda, who used to be at Halifax detachment has moved over to Odsal to take on the role of Detachment Commander. Along with this move, a major refurbishment of the detachment was started and following £46,000 being spent on the detachment, the cadet numbers are now increasing and Sergeant Shiroda has settled down into his new role and things are going well at Odsal.

Company Sergeant Major

'D' Company has been without a Company Sergeant Major since August 2003, when CSM Brian Yardley was transferred to County Headquarters as a member of the County Training Team. In December/January we

began interviews of all five SSIs who were eligible to take on the role of Company Sergeant Major. Following very good interviews we then had a lot of heart searching and deliberations to go through and we finally arrived at a decision in May this year. The successful candidate was Colour Sergeant David Naylor of Keighley detachment. He will now go forward to a County promotions board in June and hopefully emerge as our new CSM. Well done to all the candidates, the standard was exceptionally high and the decision was a very difficult one to make.

Cadets take to the stage

Over the weekend of 21 - 23 May 2004, cadets from Spen Valley and Halifax detachments assisted the Cleckheaton Choral Society with their production of "Happy as a Sandbag".

This production was performed to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D Day, and was themed around the year 1944. All the cast were in period costume and were assisted by the cadets and staff of 'D' Company. Three performances took place over the weekend and at the conclusion of each performance a short service of remembrance took place with the Last Post being sounded as poppies fell from the roof. The cadets were a credit to the Company and the ACF and were congratulated by the organisers for their bearing and turnout. They were led and escorted by Lieutenant David Lodge from Halifax and SSI Yvonne Kitson and SI Mary Lodge from Company HQ.

Captain S. A. Marren
Staff Officer Admin

ROBERTS AROUND THE WORLD

Leg 3 - Antigua to the Panama Canal, December 2003 - March 2004

As reported in the last ID we had Christmas in Antigua with our two daughters and then entered what the Blue Water Rally describes as a period of "free sailing", the only proviso being that we should be in the San Blas Islands on 1 February and in a position to transit the Panama Canal from 12 February. There were therefore no communication nets and the planning of how we worked our way through the Windward, Leeward and the ABC Islands was entirely up to us.

In the end it had to be a choice of what or where to leave out; there was so much to see. We visited most of the main islands - Guadeloupe, Dominica, St Lucia, Martinique, St Vincent, Bequia and Grenada - in the Windward/Leeward chain, before turning West towards the ABCs (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao), the Dutch Antilles off the coast of Venezuela. The West Indian islands contained tremendous contrasts perhaps not experienced by those on a standard holiday - the poverty of Dominica and St Vincent, the French influence in Martinique and Guadeloupe, and the spectacular scenery of the rain forests in some islands and the palm trees, white sands of others (Tobago Cays springs to mind). Highlights included bringing in the New Year in a rather seedy Dominican bar in the company of some

fearsome looking Rastafarians, swimming in both hot and cold waterfalls in the rainforest, anchoring in Tobago Cays with 25 knots of wind coming all the way from Africa but being protected by a reef with excellent snorkelling. Fresh bread, fish, crabs and lobsters were nearly always available from the "boat boys" who ply their trade from colourful dugout canoes.

In St Lucia we visited Pigeon Island which guarded the entrance to Rodney Bay during the constant battles for the islands between the French, Spanish and British. Sadly the museum is getting very run down but clearly indicates the presence of both the 33rd and 76th in the 1780s. The account tells of how tough a posting it was, mainly from disease - difficult to imagine as most of the area is a modern resort complex now! Amazingly when walking down the pontoon back to the boat, I was hailed by Paul Hutchinson (ex TQMS 1DWR or full time sailor!), who had just brought in Endeavour, one of the JSATSC training ships. He was in excellent form and clearly enjoying "retirement".

The snorkelling had been pretty good in most places but we were saving our diving for Bonaire, by reputation one of the best places in the world. We were not disappointed; the whole of the West coast is a



Familiar faces in unfamiliar places.

marine park with the main reef only yards off the beach. After qualifying a couple of years ago in Tewksbury municipal baths and Brixham Harbour we were suitably impressed. The coral and marine life were spectacular.

Even after all these glimpses of paradise, the best was still to come - the San Blas Islands. "Where?", I hear you say. If nothing else this trip has greatly improved our geography. They are a group of tiny islands off the Northern coast of Panama and are inhabited by the Kuna Indians, a fiercely independent seafaring race who subsist through fishing, diving and making colourful clothing. Their islands are palm tree covered, white sanded and fringed by coral and the anchorages were

just amazing. Surely they will be dragged into the 21st let alone the 20th Century soon, but long may they remain as they are.

And so from a visit to the past to one of the wonders of the world - the Panama Canal. One of the benefits of joining the Rally was that the fee included the cost of transiting the Canal and the support of an admin team to ease us through the bureaucratic nightmare. Understandably yachts are a bit of a nuisance to an organisation intent on pushing through forty or so 100,000 ton cargo ships per day with its six complex locks and massive usage of valuable fresh water each time the lock gates are opened. However our turn came at 0430 on 16 February and we were duly rafted up with two other Rally yachts. Each boat had a Panamanian pilot and four line handlers, in our case drawn from other boats transiting on another day and off we went. As it happened our raft was separated after the first flight of three locks and we completed the remainder on our own, sharing the five downward locks with a 90,000 ton gas tanker. Slightly unnerving being secured right at the front of the lock and watching this massive beast being eased in behind you and hoping it is going to stop! Anyway, we got through unscathed and repeated the process two days later as line handlers on another boat.

So, we are now in the Pacific. Emphasis over the next few days is victualling and preparing the boat for some serious ocean sailing again - first to the Galapagos (1000 miles) and then to the Marquesas (3000+ miles). Back to two on, two off for days on end and a diet of fresh fish, if I can catch them, or tinned steak and kidney pud if I cannot! The trip may sound exotic but it is worth saying that much of the sailing has been Force 6 and above, often with big seas. Most of it is downwind, but we have had frequent spells of storm force winds and 35 knots at night with no moon is challenging by anybody's standards.

So far so good then - it is now March 2004 and fifteen months and 25000 miles to go! If anyone is interested you can follow progress on the Rally website - www.yachtrallies.co.uk

FREEMASONRY AND THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal organisations having first come to public notice in 1717 when the Premier Grand Lodge was formed in London. It seeks to instil in its members respect for their fellow beings, an adherence to the fundamentals of truth and virtue and a commitment to charity. While concerned with moral and spiritual values, it is non-religious, non-political, multi-racial and multi-cultural, but does require a belief in a "Supreme Being". Freemasonry demands from its members a respect for the laws of the country in which they work and live. Its principles do not conflict with its members' duties as citizens, but should strengthen their resolve to fulfil their public and private responsibilities and to achieve high standards in their lives.

The critics of Freemasonry are concerned with its traditional modes of recognition. It is not a secret

society, since all its members are free to acknowledge their membership and will do so in response to informed enquiries. Its constitutions and rules are available for public inspection and there is no secret about any of its aims and principles. Like many other societies, it regards some of its internal affairs as private matters for its members.

What, if any, are the connections between Freemasonry and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment?

Clearly the principles outlined above can equally well be applied to the duties of the soldiers currently serving with the 1st Battalion. I cannot think of a more succinct summation of the implications of the United Nations Charter and the duties of a soldier while on peace-keeping duties throughout the world.

The Hon Arthur Wellesley came from a distinguished Irish Masonic family and joined the Order as soon as he

was qualified by virtue of his twenty first birthday. He was initiated by his father Garrett Wellesley, the first Earl of Mornington into Lodge No. 494 at Trim in County Meath on 7 December 1790. His father had been elected Grand Master of Ireland in 1776 and his elder brother, Richard, in 1782. That the Duke held the Order in high regard is demonstrated by the comments of Viscount Combermere, who commanded the allied cavalry in the Peninsular War and later became the Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire. He stated that the Duke had confided his regret that his military duties had prevented him from taking the active part, which his feelings dictated and had said that Masonry was a great and royal art, beneficial to the individual and the community (RF Gould, *Military Lodges 1732-1899*, published 1899).

For many years Masonry flourished within both the 33rd and 76th of Foot. During the 18th century over 400 travelling warrants were issued to Regiments to enable Lodges to be held wherever they happened to be stationed. Lepper and Crossle commented in their *History of the Grand Lodge of Ireland* that "...somewhere among the baggage of the Army there was a Lodge chest containing an Irish Warrant". The first such warrant was appropriately issued to the 1st of Foot (the Royal Scots) in 1732, paradoxically by the Grand Lodge of Ireland! Within two years a further four Regimental Lodges had been warranted by the same body in the 21st (Royal Highland Fusiliers), 27th (Royal Irish Fusiliers), and 28th (Gloucesters) and the 33rd (Dukes). The English (initially both Antients and Moderns and subsequently the United Grand Lodge of England) and Scottish Grand Lodges also issued such warrants, but on a more limited basis than their Irish counterpart.

The 33rd received five warrants between 1732 and 1816 (Major F. H. Smyth - "The Master Mason at Arms", Prestonian Lecture 1990). The first was from Ireland, as already detailed, and the second from the Antients Grand Lodge of England in 1761 (Lodge No. 90). The second warrant was lost at Helvoitsluys in 1796 and was replaced two years later. The third clearly did not survive for long, for in 1803 it was necessary to seek a special dispensation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Madras in order to continue the Regiment's Masonic activity in India as the "Lodge of Unity and Friendship" No. VII. Finally, in 1816 the recently-formed United Grand Lodge of England issued the last of the recorded warrants held by the 33rd. The 76th is listed as receiving a warrant from the Antients in 1788.

When the 33rd and 76th finally surrendered their warrants is not known. However, the use of travelling warrants continued under the English Constitution until 1949 when the Royal Scots handed in the last in use. At that time the Board of General Purposes of the United

Grand Lodge of England observed in its annual report: - "This brings to a close an important chapter in English Freemasonry, for there can be no doubt that the spread of the Craft overseas was largely due to the enthusiasm and pertinacity of the members of Military Lodges, who carried with them the seeds of Freemasonry to many distant garrison towns and cantonments where stationary Lodges were established and still flourish".

What of other noteworthy Dukes' Freemasons? As a result of the excessive introversion associated with the Order over the years they mostly remain known only to themselves. However, I am aware of three: -

John Ship was a man who deserves to be numbered among the bravest of the brave. He enlisted in the 22nd (Cheshires) and thrice led the "forlorn hope" at the storming of Bhurtpore in 1804. He was rewarded with an ensigncy in the 65th (York & Lancs) and was promoted lieutenant in the 76th that same year. He is listed as being a member of the "Lodge of Sincerity" in Cawnpore in 1820. Both the 22nd and 65th had travelling Lodges, so it is not known in which of his three Regiments he was initiated.

John Byng was initiated while serving as a Captain in the 33rd at Frome in Somerset in 1797. He later commanded a Brigade under Wellington at Waterloo, achieved the rank of Field Marshall and became Earl of Stafford.

Charles J. Pickering CMG, DSO, was Colonel of the Regiment during the Second World War from October 1938 until November 1947. In 1929 he was posted to Aldershot as AA&QMG and the next year joined the "Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge", No. 1971 of which he remained a member until his death.

How do I know these things? Well it is time that, to quote the modern terminology, "I came out". I am an active Freemason, having been initiated in my Old School Lodge in 1969, the year that I qualified at St Thomas' Hospital. I served as RMO with the Dukes during the early days of the troubles in Northern Ireland and found my ritual book a useful companion during the long hours of waiting for things to happen. Since retiring from the Army I have pursued my Masonic interest in the Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge and am proud to have risen to be head of the Royal Arch in the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. At a recent meeting in London I fortuitously sat beside my counterpart from Yorkshire, only to find that he had undertaken his National Service in the Dukes and we chatted amiably about the well-known names from that era.

So there are clearly other Dukes' Freemasons out there. Perhaps this article will stimulate them to make themselves known.

Roger H. Jago
Major (Rtd) RAMC
RMO 1 DWR 1970-73

MEMORIES

by Arthur Johnson

We continue Arthur Johnson's story, which we left on page 39 of Issue No 254.

Devon

The next place for us, Colyton, Devon. B Company went to an old rectory at Branscombe, but only for a short while, as we were sent on training courses. I went to Tidworth for six weeks. Gunnery on old Valentine tanks and driving in trucks. We all did well; glad to leave the infantry behind us.

Suffolk

After seven days' leave I returned to Devon, after a few days off there, I went with about thirty others on an advance party to Halesworth in Suffolk. This turned out to be a real working party, digging great tree roots out and making clearings for huts and roadways along the drive of Eveningham Hall. It was now winter and the east wind of East Anglia is no respecter of persons - cold; and more cold. After three weeks or so the tanks arrived - 40-ton Churchills, one to each squadron, four in all. We began to get to know them. They were at Wesleton Heath five miles away, near the coast. By now all the regiment had arrived and were in Nissen huts in trees off the park. Continual rain caused great problems keeping clear of the mud. The Adjutant, Captain K, RSM W, and Provost Sergeant, Paddy Flynn, became the most hated men in camp for the way they tried to enforce the rules. Your two pairs of boots were never dry for days on end; the only way to dry them was around the stove in each Nissen hut of thirty men. We were now 145 Regiment Royal Armoured Corps, with the cap badge of a silver clenched fist with a crown above.

In one way the frosty weather was a good thing as we were able to keep cleaner. The stopping of 'home leave' was dropped about this time. Christmas came and the dinner was very good, the officers were the waiters that day. The coldest guard that I ever did was on the Heath in 1941. It turned out later that, on that day, the records for frost had been broken. There was not much training but we were set out into tank crews of five and were Troopers instead of Privates. Ipswich was the destination of the 'Liberty trucks', or to Southwold or Bungay, for a few hours and, as the weather improved, we became the 'Dukes' again. All winter we had been the 'Mad Ducks'. It was nice to go on road runs of five or six miles long and catch up to a Sergeant or an Officer and say 'Come on, get moving'. All in fun of course!

Scotland

Soon we were packing up ready to move again. This time to Cumnock in Ayrshire. by road in RASC lorries. We were under canvas again but with good weather this time. The Churchill tanks were up on the moor near to Dalmellington and training consisted of loading on to rail flats and transporters.

My Squadron, B, went to Inverary on Loch Fyne for training on landing craft in daylight and in the dark. The rains came again. One day we were shown around the Royal Yacht, which was fitted out as a hospital ship, marvellous. B Squadron were then picked to do a special job on a tank landing ship that was at Gourrock near Glasgow. The ship was named 'Thruster' and was new and on test. It had been designed to lift the Churchills and all its lorries etc, with its own crane, stow them and then undergo test sea trials in the Clyde. On the shore was put a runway of about 100 yards or so, to let the tanks disembark. All water-proofed to go about one yard into the water. This was a navy ship, so we were sailors for three days; we had rum ration, spirits up and navy cigs, ship's woodbines. I shall never forget. I worked two mornings in the ship's butchery, helping the tanky. We cut about 120 frozen pork chops one morning. I found out that the crew called me tanky too. The name came from handling salt meat from the tanks of sailing ships.

The loading and stowing of the tanks were done okay, speed trials and steering etc. The civilian people were all happy until the landing tests were attempted. The ramp was in two sections, one on the other. The 'Thruster' backed onto the beach and the boors opened to propel the ramp out. It looked strong enough but when a tank went into about three feet of water, the ramp was just able to be withdrawn and back we went to Gourrock, a little disappointed - and one tank less. A short time at Cumnock and we moved into the rail-flats again, this time bound for the tank firing ranges at Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire. The train passed through Leeds and two or three lads climbed the banking at Holbeck and hitched a lift back. They were never found out.

After three days firing practice I came back by road to Langholm in Scotland. The camp was again on a private estate, the Earl of Buccleuch's house. It was a well-used camp of Nissen huts and very near to the moors. New tanks were issued and I was made co-driver of 'Dorchester' - the other two of 8 Troop were 'Dolphin' and 'Domino'. All in the regiment were named beginning with a D. A good many changes were made and we had a new officer, Lieutenant Wilkes, who had been Troop Officer from Otley, was replaced by Bradley, a former 'Black Watch' man. I was one of the guards sent to a crashed spitfire one day. The pilot who was killed was Prince Obolensky, a noted rugby international and a Russian Prince who had been at university in England. The training went on as winter came with all the rain; the issue of Wellington boots solved a lot of problems.

The stone walls took a lot of knocks and you had to be a repair man too. One day a tank crashed back down a gully and two Leeds men were killed and another two injured. It was said to have been knocked out of gear, the parking brake could not hold forty tons on a steep slope.

The moors above Hawick and Peebles proved to be very deep with bogs when the weight of a tank or two went across. When one did sink it soon bellied and then trouble started. The two ropes were two inches thick, made of steel strands - and I have seen them part like string. The recovery boys used stone ballast and drainage to reclaim a few.

We had two Christmas dinners in the RAC: one on 'Cambrai Day', when the tanks were successfully used in 1917. One Christmas Day, which came in very wintry weather, the stoves worked overtime. Not much training now and rumours began again, but it was a safe bet that it would be North Africa. We began having the jabs and 'embarkation leave' and an inspection by The King and all the top brass at Hawksworth and Keighley.

North Africa

The tanks were taken to Liverpool. We went back to Greenock and boarded the troopship 'Ormonde' (an old P&O liner that was said to have been used in the First World War). This was to be our home for the next fifteen days or so. We were below the water line, but there were many more below us. We slept on the tables, under the tables, in hammocks: but we were all in the same boat.

It was now March 1943 and terribly cold as the ships formed a convoy and sailed away around the back of Ireland somewhere. Many were seasick but I was lucky not to be. I still remember the navy escort, out on the skyline, moving back and forth (they were being tossed about more than us). Shortly after rounding the Bay of Biscay, an enemy air attack damaged one ship and boat drill became more of a reality.

By now we were getting into better weather and at night it was good to see the lights of Morocco. The Ormonde put into Algiers and I was one of the 100 men of 145 Regiment to land there. The main party were going on to Bone, where they waited for the tank ship to arrive. My next home was under canvas at Cap-Natifoof, about eight miles from Algiers. I was now at a replacement camp. We helped to unload stores, etc, at Algiers.

I made two journeys with the tank transporter up to the front near Testour, over the Atlas Mountains, and met up with my mates just as they were about to move nearer the fighting.

Back again to Cap-Natifoof I went, working on the replacement tanks of the Brigade and moved up to

Testour again. The Regiment had been in action by now on Long Stop Hill and were in the last push for Tunis. The capture of Tunis was awarded to the armoured division who had been in the desert; but the Churchill Brigades were there as well - 21st and 25th Independent Brigades.

So, the war in North Africa came to an end and I found that my unit had gone right through to Cap-Bon, where I joined them. On my way by truck we passed the POW Fields, thousands of the enemy were behind the wire, most were Italians.

The driver of 'Dorchester', my old tank, had gone home with a leg injury. That is how I became driver to Lieutenant Bradley, whom I did not know very well. Stacks of war gear were all around and two Italians gave themselves up to the 'sanitary man'. The victory parade had about ten of our unit in it and the Memorial Service of the RAC was held just outside Tunis, at Bararine, Medjez El Bab. So onto transporters again we climbed, it was a good job we had them.

On the slow journey around the gates of Tunis, I remember French schoolboys writing down in notebooks, the names of all the tanks. I wonder if any of the books or the grown up schoolboys are still to be found? The journey went on south and we finally came to rest about five miles from Bone, on a kind of moor at Pent-Dierve. We were under canvas again but it was good weather, with the beach at St. Cloud, near Bone. When our trucks were taken and replaced with desert stuff, we guessed we were staying a while, so it turned out to be. We were pleased to see a Nissen hut and parts of huts. G. Hurcombe and I were detailed to fix the cook house and the huts - the docks at Bone lost a good many timbers, also gravel and cement.

Time went by and new trucks arrived, my tank was replaced with a 'Sherman', petrol driven, and its new name was 'Dobbin'. My Officer was now Lieutenant Burgess from Bury. G. Hurcombe co-driver, plus two young lads (J. Bone and J. Street) from Petersfield in Hampshire.

Memories: Tunis and Carthage. Sea bathing at St. Cloud. The mushrooms growing in front of that farmhouse, so thick you trod on them. Grapes being crushed by a stone roller in a circular trough pulled round by two donkeys ... the standard of cleanliness ... ZERO!

... to be continued

DEMOBILISATION

by George Wragg

Coming home after being with the 2nd Battalion in India since 1941, I timed the return just right, arriving on 8 June 1945 - VE Day, and I started fourteen days' leave! Celebrations were taking place on a very widespread scale, although many commodities were still in very short supply. Alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and practically everything else were still rationed and would be for a very long time to come.

There was, of course, still a very bitter war taking place in large areas in the Far East. The Japanese had infiltrated large areas of the Pacific and would not be dislodged easily.

It will be appreciated that, in the UK, there were huge numbers of men in uniform, of many different nationalities and they all had to disperse. Many of the US men were already making tracks for "The States".

In the UK they had a plan that worked reasonably well, based on a combination of age and length of service.

For myself, although I was only 17 when war broke out, I had been in from the beginning and had completed both the '42 and '44 campaigns in Burma and was still only 23 years old on VE Day. So I would have to wait for Demob. The time was spent on various duties, the bulk of the time stationed in North East England. My memory, 59 years on, makes it difficult to put these in exactly the right sequence, but the events took place in the latter part of 1945 and Spring of 1946.

The first camp of note was "Sappers' Corner", Greatham, County Durham, where I spent a considerable amount of time being Permanent Orderly Sergeant. I was of course War Sub Corporal at the time. That was a reasonable job of work; the most difficult part was producing a good Parade State first thing on a morning. Such was the movement of personnel that one never knew where they all were, which made things rather difficult. One staunch ally I had in these duties was a pickshaft that I used at Reveille on the corrugations of the Nissen huts to make sure ALL were awake. Whilst it was not always welcome, most accepted it.

While at Sappers' Corner, I was given the task of doing Permanent Escort. This entailed proceeding, with two other ranks, to various prisons in the North of England and fetching Service people who had for some reason or another absconded and were classed as AWOL; some interesting reasons were given. One in particular, who we collected from Walton Gaol, had been picked up by the police in Liverpool. He had disappeared from the Anzio Beachhead, in Italy, some 18 months earlier. He told me on the train back to camp that he had taken as much as he could stand, stowed aboard a troopship and returned to Liverpool without being discovered. He had managed to find some work in the docks until he was finally picked up. These journeys as Escort were always by rail and included two to Strangeways Gaol in Manchester. I never once had to use the handcuffs that I carried on most journeys.

Having been in County Durham for a considerable period, I was eventually moved with others and I believe we ended up in a camp near Morpeth in Northumberland. We did spells at a number of camps in that area. There had also been RAF present there, with several airfields now more or less disused.

One of the huge tasks undertaken was the dismantling of some of the coastal defences, which stretched along the eastern coastline of the UK. Barbed wire and tank traps; loads and loads of entanglements were taken away to the dumps. It will be appreciated that this was a thankless task and some of the young officers really had to plead with the men to keep on working. It was a bloody awful job day after day. That was the area round Sea Houses, far into Northumberland, a really nice fishing village, which people used to visit for quiet holidays.

Fuels of all types were in short supply, including the coke needed for our stoves in the billets. This was overcome to some extent when we were allowed to take a vehicle and collect from the beaches. Fairly large amounts of wood and coal were washed up and we were able to replenish our fuel supplies in this way. We managed through the Winter of '45-'46 and by March I had a rough date for my Demob and we were expecting our second baby. Our eldest son had just started school when the war ended, having been born just before I left for India in 1941.

I had already been to Newcastle on Tyne and passed exams for the Fire Brigade and after Demob I finished up at Long Eaton on the Notts/Derbyshire border and was there for a number of years, eventually leaving due to domestic difficulties. I followed a number of occupations, culminating with 27 years in the Notts Ambulance Service. One year we held my very belated 21st birthday party and Corporal Ronald Mate, who had been taken prisoner at the Sittang and survived as a POW with the Japanese, and Fred Ronksley, who had been with me throughout the campaign of 1944, both attended.

During that period I spent time in the TA with the South Notts Hussars and we managed to win the Queen's Cup for shooting with 25 pounders. I was a signaller in the Command Post at the time. Larkhill was our nearest range to Nottingham where we could do live firing with artillery. Many, like myself, would be at work till the Friday evening and would drive down to Salisbury Plain, probably with a 25 pounder in tow, and would be ready on the range Saturday a.m. I do stress the dedication shown by TA members and I am sure it is the same with the Dukes.

A BOY'S LIFE IN THE ARMY - 1929

Mr F. "China" Gill continues his tale from p37 of Edition 254.

On return to barracks, the next move was for the Band and Drums to Tidworth to take part in the Tattoo. The Boys who were not proficient on their instruments were left at Raglan Barracks, in Plymouth, and spent their time practising. I was one of them.

In August, the Battalion moved to Salisbury Plain for Divisional manoeuvres. We moved to Chiseldon Camp, then on to Tidworth Pennings and finally to Bustard Camp. The Battalion did their training and the Boys, although enjoying the open air life, had little to occupy their minds. One thing they did learn was the illegal game "Crown & Anchor". A couple of old sweats set

up their patch in a tent and paid someone to keep an eye open for the Regimental Provost Sergeant who turned up occasionally. The few Boys who did play didn't lose much because they were only on one shilling (5p) a day until they were 18.

When training was over and we returned to Plymouth, life became a bit more lively, as the rugby and soccer teams commenced their training. The Boys did not get much opportunity to play either game due to the lack of suitable opponents and our NCO, Corporal Goodwin, was away most weekends with the Battalion or Devonport Services rugby teams. Later in the season,

the rugby team was drawn to play an RE team in Bristol. A trip was laid on by rail at a cost of about £1 - a large amount for a Boy, but it was arranged for the PRI to pay and deduct the money from weekly pay. A few of us went and had a good time.

Thus we came to the end of 1929. We had become familiar with the sportsmen by then; rugby: Lieutenants Faithful, Dalrymple, Horsey Brown and Miles, with Corporal Townsend, Private Annesley etc. The soccer team, not so well known, included CSM Ward, Sergeants Myatt and Roberts, Corporals Jackson and Owen and Privates Taylor and Aynsley.

There was the Battalion Transport, consisting of quite a few horses and limbers (no petrol problems in those days!). I did not become familiar with the personnel, as the section was billeted in Granby Barracks north of Raglan Barracks. In these barracks were also a RASC unit, a detachment of Military Police and the married quarters. Sergeant James was i/c our Transport Section; I will name some of the others later.

All the afore-mentioned training was repeated up to September in 1930, including the Tidworth Tattoo, by which time a few of the older boys had reached 18 and went on man service and some new Boys arrived. These included Turner, Tremeer, Broad, Short and some who were destined to join the 2nd Battalion in India.

The drafting season was confined to a period between October and April and usually two drafts were taken by troopship. I remember that the first draft was despatched including Sergeant Horne and half a dozen or so Boys with a large number of duty men. The period served in foreign stations in those days was up to seven years. Once you had completed six years you then waited for the trooping season to commence. If your time was near, you went to the Depot to be discharged. But if you had some time to serve, you would join the 1st Battalion.

My pal Tug Wilson had reached 18 years and transferred to the men's accommodation and I teamed up with H. Stutely, who had the nickname "Necker". We then heard that our next station would be Aldershot. We had visions of a place overrun with Redcaps, as there were thousands of troops stationed in and around Aldershot. However, on 30 October 1930 we arrived at Mandora Barracks, Aldershot. The Battalion had been stationed at Gosport and Devonport (two barracks that were completely surrounded by walls and iron railings), we were therefore surprised to see the open plan nature of all the barracks in and around Aldershot.

There was an abundance of sports fields for rugby, soccer and athletics. There were well over a dozen regiments stationed in South Camp and North Camp, as well as support units of RE, RAOC, RMP, RASC and a few more nearby in Pirbright, Blackdown and Bordon. There were plenty of training areas for local manoeuvres and Salisbury Plain only a short distance away for Divisional training. There was also much more opposition in the sporting world. As well as the unit leagues, there were also a couple of leagues for Boys.

We were placed in the top league and immediately started our programme. At Devonport we had only played a few games against the Devon Regiment and were not very experienced. So, at first, we did not win

many matches. Our worst game was against a RAOC Boys' Training School. They had between seventy and ninety Boys, and their side containing all 17-year-olds was too strong for us and we lost 18-0. However, before the next season commenced it was realised that they had an unfair advantage and they had to produce four or five sides in which the ages varied. Thus the next season we got our own back and were near the top of the league.

It was here we became more familiar with the Horse Transport Section. The stables were across the road from the end of our barrack room and the personnel were in the barrack room opposite the Boys' room. They were great lads; as the Boys got older we played them at soccer and we won 2-0. The Transport Section had won the Best Horse and Limber turn out at the Tidworth Tattoo; now they were to win the contest at the Aldershot Tattoo for three years in succession.

Before I tell of our life at Aldershot, I would like to describe life in barracks in Devonport. HQ Company lived in a huge granite three-storey block, consisting of four barrack rooms on each floor containing beds for about eighteen in each room. The beds were iron and the bottom half would slide under the top half, thus leaving more space in the room during the day. The mattress consisted of three square coir-filled segments known as "biscuits". Each morning the beds were "folded"; two biscuits, wrapped in a blanket, were placed on the telescoped bed; the third biscuit, wrapped in a blanket, was stood upright against the head of the bed; placed behind this were two other blankets, rolled separately and stood on end, with the two sheets, also rolled, with the pillow in between them. This made the bed resemble an armchair (less arms). At the foot of the bed was placed your kit box with your spare pair of boots (highly polished) on top and your two boot brushes and clothes brush neatly displayed between the boots.

On the wall behind the beds was a metal rack running all around the room (except the window spaces). On this rack was placed your pack, with your mess tin on one side and your water bottle on the other; steel helmet placed on top. This was about six feet above the floor. About a foot below was another rack for your haversack and your white buff belt. Below this were three iron pegs on which you hung the rest of your webbing equipment by the shoulder straps (i.e. your belt and ammo pouches). Your greatcoat was hung behind this and those who had civilian clothes hung their suits behind that. Everything had to be clean and tidy, especially on Saturday mornings, when the Company Commander would inspect all rooms accompanied by the Sergeant Major and his entourage. During the day you could sit on your "armchair" beds, but you could not make them into beds again until about 5 o'clock.

Barrack rooms were kept spick and span; each room having a six-foot table, two forms, two sweeping brushes, one day scrubber, a mop, two scrubbing brushes, two polished buckets and a coal tub with two handles that held approximately 80lbs of coal. In Winter months two men would take the tub to the QM's coal yard once a week and draw the room's issue of coal.

A list was posted by the NCO i/c Room of the daily duties to be carried out to ensure that cleaning was accomplished. Each individual had a personal task. In addition, each man swept his own bed space to the middle of the floor and the one with the floor duty cleared it all up.

The next thing to mention is the ablutions. First thing on arising is to have a wash and shave; pleasant enough until it gets to winter. The only place in barracks to have hot water was the cookhouse and messes. Although in some places it was freezing cold, we still had to have a cold wash. I suppose we got used to it and took it for granted, as no-one seemed to be put out by the conditions. (*It was still the same in Winter 1954. Ed.*)

Every other rank below Sergeant was issued with a Regimental Cane. About two feet long, one end had a metal globe on which was stamped the Regimental Crest. This was common to almost all other regiments. It was

part of a soldier's Walking Out Dress. Whenever he went out of barracks he was smartly dressed, wearing puttees, trousers turned neatly over top of puttees, a blanched white buff belt, brasses polished and his Regimental cane.

His tunic had five brass buttons up front, two on shoulder straps, two on breast pockets and two on side pockets; these and his cap badge had to be highly polished, and the leather strap above the peak of his cap - again highly polished. On leaving barracks he had to be inspected by the Guard Commander. There was a correct drill for carrying the cane, i.e. when moving, carried at the point of balance parallel to the ground, when halted, held by the knob in the right hand and perpendicular to the right side. I cannot remember when carrying canes was abolished. I think it was some time during our stay in Aldershot.

... to be continued

SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES - DAYS GONE BY

The following extract from a Parade brochure shows the extent of the Regimental family in the immediate post-war period. Compare this with the modern Regimental family:- 1st Battalion, without band; two TA Companies, three CCF detachments and fifteen ACF detachments.

ARRANGEMENTS for a Parade and Service to be held in Halifax on 24th and 25th May, 1952, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the raising of the 33rd Foot and the 100th anniversary of the decease of the 1st Duke of Wellington.

Saturday, 24th May

3.15 p.m. Parade and March Past with bands playing, Colours flying and bayonets fixed in accordance with the privilege conferred upon the Regiment by the township of Halifax. The salute will be taken by His Grace The Duke of Wellington, KG, at George Square.

ORDER OF MARCH

Band, 578 HAA Regiment, RA (DWR) (TA)

The Regimental Association

382 Field Regiment, RA (DWR) (TA)

578 HAA Regiment RA (DWR) (TA)

673 LAA Regiment RA (DWR) (TA)

Support Company, 7th DWR (TA)

Band and Drums, 1st DWR

Regimental Depot, DWR

One Company, 7th DWR (TA)

Colour Party, 7th DWR (TA)

One Company, 7th DWR (TA)

Band of combined Army Cadet Force units

2nd Cadet Battalion DWR

382 Cadet Field Regiment, RA (DWR)

4th Cadet Battalion DWR

5th Cadet Battalion DWR

3.45 p.m. Colours marched off parade, followed by a Military Display at Manor Heath Park by:

383 Field Regiment, RA (DWR) (TA) (late 4th Battalion DWR)

578 HAA Regiment, RA (DWR) (TA) (late 5th Battalion DWR)

673 LAA Regiment, RA (DWR) (TA) (late 6th Battalion DWR)

7th Battalion DWR (TA)

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. A Dance for all ranks of the Regiment will be held in the Gymnasium at Wellesley Barracks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: 11 Warwick Avenue
Golcar
Huddersfield HD7 4BX
12 June 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I understand that you have something to do with the Iron Duke, the magazine of the Old Dukes.

Captain Wilson suggested that I might send you an article plus photos for inclusion in the next issue. I hope you think the enclosed suitable.

I have just returned from four days at D Day Remembrances, a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Not bad for 84 years old - service in the ATS must have kept me very fit.

Yours sincerely,
Betty France

Delighted; see page 107. Ed.

From: 64 Kilvington Road
Sheffield S13 8AH
14 July 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Reflecting back, I had a few thoughts of those lazy, hazy days of training in Imphal VI Platoon, Strensall, July to September 1965.

We didn't seem to have a lot of money, but got into York fairly regularly. Being infantry, we walked there and back to save the bus fare. Myself, Dave Sullivan (Stumpy), George Aspinall, Chris Guitey, and Richard Mortimer being the regulars.

My thoughts came to the training staff and what happened to them. Corporal Frank Dyas, I found, joined the Green Howards on disbandment of the York and Lancasters; Sergeant Tom Hudson I think rejoined the Regiment in Hong Kong; Corporal Nash I'm not so sure about; but my big question is where did Corporal Gott end up? He never returned to the Battalion and it has always made me wonder what or where he got to?

Yours sincerely,
S. Thompson ("Tommo"), 2 Platoon, Alma Company

From: 39 Kingfisher Avenue
Audenshaw
Manchester M34 5QH
30 May 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for placing my letter in the Spring 2004 issue of the Iron Duke, which was in reply to the photograph found on page 154 of the Winter 2003 issue. This generated a very nice and unexpected letter from Mr Bryant Fell, who commanded 11 Platoon in 1954-55 in Gibraltar.

In fact, his kind letter has spurred me on to try and locate anybody who served with my late father, Joseph Quest MM, and who may have photographs or information about him available for me to copy. Unfortunately, I would think that most of those people who served in the Dukes with my father and grandfather during the Second World War, might no longer be with us, however, there may be those who served with him in Korea and then later in Malaya.

I have attached two items, which I would be grateful if you could include in the next edition of the Iron Duke. (*Delighted; see pages 108 and 112. Ed.*)

Yours faithfully,
C. J. H. Quest

From: Maen Hir
Pencarnisiog, Ty Croes
Anglesey, UK
LL63 5UG
12 April 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Here is another of my little snippets "Is this a record?"

In 1948 when the 1st Battalion was stationed at Strensall, the Adjutant was a Captain D. C. Roberts and his Assistant Adjutant was a Lieutenant J. A. Miller.

In 1954-55 when the 1st Battalion was stationed in Gibraltar, the Adjutant was a Major D. C. Roberts, the same Roberts as had been Adjutant in Strensall in 1948 but this time his Assistant Adjutant was Lieutenant C. D. Miller, the younger brother of J. A. above.

Therefore I ask, is it a record for two brothers to have served the same Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment?

Incidentally, when I was talking to Derek Roberts about this matter, he told me that during his tenures of office as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion he had served five commanding officers namely Lieutenant Colonels Brian Webb-Carter, Dick Cumberlege, Jack Dalrymple, Ramsay Bunbury and Bob Moran, an unusual experience but a very happy one.

Yours faithfully,
David Miller

From: 17 Bank Street
Jackson Bridge
Holmfirth HD9 1LX
2 April 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Lest We Forget

On a recent visit to the USA I was able to visit Patricia Coningham, who was married to Captain Donald Coningham who had sacrificed his life covering the difficult but successful withdrawal of his Company

at Paungde, Burma on 30 March 1942. The last time I had seen her was when we marched to the railway station at Peshawar on 3 February 1942 to entrain for Burma. She had only been married for one week and the sight of her standing there with tears streaming down her face left a deep impression on all of us.

I had always wondered what had become of her and last year discovered that she had re-married and was living in the USA at Haddonsfield, New Jersey. After losing her husband she had had a very hard time and had to find work in India in order to support herself and her baby daughter, Sylvia. Eventually she met and married her American husband, surviving the ship being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on the way to America.

Always a 'Duke' she has kept in touch with her contemporaries of the 2nd Battalion and was able to tell me more about them than I knew. I was able to meet Sylvia - who never knew her father, and also John who is one of her three sons. We were able to talk of the good days of India and the 'Dukes' and though a widow again, she is happy and in good health, though she has always missed England. She sends her good wishes to the 'Dukes'.

Yours sincerely,
Bill Norman

From: 48 East Witton
Leyburn
North Yorkshire
DL8 4SL
31 March 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

On 22 March a service took place in the lovely village of Arncliffe, Skipton, to celebrate the life of Isabel Davis. Isabel was the widow of Major John Davis one-time Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion, Cyprus 1957 and later Regimental Secretary. For many they will be remembered in later years for their hospitality at their home Botany End and their lovely garden. The Regiment was represented by General Sir Charles and Lady Huxtable, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Sugden, ex-4th Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robins, plus Rosemary and myself.

Arncliffe lies in the valley of the beautiful River Skirfare tumbling down just behind the church and when there is enough water is eminently fishable.

I could not help but noticing that from such a small village no fewer than 34 men were listed in the church as having served in the First World War. Of those two were killed in action. Of the 34 names, ten were Dukes. One, Private Hodgson, was killed. Other names listed are three Inglebys, two Mallabys, three Simpsons and a Jowett. They were likely to have served in the 6th Battalion.

Yours sincerely,
Hugh Le Messurier

From: mike.nuttall@jerseymail.co.uk

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I was delighted, as always, to receive my Spring copy of the Iron Duke recently. My reason for writing is the item re the Regimental Association Dinner on page 52.

I regret I will be unable to attend the Dinner on 2 October as I have already booked a holiday in Cyprus. I believe the idea of focussing on a particular time in the history of the Regiment is an excellent idea and will encourage those who otherwise would not attend.

I was somewhat surprised that the tour in 1971 isn't being celebrated. (*Well spotted; it is being included, see page 106. Ed.*) I know we didn't suffer any fatalities, but the 1st Battalion certainly played a major part when Internment was introduced on 9 August 1971. Although I was in Battalion Headquarters (Lance Corporal in the Orderly Room) during that period, I will never forget the events when Burma Company were ensconced on the New Lodge Road for 48 hours.

I was saddened to read the obituary of Dave Dickens, I can't imagine there being a dry eye in the place when they burst into a chorus of "The Dukes".

"Once a Duke, always a Duke".

Yours sincerely,
Mike Nuttall

From: 1 Broome Court
Burgh Heath
Tadworth
Surrey KT20 6DR
15 June 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your excellent Iron Duke and for my small contribution. Perhaps in future editions I could ask "What makes a good Officer?" or, come to that, "What makes a good Warrant Officer?". From my own experience, it takes much more than just knowing one's profession through and through and having the common touch; it is also being able to cope in adversity when situations do not go according to plan, and being an officer and a gentleman at all times. I can name three such gentlemen: Lieutenant Colonel Dalrymple, Major Emmett and Regimental Sergeant Major Parr of the 2nd Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Burma, India, 1940s.

On our arrival at Meerut, North India, to join the 2nd Battalion and having settled into our barracks, who should walk in but Regimental Sergeant Major Parr, who brought us to attention, and then in walked Colonel Dalrymple, followed by our own Company Commander, Major Emmett, followed by three platoon lieutenants and Company Sergeant Major Uppers. pronounced Upyours out of earshot.

Colonel Dalrymple asked us to stand easy and be relaxed. It was his way of welcoming us to the regiment, and then, in turn, he shook hands with each soldier (being in the region of 100), asking their place of origin.



General Sir Claude Auchinleck, inspecting, with Lieutenant Colonel Dalrymple behind his right shoulder.

“Wimbledon, Sir”, I said.

He then turned to Major Emmet, saying “The Adjutant comes from Wimbledon. Perhaps, when convenient, a meeting could be arranged”. This received a nod from Major Emmett and the others. CSM Uppours just turned a brilliant shade of red but, on this occasion, contained his spluttering.

It was while on leave in the Himalayan foothills that I received a postal order from home, which could not be cashed in the hills but only on the plains. As there was a ladies’ club nearby, we thought one of the ladies might condescend to cash it on one of their regular visits to the plains.

With my pals hiding in the bushes, I approached the big house, and sitting on the veranda were two ladies who wanted to know my business. To my surprise, they offered me cash, the postal order they would cash later. While one of the ladies disappeared to get cash from her purse, the other offered me tea and asked what was my name.

“Cuffley, ma’am.”

“And your Christian name?”

“John.”

“Do you have a middle name?”

“Yes, ma’am. Austin, named after the capital of Texas. My father was there on a naval mission when I was born.”

Having received the cash, my pals and I were off to celebrate.

A few days later, I received an invite to tea from one of the ladies, Miss Devern - not at the club, but at her

school. Miss Devern was headmistress at a very posh boarding school for young ladies, and I paid a number of visits until my return to the plains.

The lady who gave me the cash (the postal order having been handed back to me by Miss Devern), turned out to be the highest medical adviser in India and had the rank of Brigadier. For my part, this required a thank you letter, the sight of which sent rumbles through Brigade HQ with my so-called scruffy letter (according to CSM Uppers) being typed on regimental notepaper, which just required my signature (at least it saved me a stamp).

I then received a letter from a Miss Fay, the new headmistress, to tell me that Miss Devern had passed away and that I was free to visit, with accommodation, to view the grave. My request got me as far as CSM Uppers, with his usual “Is this a red coat I’m wearing? Is this a blinking holiday camp?”

And so, being me, I made my way to Battalion HQ. Coming towards me I saw Colonel Dalrymple, my own Company Commander Major Emmett, and a group of other officers. Deep in conversation, Colonel Dalrymple took my salute with just a glance. I had not gone far when I was called back by the Colonel, who said, “It’s been brought to my attention that while in the hills you made the acquaintance of a Miss Devern. She comes from a very old military family, you know, going back to Clive”.

“Yes, Sir”, I said. “Unhappily, Miss Devern has passed away. I’ve been invited to visit her grave, and that’s my purpose for being here.”

I handed him the letter, which he waved aside. "Tell the Adjutant in my office from me that he is to make all necessary arrangements for your departure, and from this moment you are relieved of all duties until your return." And so I was off the next day with a letter of condolence from the Regiment.

As stated, CSM Uppours was the acquired name of CSM Uppers and only used out of his earshot. I've kept this name throughout my many stories of him. Having been bullied and kicked from pillar to post as a young boy in an orphanage, and with no alternative but the army, he did quite well considering his circumstances. Due for retirement and out of India, it was very sad, his only life having then passed away.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. Cuffley

P.S. My mother, it would seem, had been giving the War Office back home a hard time for sending me overseas, being under age. So, in Meerut in 1944, on my eighteenth birthday, I was ordered by my commanding officer to get my hair cut and take a bath in order to freshen up for a photocall, so that a photo could be sent to my mother showing that I was all in one piece.

It was while taking a bath that a photographer arrived, who took the photo reproduced below. He was still taking pictures when my unit (a company of men) and a military band arrived to play, with a hundred men singing Happy Birthday. Then my company was ordered to present arms and the band played the National Anthem.



We assume young Cuffley stood to attention for the National Anthem! - Ed.

From: New Church Farm
East Woodlands
Frome
Somerset BA11 5LQ
July 2004

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I am writing to tell your readers about plans for a new regimental web site.

There have been a number of valiant efforts in the past at producing a site. Each, in turn, has suffered from the almost impossible task for an active unit, such as the 1st Battalion, of keeping the contents meaningful and up to date.

There is general recognition, however, that a well-designed and respected web site, accurately portraying the Regiment as it is today, its past achievements and what they stand for, would be a real benefit to both serving and past members of the Regiment, as well as to those thinking of joining it. Additionally, it would provide practical assistance in helping members of the Regiment to maintain contact with each other, as well as helping those leaving the Dukes to settle into civilian life.

Preliminary work has now begun, under my editorship, with support and help from the Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental Secretary. The contents will include much of that published in the 1st Battalion's site earlier this year and is being drafted initially under three broad themes:

The Regiment Today. A description of our various regular and volunteer units and how to join them. A regular feature from the 1st Battalion will be included.

Regimental Headquarters and the Regimental Association. (The various Branches and their events, as well as helping ex-members of the Regiment with job hunting.) This will also provide RHQ with another means of communicating with ex-members of the Regiment.

Regimental History. (Battle Honours, Colours, medals, museum, chapels, sporting achievements etc.)

It is intended that the site should be maintained on a daily basis and that it should appeal to all Dukes, regardless of when they served. It will be published in time for the Old Comrades' Dinner in Bradford on 2 October.

This is a big project which will benefit greatly from help from a broad spectrum of the Regiment. Anybody who feels that he or she would enjoy contributing to it, or who would simply like to learn more about it, should contact RHQ or me at:

charles.cumberlege@tiscali.co.uk

Yours sincerely,
Charles Cumberlege

This proposal has the Iron Duke's full support. Publication of the Iron Duke will continue for all those not electronically-inclined, and for posterity. Ed.

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 19 September (AGM).

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.

* * * * *



33

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION DINNER

2nd October 2004

30th Anniversary of 1971 - 1974 Northern Ireland Tours



LXXXVI

At the last Regimental Association Dinner we focused on the 50th Anniversary of the ending of the Korean War and the Battle of the Hook. This was judged a great success not least because it encouraged members of the Regiment who perhaps would not normally attend a Regimental function to become actively involved in the Association again.

Many people who attended the dinner suggested to the Colonel of the Regiment that they would like to see a similar focus on other periods of service for future Regimental Association Dinners.

The Colonel of the Regiment is very supportive of the idea and, having discussed it with the COs of the day, General Sir Charles Huxtable and Colonel Peter Mitchell, he has agreed that now would be an appropriate time to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Battalion's first Northern Ireland tours in 1971-74.

Details of any specific arrangements for the evening have yet to be decided but will be included with the letter on the Association Dinner to be sent out to Association Members in August.

In the meantime, those who served in Northern Ireland on these tours are asked to put the date in their diary and particularly to encourage friends who served with them to join with them for the evening. The more who attend the greater will be the success and enjoyment of the Dinner.

LONDON BRANCH

At a recent London Branch gathering at the Union Jack Club, Jim Paine, a long-standing member of the Branch, who served in our 2/6th Battalion and 264 Special Squadron RAC and took part in the Normandy landings, told us that he had enjoyed a ringside seat at the Trooping of the Colour on Horseguards Parade this year. He reported that a tall, pleasant gentleman had shown an interest in his Regimental tie and had said that he was the Colonel of the Regiment. We can confirm for Jim that the tall gentleman was absolutely right, he is the Colonel and we have a photograph to prove it.



Jim Paine on Horseguards Parade with a tall, pleasant gentleman.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH OF DUKES' EX-KOREAN VETERANS

We have been very pleased to receive the following report from Mr Ken Fletch:

Just a few lines to inform you that The Duke of Wellington's Standard was represented at the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. It was carried by myself, Mr Ken Fletch, Standard Bearer for the Sheffield Branch of the Dukes' ex-Korean Veterans, on Sunday 6 June. Two parades were held. The first one at Bayeux, the second one at Arramanches. Both parades were in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. It was a very moving experience, and I felt very proud and honoured to take part.



Ken Fletch, right, with George Marsden in Normandy.

At the service in Bayeux it mentioned the Dukes as the Royal Regiment. I would like to mention that also on parade was a Duke of Wellington's veteran, Mr George Marsden, who landed at Normandy and was later badly wounded, and spent time as a POW. On coming home the following Sunday I attended a big parade at the Cenotaph. So, all in all, I have had a busy few days, but I can always say I am proud and honoured to carry The Duke of Wellington's Standard.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

The ATS Were Here

We have been delighted to hear from Mrs Betty France (formerly Staff Sergeant Parkinson, 3rd West Riding Platoon, Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)), who writes:

"When I enlisted in the ATS in 1939, we were attached to the 5th DWR - earlier converted to 43rd Searchlight Battalion RE TA. This unit had its HQ at the Drill Hall in Huddersfield. When the Battalion became part of Air Defence GB, it was combined with the Royal Artillery and renamed a Regiment, but still retained the Drill Hall as its HQ until late 1941. During this time, HQ Section of the ATS was permanently on duty there. We acted as clerks, telephonists, storekeepers, cooks, orderlies and a Batwoman.

When I was invited to the Centenary Celebrations of said Drill Hall in 1999, I was aware that there appeared to be no indication anywhere that the ATS had contributed to its history and I was determined to put the record straight. After consultation with the Trustees, I was granted permission to place some form of recognition of the service of the ATS during World War Two.

Through the Old Comrades' Association I have been able to contact two former officers of the Regiment, who were pre-war TA and so remembered the work done by the ATS. They agreed to meet me at the Drill Hall to approve the plaque I commissioned, which I hope will be a reminder to many of the vital contribution made by the ATS to the smooth running of the Regiment."



Mrs Betty France with Lieutenant Colonels J. Huxley (left) and W. Brook.

Joe Quest MM

I am trying to trace anybody and everybody, who served with my late father Joseph Quest MM, between the years 1939-60, his tours of duty were Iceland 1940-42, then back to the UK from 1942-44, then over to France landing shortly after D Day 1944, the Dukes then travelled through Belgium, to Holland, especially a place in Holland called Haarlem, which I believe is near Nijmegen, where my father earned his MM and was there when the war ended.

He was then stationed in Germany during the Berlin Airlift, and also took a turn guarding Rudolph Hess in Spandau Prison (I believe), then in the early 50s the Dukes went over to Korea and then finally to Malaya in 1958-60, where he finished his military service seconded to the Gurkhas.

The reason for this request, is that I am trying to obtain any old photographs, and background information about my father, as I am currently trying to build up a collection of pictures and information for his four grandchildren who live in Australia and who, sadly, never met their granddad, Joe. So, if I could find any photographs of him or indeed my grandfather, Joe Quest Snr, serving with the Dukes, then this would be a bonus.

Please note that any photographs, newspaper cuttings etc sent to me, will be returned immediately once copied, and needless to say, they will be looked after extremely carefully. In certain circumstances, I will personally collect and return them if required to do so.

I do hope there are still some Dukes out there who can help. If so, please contact me: Mr Chris Quest, 39 Kingfisher Avenue, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5QH.

London Group

Readers may like to be reminded of the Group, which was started by Brigadier Michael Bray, then co-ordinated by Colonel Alistair Roberts and which is now led by Simon Morgan, that meets periodically in London in order to provide ex-Dukes' officers and officers considering retirement with an opportunity to meet and discuss jobs and job opportunities. Needless to say, much else is discussed as well. A number of ex-Dukes' officers have been able to help each other find jobs. Two examples of firms with plans for expansion are: Betfair, on 020 8834 8000 and ask for Jonathan Cumberlege; and Breathing Space on 01271 890037 (10am-3pm) (www.breathingspace.uk.com), an outdoor activities centre which is based in north Devon and plans to expand into Yorkshire; ask for Alex Liddle or Richard Best. Simon Morgan can be reached on: smorgan@paynehicksbeach.co.uk

NIVA Service of Remembrance

Readers may like to be reminded that the Northern Ireland Veterans' Association will be organising a Service of Remembrance on 23 September 2004 at the Ulster Ash Grove, at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, for those members of the armed forces and civil authorities who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism.

Those wishing to attend should inform the Chairman NIVA, c/o the Legacy Project, The Tim Parry and Jonathan Ball Trust, Peace Drive, Warrington, WA5 1HQ. E-mail: Enquiries@nivets.co.uk

Top Performer

We are grateful to Major Ken Johnson, who was Battalion Boxing Officer in Weeton, for reporting that Private Carl Johannson, who boxed at Battalion, Army and Combined Services levels, has continued in the same vein.



Privates Hannon and Johannson (right) in 1998.

Having turned professional, he has won sixteen out of his seventeen bouts, nine by knockouts, and lost one. Carl now boxes out of New Jersey, USA, and on 20 March 2004, he became the new World Boxing Federation Super Featherweight Champion. We send him our warm congratulations. Those of us who always start reading the paper at the sports page, and we are many, will now have something extra to look for before turning to the heavy news inside. The photograph of Carl and Private Hannon was published as part of the 1st Battalion's contribution on page 117 of Issue 238, Winter 1998.

Top Coach

Some readers will remember Chris Jones, sometime member of the Regimental Band and then a Regimental PT Instructor in the 80s/90s. The word is that he is now a top coach, based in Swansea, and coaching Britain's leading triathletes, including Leanda Cave, who became Britain's first-ever female World Champion in 2002, when she won the World Triathlon title at Cancun in Mexico. We send him our congratulations and wish him and his candidates for the Olympic Games every success.

Last Post

Another prominent ex-Duke is Lance Corporal Andrew Beaumont, who also served in the Dukes' Band, but then underwent the conversion into the King's Division Normandy Band. Appropriately enough his Band was selected to play in Normandy in June for the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of D Day and, equally appropriately we think, he was selected to sound the Last Post in front of several Heads of State, hundreds of Normandy Veterans and, probably, many thousands of television viewers. Very well he did too.

"The Fight for Iraq"

Readers may like to be aware of the official British Army pictorial account of Operation Telic. This tells the story of the involvement of the Army in Iraq in pictorial, rather than in narrative, form. The pictures are excellent and form a very good record, but they cannot and do not cover every unit which has served in Iraq.

The Army Benevolent Fund is the charity beneficiary of the book. The retail price is £14.99, plus £3.45 p&p; but with free p&p for serving military personnel.

To purchase, ring the ABF Hotline on 01869 325 829, or go through www.armybenfund.org

Caption Competition

Since no entries were received for the Caption Competition on page 14 of our last issue, No 254, no prizes have been awarded.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr A. J. Brear, Langtree House, 39 Fore Hill, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4AA.

Mr P. Foxton, 60 Blackwell Place, Sheffield, S2 5PX.

Mr D. Harvey, 2606 Onion Building, 100 Yan An Road East, Shanghai, 200002, China.

Mr A. Hitchen, 1 Lay Garth Gardens, Rothwell, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS26 0TA.

Mr W. T. Mundell, Sycamore Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 9NR.

Mr W. F. M. Naiken, "Walkar", Gull Bank, Whaplode Drove, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 0SS.

Mr T. J. Newhouse, 35 Bentley Drive, St George's Park, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 2DR.

Mr W. J. A. Todd, 119 New Hay Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD4 7JL.

Mr M. A. Twelftree, 2 North View Terrace, Stocksfield, Northumberland, NE43 7JN.

Mr N. J. Wainwright, 4 Cracken View, New Smithy, Chinley, High Peak, SK23 6DZ.

Mr A. Williams, 41 Avingercliff Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD10 9HE.

Major J. W. Wood, Cryals Lodge, Cryals Road, Matfield, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 7HN.

* Mr M. Ambler, 65 Meadow Drive, Wheatley, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 5GX.

* Mr D. Dugdale, 18 Lee Street, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 1NJ.

* Mr N. Mussett, Kirkdale, Station Road, Giggleswick, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0AB.

* Mr A. Powell, Stella Maris, The Buttlands, Wells Next The Sea, Norwich, Norfolk, NR23 1EY.

* Mr D. C. Smith, 28 Glyndon Court, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 3UB.

Obituaries

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

The Earl of Scarborough

Dickon Scarborough, the 12th Earl died in March aged 71. He was Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire from 1996 to 2003 and was commissioned from Eton and Oxford into the 11th Hussars for his National Service. He was ADC to Field Marshal Sir John Harding, Governor and C-in-C Cyprus in 1956. He was also Honorary Colonel of 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers in the 1970s. His father, the 11th Earl, was a Patron of

the Regimental Association from 1956 until his death in 1969, sharing such duties with the 7th Duke of Wellington.

His Memorial Service was held in Sheffield Cathedral on 17 May 2004 and the Colonel-in-Chief and the Duchess, Major General Donald Isles, representing the Colonel, Colonel and Mrs Peter Gardner, Colonel Julian Fox and Lieutenant Colonel Mark Lodge were present from the Regiment.

Lady Nora Bray

The formal notice of the death of Lady Nora Bray on page 112 records, as do all such notices, the Regiment's regret at the passing of a good friend. Lady Nora was a particularly good friend to all those officers (there *were* some who were not Dukes) who were privileged to serve as ADC to General Bobby. Always charming, with a lovely sense of humour and an engaging chuckle, she took full responsibility for the running of the household and thus eased the domestic side of an ADC's duties considerably. Being the mother of three sons (there *is* one who was not a Duke!) she knew a chap's needs precisely and would toss up a sustaining meal in the galley of Gimcrack in a trice. She was a whizz at remembering names and places and at prompting General Bobby, who scarcely needed it, and she was never late. Working with the General taught all us callow youths a lot; the presence of Lady Nora made those years not only formative, but good fun too.

JBKG

Major T. F. Huskisson, MBE, MC*

Fred Huskisson died on 25 April 2004, aged 89. On leaving Merchant Taylors' School, Fred joined Swift & Company, meat importers, the firm he rejoined after the war to run the continental sales division, rising in due course to Managing Director. He captained Old Merchant Taylors 1937-39, won eight caps for England in the 1930s, played uncapped for England during the war and was a member of the undefeated British Lions team which toured Argentina in 1936. After the war he played for the Barbarians, London Counties and Eastern Counties, captaining the latter from 1946-1950. He also played for Lancashire.

On the outbreak of war, Fred was commissioned into the Dukes in early 1940 and led a draft of reinforcements for the 1st Battalion, which was with the British Expeditionary Force in France, but only arrived in time to take part in the long battle of withdrawal to Cherbourg. In November 1942 he left England with the 1st Battalion and commanded a company in the advance on Tunis. He was wounded in April 1943, but was fit to rejoin the Battalion by the fall of Tunis in May.



Major T. F. Huskisson, MC

His subsequent service with the 1st Battalion is covered in the Tribute given by General Donald Isles at Fred's funeral, which we reproduce below.

The Service, which was held on 7 May at the Church of St John the Apostle, Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire, was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Webb-Carter, Major General Donald Isles, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier, Bill Blakey, Geoffrey Bullock, Mr and Mrs Richard Diacon, Mr and Mrs John Wilson and Majors David Harrap and Bob Heron. Mr David Peckover sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Fred was pre-deceased by his wife, Allison, and is survived by his daughters Lucinda and Charlotte.

Afternote: Sadly, Fred's youngest brother, Robert, died shortly after Fred, on 16 June 2004, aged 81. After earning a Blue at Oxford, he too Captained Old Merchant Taylors and played for Eastern Counties. He also saw military service (in the Royal Signals).

We are grateful to General Donald for his permission to reproduce the following Tribute.

It is a great privilege for me to be asked by Fred's family to give this short address to the memory of Fred Huskisson, a great soldier. Along with a few other members of this congregation, Fred and I go back to the 1940s - now all of sixty years ago. For it was in 1944 that I first met Fred at the tail end of the Anzio Beach-head campaign in Italy. I was a new reinforcement and Fred had recently returned to the Battalion after being wounded for the second time in the war and from being awarded the Bar to his Military Cross, given to him for his exceptional gallantry in the attack on Pantoni. During our subsequent advance through Florence, north to the Gothic Line high in the Appenines, I joined Fred's A Company as a Platoon Commander and I remained with him until we left Italy for Palestine in Feb 1945.

Fred was one of four powerful Company Commanders in the Battalion known as the four "Barons" - a nickname given to them by our distinguished Commanding Officer of the time, Brian Webb-Carter. Serving with Fred, I found, was always an exciting and rewarding experience, but he was by no means an exacting taskmaster. He never expected any of his Company to do anything he would not do himself. He was a great leader, full of experience, as he himself had done it all before. For we young Platoon Commanders the high spot of each day in the line was the evening O Group in Fred's HQ, usually a sandbagged hole in the ground. Orders having been given, there would be much chat, certainly a tot of rum and occasionally a mug of whisky; then back to our platoons to face the long night ahead.

I don't know whether Fred was ever frightened; even after being twice wounded he certainly showed no fear. Once, reporting for Orders, I found him almost amused that a piece of shrapnel had destroyed his radio set while it was positioned between his knees. For sure Fred was brave and as such a great example to us all. At that stage of the war, after the campaign in North Africa and the Anzio battles, the Battalion was full of very tired and war-weary soldiers. Yet, despite the desperate conditions of mud, snow and ice, even when the mule train could not always get through to our forward positions, A Company, under Fred, still possessed great

comradeship and, above all, tremendous fighting spirit. Fred was the very epitome of the regimental soldier. All his service was with the Battalion and he was never on the staff. Such service would never have suited him.

On arriving in Palestine, just before the war ended, Fred was soon made 2i/c of the Battalion and, later, Acting CO, and, as I became Adjutant, we continued to see much of each other in the business of running the Battalion. It was here when Fred showed his great wisdom. They were tricky days, trying to get to terms with the resident Jewish population. There were battalion-sized operations to be organized, to counter the terrorist gangs of the IZL and Haganah. The King David Hotel was blown up and always boatloads of illegal immigrants trying to come ashore at Haifa had to be contended with. Much of this was under the distinctly unfriendly eyes of the New York Times and the Washington Post. This called for great tact and diplomacy from Fred and he didn't fail. The award of the MBE was a measure of his ability at this time.

However, in Palestine and later in Egypt, there was much fun to be had and we enjoyed ourselves on the cricket pitch, the tennis courts and, of course, the rugby field. Fred, one of our two English internationals in the Battalion, captained our XV, leading the forwards from the second row and we had many successes. Fred was also in demand for the Cairo internationals against the New Zealand and South African Divisions. But, all too soon, Fred went home - time expired - just before the Battalion went to Khartoum in the Sudan at the end of 1946. He left an enormous gap.

Since then, first along with Brian Webb-Carter and the "Barons", we have continued to meet (albeit in declining numbers) once a year for 59 years at the Battalion's Overseas Dinner Club, mainly at Armoury House, the home of the HAC, where Fred started his military career. As Chairman and Secretary Fred has, typically, already made a provisional booking for our 60th meeting next spring. There aren't many of us left now, but my guess is that the few of us will meet for our 60th and then pack it in. It won't be the same without Fred, but I reckon that, for sure, he would wish us to be there. It won't be a gloomy occasion, as we shall all have our valuable and enduring memories of Fred - one of the Dukes' most illustrious and bravest of officers. Truly a true friend, a great man and a great Duke.

DEI

Mr M. H. Curtis

Michael Curtis, who died on 3 July 2004, aged 84, was educated at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate and Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, where his study for a degree was interrupted by the outbreak of war and he was commissioned into the 1st Battalion. Sadly, near Tunis, he was badly wounded in the chest by fire from allied US forces and his military service came to an end. However, he was able to gain his degree and complete a career in journalism in Britain and East Africa, including, in 1954, the editorship of *The News Chronicle*, thus becoming the youngest editor (at 35) of a national newspaper. Although not fit enough to attend the 59th Dinner, he was a highly respected and staunch member of the 1943-45 Overseas Dining Club.

Major John K. Tyler

John Tyler died on 18 April 2004, aged 67, after a six-month battle against lung cancer. The Regiment was represented at his funeral by Major Peter Cole ACF.

John Tyler will be best remembered amongst members of the Regiment as an exceptionally active and inspirational Commander of both Wellesley Company and Huddersfield Area of the Army Cadet Force, from which he retired in 1986. John had joined the ACF as a cadet in his home county of Staffordshire and was commissioned at an early age, ultimately serving as Area Commander there before moving to West Yorkshire in 1964. He set the highest standards for himself and expected the same from those he commanded. Never one to compromise his high principles, John was a great believer in getting the best out of adults and cadets alike, helping them to develop their potential to the full. On leaving the Army Cadet Force, John was appointed Senior Youth Worker with North Yorkshire County Council and also became involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in the Skipton area, bringing his voluntary youth service to an amazing total of 47 years. He was also an active member of his parish church in Silsden, serving at various times as Churchwarden, Treasurer and youth club leader. In all of these activities in his busy life John was firmly supported by his wife Brenda.

Professionally, John served with distinction as Chief Quantity Surveyor to the Engineering Division of Bradford Metropolitan Council for 29 years, retiring in 1993. He was a memorable after-dinner speaker, a larger-than-life character with a tremendous sense of fun. He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Nigel J. Mussett

Captain J. A. d'E. Miller

Captain Tony Miller, better known as 'Dusty' in the Regiment, died on 20 April 2004 at Four Marks, Hampshire, at the age of 77. He was the elder son of the late Captain A. E. Miller MC and the brother of Major David Miller, both of whom served in the Regiment.

Dusty was educated at Dauntseys and Bedford schools, one of eleven Old Bedfordians to join the Regiment since the last war. He was conscripted in late 1944 and attended pre-OCTU at Routham, Kent and then the OCTU at Bangalore, India. He was commissioned in 1946 into the 2nd Battalion, then serving in India.

He returned to the UK in August 1947 with the Advance Party of the 2nd Battalion and was one of the officers in 1948 to be in the 2nd Battalion Cadre at the Depot, Halifax, in preparation for amalgamation with the 1st Battalion.

With the 1st Battalion he served as a platoon commander, Assistant Adjutant and MTO. He represented the Regiment at rugby, cricket and athletics. In 1951 he was posted to the Army MT School, as an instructor with the Army MT Documentation Team advising units of the TA.

Always intensely proud of his connections with the Regiment, he was particularly glad to have carried a Colour of the 2nd Battalion on the amalgamation parade

of the 1st and 2nd Battalions in 1948 and the very next day to have carried a 1st Battalion Colour at the Guard of Honour for HRH Princess Elizabeth at York Railway Station.

He left the Army in early 1954 and joined his father in the family business of Miller, Rayner and Haysom, Naval Tailors and Outfitters.

In 1958 he married Pamela Carter and they had two daughters, Sally and Fiona. Leaving the business in 1983, they moved to Bodmin Moor, where they set up a specialised holiday centre which drew on Dusty's expertise as an ornithologist and his considerable knowledge of flora and fauna. Pamela pre-deceased Tony in 1996.

Dusty's funeral took place at the Aldershot Crematorium on 27 April 2004 and Major David Miller represented the Regiment.

Lieutenant D. L. Borwell MC

David Leslie Borwell died on 17 December 2003, aged 72, following a severe heart attack whilst in hospital. David enlisted into the Dukes as a National Service soldier and was selected for Officer training at Eaton Hall, being commissioned into the Regiment on 1 April 1950 on a Short Service Commission, which he hoped to turn into a Regular Commission. After a short spell at the Regimental Depot, David joined the 1st Battalion in Minden in May, 1952. He sailed for Korea as part of the Advance Party in September 1952.

In Korea, he was one of 'Baron' Emmet's D Company subalterns, alongside Ernest Kirk and Peter Guthrie, both later killed at the Battle of the Hook. Lieutenant Colonel Bunbury, the CO, decided to run his own small offensives through deep-penetration officer-led patrols. D Company, including David, was actively involved. It was for his part in these patrol actions that David was awarded the Military Cross. He was shortly afterwards selected for the honour of carrying the Regimental Colour on the Queen's Coronation Parade on 2 June 1953, which required him to return to England, and meant he was not with the Battalion during the Battle of the Hook. But he returned to Korea and rejoined the Battalion shortly afterwards.

He left Korea for Gibraltar with the rest of the Battalion in December 1953 and was discharged from the Army in York in August 1955, sadly never having secured the Regular Commission he so wanted. Though very ill with emphysema later in his life, he made a considerable effort to return to Halifax for the events to mark the 45th Anniversary of the Battle of the Hook and, in his wheelchair, was in the front rank of the parade through the town to the Parish Church.

Jeff Butterfield

Jeff Butterfield died in May 2004, aged 74. As a Sergeant in the RAEC he was attached to the 1st Battalion in 1949-50 while engaged on his National Service. After playing rugby for the Battalion, when his last game was (paradoxically) in the front row of the Sevens side which won the Northern Command Cup in 1950, he then went on, as a fine attacking centre, to play for the England XV in 28 successive internationals

between 1953 and 1959 and was Captain in 1959. He was also a member of the British Lions in South Africa in 1955 and in New Zealand in 1959. He played 54 times for Yorkshire and captained the county from 1951-58. His club rugby was played with Northampton, in those days one of the premier clubs in England. Jeff goes back to the great days of Dennis Shuttleworth and Michael Hardy when the Battalion was just beginning, after the war, to get its rugby into shape. He had a most charming personality, a man of Yorkshire born at Heckmondwike, a good team man and a delight to play with in the same XV.

DEI

Mr Ken Walker

Ken Walker died on 19 March 2004 in his 80th year. He started his working life on the railway as a lamp boy, but as soon as he was 18, in 1942, he was called up for military service in the Essex Regiment. However, he became part of a large batch of reinforcements for the Dukes and saw service with the 1st Battalion at Anzio, through the Italian campaign and on to Egypt and Khartoum.

After demobilisation, he completed over 48 years' service with the railways, until ill health forced his early retirement. However, he maintained close contact with the Dukes and regularly attended Regimental Association events, both in London and Yorkshire, accompanied by Kath, his wife.

Ken was a committed Christian and an accomplished player of the piano accordion. His funeral service was held on 2 April 2004 at Holy Trinity Church, Bishop's Stortford, where he and Kath had been married in 1949. The service, at which the Chairman of the London Branch represented the Regiment, was an inspiration; it overflowed with people, music and goodwill. Clearly we were saying goodbye to a very special person. Ken is survived by Kath and their sons Keith and Alan.

RHQ has also been informed of the following recent deaths:

Mr William Richard Rosser, ex Sergeant, served in the 7th Battalion 1940-46 in Iceland, UK and North West Europe, died on 6 June 2004, aged 84.

Mr J. B. Hellawell (Bert), ex National Service Corporal with the 1st Battalion 1955-57, died in Huddersfield on 19 April 2004, aged 67.

Lady Nora Bray, widow of General Bobby Bray, died on 19 June 2004, aged 92.

Mrs Isabel Davis, widow of Major John Davis, died on 22 March 2004, aged 89.

Mrs Lorna Quest, widow of Joseph Quest MM, died on 24 January 2004.

Obituaries of the following will be published in our next edition:

Lieutenant Colonel C. G. Gilbert, who died on 8 May 2004.

Lieutenant Robert Stark, who died on 3 July 2004.