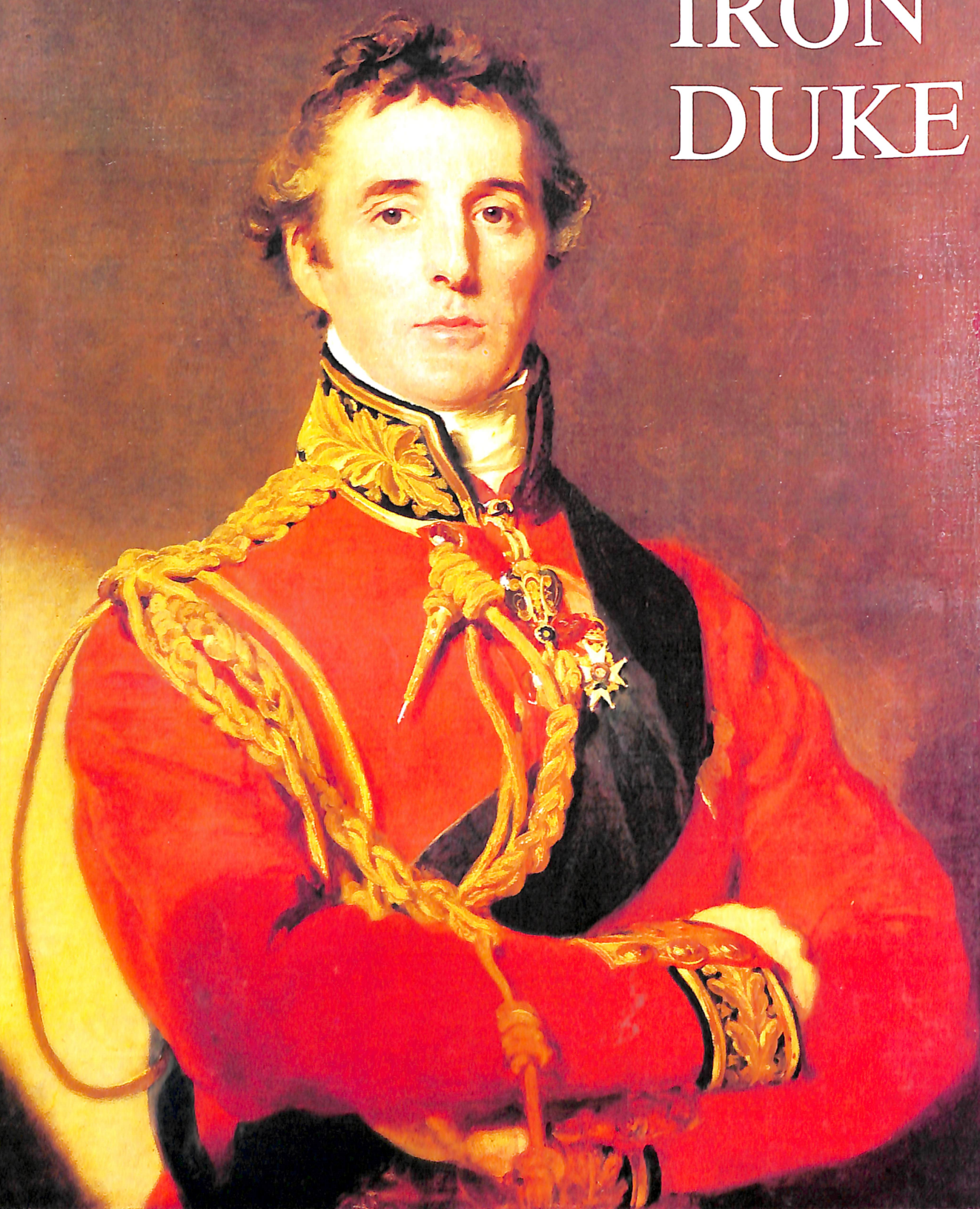


WINTER 2005  
No. 259

# THE IRON DUKE



# THE IRON DUKE

## *The Regimental Journal of*

# THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

Dettingen  
Mysore  
Serlingapatam  
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

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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#### Acknowledgement

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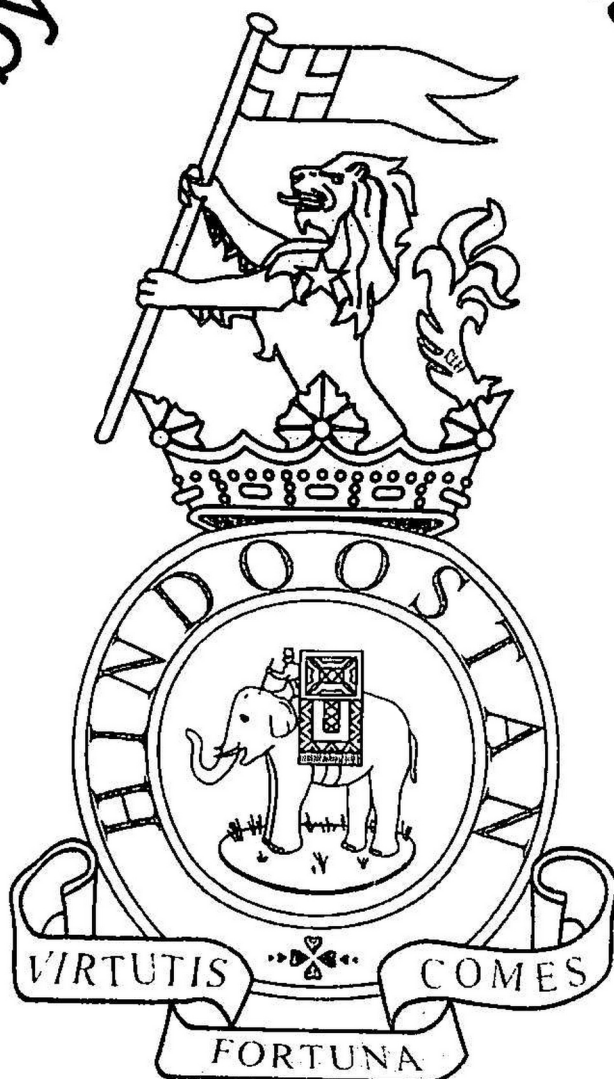
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# THE REGIMENT

## *The Colonel-in-Chief*

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

## *Colonel of the Regiment*

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE

### **Regimental Headquarters**

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

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

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major R. Heron

### **1st Battalion**

*Battlesbury Barracks,  
Warminster; BA12 9DT.*

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel P. M. Lewis, OBE

Adjutant: Captain J. A. Glossop

Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 N. S. Wilson

### **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: Major 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



*Badge of  
The Yorkshire Regiment  
(14th/15th, 19th and 35th/76th Foot)*



*College of Arms*

*S. H. G. P. R. S.*

*Garter King of Arms*

On 6 June 2006, in Warminster, our 1st Battalion will formally make the overt changes which will transform it into the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. If those of us who are retired feel pain at this idea, how much more difficult must it be for the young men who have physically to make the changes on the day. So let us all get used to the idea and give those young men our full support as they plan to wear with pride the cap badge illustrated above.

They will also wear, on formal uniforms, the collar badges of the Prince of Wales's Own and the buttons of the Green Howards and a stable belt which includes the red, green and black of the three Regiments. Those who are entitled to do so will also wear the appropriate-coloured lanyard, or whistle cord, of red, green or black.

# Regimental Headquarters

## Regimental Notes

### OPERATIONAL AWARDS

We send our warm congratulations to those named below, who received Operational Awards following the 1st Battalion's recent tour in Iraq:

**OBE** Lieutenant Colonel P. M. Lewis

**Mid** Corporal D. Clemie

**QCVS** Sergeant D. C. Wyeth

Corporal A. J. Devanny

### Joint Commanders' Commendations

WO2 R. Hind

Colour Sergeant M. A. Hill

Colour Sergeant S. Bramwell

Lance Corporal M. S. Nicholl

Private C. Dick

### EDITORIAL

It is in the nature of a Regimental Journal to look back, for it reports regularly on past performance. Our Regiment's immediate past has been especially in our minds of late, because our serving soldiers, both Regular and Territorial, have frequently been on active service in recent years and, as we would hope, they have performed admirably too.

Our Tercentenary in 2002 also focussed our minds on the past and many of us enjoyed the series of events in Britain and in Germany that celebrated our Regiment's illustrious history. However, shortly afterwards, came news of the Army Board's plans to restructure the Infantry of the Line, which still includes many old County Regiments and we have all had to focus on the future.

We now know that the Regiment's history, summarised in the Battle Honours emblazoned upon its Regulation and Honorary Colours, will be carried forward into the future by the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). Thus the name lives on. What is more, a County Regiment will live on too, with all that that means in terms of our historic links with the families, towns and boroughs of Yorkshire.

The 4th Battalion, containing our Territorials, will be better placed than hitherto to operate as a unit, whilst still retaining its strong links with the Dukes through Ypres and Fontenay Companies.

In future, by degrees and over time, the new Regiment will forge its own reputation and history, to be added to that of which we are so proud. It will form its own Regimental Association and, we assume, it will start its own Regimental Journal.

What, then, is to become of our own Regimental Association and Journal? It is our view that they should continue very much as they are for as long as their members, or readers, wish. A useful guide might be the 1st Battalion Overseas Officers' Dining Club, which held its first meeting in 1946 and this year, at its 60th meeting, the half-dozen or so remaining members decided the time had come to call it a day.

Continuation of The Regimental Association and Journal for another sixty years will see off most members and half a dozen Editors. So it is probably sensible to see the future of both in terms of ten to fifteen years, with the likelihood that blending with the Yorkshire Regiment will take place when it seems sensible and practicable to all concerned.

We were therefore glad to hear, on 22 October, at the AGM of the Regimental Association, that the Regiment will support the Association and the Regimental Journal for as long as enough people wish them to continue.

So, if you wish your Regimental Association and Journal to thrive, join them, subscribe, attend, write to the Editor. Or, even better, take action to help out wherever you can. Nothing happens all by itself; someone has to organise it and organisers soon lose interest if no-one provides support.

### THE DUKES' MUSEUM 'THROUGH SOLDIERS' EYES' - PROJECT 2005

The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum was established at Bankfield House with agreement by the then Halifax Borough Council, following the closure of Wellesley Barracks in 1959. This partnership was passed on to Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council. The Regimental Gallery was redisplayed in 1986, however, with the passage of time, several major shortcomings of the displays became obvious, as the Museum did not link with or meet the expectations of both the local people and educational needs.

The Trustees of the Museum, together with the Council's Museum Services, developed the concept of telling the history of the Regiment 'Through Soldiers' Eyes'. The aim was to bring to life this history, with experiences of our West Riding soldiers - good and bad, funny and tragic. A campaign would be selected and soldiers chosen to relate their stories and recollections - unscripted, but edited to avoid repetition, and to keep them short enough to retain public attention. There was to be an introduction and seven further stories to each of the eight cases. With limited resources, the project was to be phased: Phase 1 - 1935 to 2006, and Phase 2 - 1702 to 1918. Time was also at a premium, as the Second World War ended over sixty years ago. In 2004 the National Lottery granted £50,000 to the project, which, with a further £12,000 from the Regiment and the Borough Council, enabled Phase 1 to be taken forward.

The decision was also made to direct the visitor from the present back in time into the past, to the Regiment's roots. The entrance was redesigned to show the unique facets of the Regiment: The 1st Duke of Wellington after whom the Regiment is named; the long links to the West Riding and Halifax; and the Regiment's prowess at rugby. The eight cases were chosen to cover:

1. '21st Century' - introducing the variety of modern soldiering through four serving regulars, one TA soldier, one wife and a retired Colonel.



2. 'Bosnia' - concentrating upon Gorazde, with the arrival covered by Major Nick Borwell and further stories from Corporal Dave Childs.

3. 'Northern Ireland' with stories from Captain Tighe, Sergeants Robinson and Birks, and Corporal Hepworth.

4. 'National Service' with Corporal Scroby (NI and rugby), Lance Corporal Houghton (Sig Pl and Kenya), and Private Brian Marson (Korea and a Chinese PoW).

5. 'Korea' and the Hook with Corporal George Pickersgill and Sergeant Tommy Nowell.

6. 'WW2 1DWR' with Major Fred Huskisson in France, North Africa and Italy.

7. 'WW2 2DWR' with Sergeant Dennis Mitchell in Malta, NW India and Burma.

8. 'WW2 1/7DWR' with Sergeant Walter Downs in Normandy.

Six of the above were wounded.

The displays in the cases are adapted to support the stories with an image base backdrop of information.

A central VC case, and one showing the Regiment's Family Tree, together with the introduction of two computer stations with access to our website (further programmes are planned) complete this Phase. The opportunity was taken to include Private Arthur Barracrough's WW1 prayer, that as a Bradford 1/4 DWR soldier, he repeated every time he 'went over the top' in the trenches of 1916-18.

The Museum was opened by the Colonel of the Regiment and Councillor John Williamson, the Mayor of Calderdale, on 22 October 2005, with the Regional Lottery Manager in attendance. The family of the late Corporal George Pickersgill attended and presented his medals, including the MM awarded at the Hook, to the Museum.

Phase 2, which will have to use researched stories and actors' commentaries, will follow.

Brigadier W. R. Mundell OBE

*Chairman of the Trustees of the Regimental Museum*



The family of the late Corporal George Pickersgill present his medal to the Regimental Museum.



Ex 2DWR Sergeant Dennis Mitchell and Ex 1/7DWR Sergeant Walter Downs.

### TUNISIA - SIXTY YEARS ON

During October and November of 1942, General Montgomery's 8th Army had defeated Rommel at El Alamein. By 5 November it had pushed the Germans 100 miles westwards towards Tunis. On the night of 7/8 November an Anglo-American Army landed in Morocco and Algeria with a view to pressing eastwards to destroy the German forces in a pincer movement and clear them from North Africa, so that the Mediterranean could be opened up to allied shipping. The initial landing was made by the Americans, who were followed by the British 1st Army. Our 1st Battalion, part of 1st Division, disembarked on 11 March at Bone, in Algeria, and started preparing for the planned major offensive to capture Tunis, 120 miles to the east.

By April 1943, our 1st Battalion, 58 Anti-Tank Regiment RA (4th DWR) and 145 Regiment RAC (8th DWR) were all deployed with the 1st Army in Tunisia, albeit in different formations, taking part in the last weeks of the operations which were to result ultimately in the surrender on 12 May of the Axis forces in North Africa.

Over sixty years later, on 13 and 16 September 2005, the Colonel of the Regiment led an enthusiastic tour party onto some of the terrain over which our forebears had fought with determination, many of them losing their lives in the process.

We stood in the area where Lieutenant L. B. Denman had earned the award of the MC in leading a successful platoon-strength patrol against a German outpost, killing twenty-five and taking prisoners. One of Denman's problems was that his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel C. D. Armstrong DSO, MC, came along for the ride and promptly got himself sufficiently badly wounded to need medical evacuation. Luckily for

the 1st Battalion (and, of course, for our tour group) this led to the arrival in command of Lieutenant Colonel B. W. Webb-Carter, who went on to earn the award of two DSOs in command and to leave very clear and informative accounts of his Battalion's operations in Tunisia and, subsequently, in Italy.

We visited (and some clambered onto) a feature where the 1st Battalion earned the Battle Honour **Banana Ridge**, which is shared only by the 1st Loyals (North Lancashire) Regiment, but lost 17 killed, 35 wounded and 30 missing, presumed prisoners.

We visited the area of a dominating feature (more clambering for some), the capture of which earned the 1st Battalion the award of the Battle Honour **Djebel Bou Aoukaz**, shared only with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, in which the Battalion suffered 114 casualties, including 31 killed. 145 Regiment RAC (8th DWR) also lost 31 killed in the battle for "The Bou", as it was known.

Our Colonel's commentary and our own observation of the terrain brought home to us the difficulties encountered by all participants in this theatre of the war, including, at various times, torrential rain, extreme heat and shortages of ammunition, food and water. This, added to the professional and determined enemy forces, who counter-attacked at every opportunity, meant that success was very hard won indeed.

It was appropriate, therefore, that we should take the time to reflect in the Commonwealth War Cemeteries at Medjez-El-Bab and Massicault on the courage of those who gave their lives in order that success might be achieved. In each we paid our respects with a short service conducted by Dom Alberic Stacpoole. David Peckover sounded the Last Post and Reveille and wreaths were laid by Simon Ellis and Patricia Harley.



At an earlier stage in the visit we had also reflected on the absence of another old friend, Bill Norman, who had accompanied us on earlier such tours and had always contributed so much to them, drawing on his very broad personal experience and astonishing memory.

In between the days of military memories, our charming guide, Kamel, conducted us round several sites of interest, including the remains of Carthage and some Roman sites and Mosques, including the fourth most important Mosque for Moslems, in Kairouan. Also in Kairouan, after a carpet-making demonstration, we were charmed by a silken-tongued salesman, some of us anyway, into buying some of his wares.

At other times, trips were made into Tunis, where the Museum displayed some magnificent mosaics, and to resorts on the east coast. Tunisia seems somehow to have achieved a practical blend of Arab and western cultures and, apart from a pickpocket who (ignorant of his prowess as a one-time Inter-Services Boxing Champion) relieved Peter Hoppe of some cash, the Tunisians we met made us feel welcome wherever we went.

Our party, which, as on previous trips, included non-military friends, blended well together. The swimming pool was put to good use, the local beverages slipped down easily, many a tall tale was told and there was frequent laughter. The now-traditional performance of David Peckover's monologues and songs rounded off our last evening and we were glad to have the opportunity to thank the Colonel and the RHQ team for their sterling efforts in organising and conducting such an interesting and enjoyable trip.

J.B.K.G.

*Those who took part were:*

Major General Sir Evelyn and Lady Celia Webb-Carter  
 Brigadier Michael Bray  
 Brigadier John Greenway  
 Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robbins  
 Major David and Meike Harrap  
 Major Bob and Linda Heron  
 Major Peter Hoppe  
 Captain Geoffrey Bullock  
 Captain Dom Alberic Stacpoole  
 Captain Bob and Jean Wilson  
 Tony and Margaret Balding  
 John and Simon Ellis  
 Cyril and Jean Ford  
 Scott Flaving  
 Janet Gul  
 Pat Harley  
 Richard Harvey  
 Irene Mallinson  
 John O'Neill  
 Rodney Owers  
 David and Jeanne Peckover  
 Geoffrey and Patricia Popple  
 John Sargeant  
 Jack Smith  
 Leslie Winspear  
 John Young

*(more photos can be found on pages 138 & 139)*



**Fourteen group members at the summit of Banana Ridge.**

# Regular Officers' Location List

as at October 2005

## Brigadiers

N. St. J. Hall, UK Mil Rep & Staff Brussels  
D. M. Santa-Olalla, DSO, MC, HQ Londist

## Colonels

D. S. Bruce, OBE, COS UNMSIL  
S. C. Newton, MBE, MA British Embassy Prague

## Lieutenant Colonels

A. H. S. Drake, MBE, HQ ATE (NW)  
R. C. Holroyd, King's Division Lieut Colonel  
G. A. Kilburn, MBE, UN New York  
P. M. Lewis, OBE, CO  
M. D. Norman, SO1 CGS DGS  
G. D. Shuttleworth, SO1 P & R Fd Army

## Majors

P. R. S. Bailey, SO2(W) DII  
J. R. Bryden, JCSC  
P. M. J. Cowell, JSC&SC  
B. J. T. Faithfull, Training Major E&WRR  
P. R. Fox, DPA MOD  
R. A. Harford, JCSC  
C. S. T. Lehmann, SO2 CBM Dev  
D. P. Monteith, MBE, 1 DWR  
R. C. O'Connor, 1 DWR  
R. J. Palfrey, JCSC  
M. C. A. Palmer, JCSC  
A. G. Pigg, MBE, 1 DWR  
J. H. Purcell, AFCC  
N. P. Rhodes, COS 42 Brigade  
S. Richardson, 1 DWR  
M. Robinson, MBE, 1 DWR  
M. M. D. Stear, COS APC  
A. J. Sutcliffe, QM 1 DWR  
B. J. Thomas, BEM, SO3 G1  
T. G. Vallings, 8 Infantry Brigade HQ & Sig Sqn  
P. J. Wilson, Courses DA  
N. M. B. Wood, RMA S rep

## Captains

C. D. Adair, 1 DWR  
C. D. Armitage, 1 DWR  
F. Bibby, HQ 52 Brigade  
A. J. Brown, 1 DWR  
S. Caine, 1 DWR  
E. R. H. Colver, LWC Warminster  
M. B. Crawford, 1 DWR  
S. J. Dick, 1 DWR  
J. Frear, QM(T) 1 DWR  
A. S. Garner, 1 DWR  
J. A. Glossop, 1 DWR  
R. J. Hall, HS Course  
J. P. Hinchliffe, HQ 19 Brigade  
C. Hosty, ITC Catterick  
S. L. Humphris, CGS DGS  
C. J. P. Johnston, 1 DWR  
J. A. Kennedy, Infantry Battle School  
P. Lee, 1 DWR  
L. R. McCormick, DS SEC  
D. A. W. Nelson, 1 DWR  
M. Ness, 1 DWR  
D. J. Ogilvie, 1 GH  
R. B. Payne, Instructor Mor Wing ITC  
J. L. Pearce, RMCS Course  
K. M. Price, 23 SAS  
R. R. G. Scothern, RMCS Course  
A. J. Shand, 1 DWR  
T. E. J. Smart, 1 DWR  
E. W. M. Smith, 1 DWR  
P. G. Smith, 1 DWR  
K. D. Smith, SO3 BATUS  
M. Taylor, RCMO  
P. D. Tetlow, DWR, ITC Catterick  
D. J. H. Wilson, ATR Pirbright

## Lieutenants

R. J. P. Carman, 1 DWR  
M. H. Cataldo, 1 DWR  
D. P. Holloway, ATR Pirbright

## 2nd Lieutenants

P. R. J. Dennien, 1 DWR  
S. Farley, 1 DWR  
D. Hayton-Williams, 1 DWR  
B. Obese-Jecty, IBS Brecon  
B. Redshaw, 1 DWR  
T. R. J. Spilman, 1 DWR  
M. A. Wade-Smith, IBS Brecon



# 1st Battalion

## BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

CO	- Lieutenant Colonel P. Lewis OBE
Battalion 2IC	- Major P. Monteith MBE
Adjutant	- Captain J. Glossop
Operations Officer	- Captain S. Dick
Padre	- CF3 R. Downes
RSM	- WO1 (RSM) N. Wilson
Int Sergeant	- Sergeant A. Roberts
Provo Sergeant	- Sergeant P. Hutton

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

By the time these notes are published, the 1st Battalion will be back in the UK and firmly established in Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster. Flag Change is due to take place on 9 December 2005, giving us a week in Warminster to establish our new home before we depart for Christmas leave. As I write, advance elements of 1 QLR are here with us in Osnabrück and we already have twenty of our families in Warminster. Whilst most of our married personnel will be sad to leave Germany, the majority of the single boys are now very much looking forward to returning to the UK, after all Warminster is only four hours driving time from Yorkshire!

Few of us, who set out from Hounslow in March 2000, could have predicted that the Battalion would face such a busy and turbulent programme throughout its time with the 4th Armoured Brigade in Germany. Nick Borwell set a very high standard and got the Battalion off to a cracking start, seeing us through conversion to Armoured Infantry and a very successful operational tour to Kosovo, where notably the Dukes fired mortars on operations for the first time since Korea. 9/11 changed everything, and following the spectacular Tercentenary celebrations (constructed and orchestrated largely by Richard Holroyd), Duncan Bruce found himself commanding the Dukes on fire fighting duties in Yorkshire, sending Waterloo Company under command of Phil Wilson back to Kosovo and at little notice going to war with the remainder of the Battalion on Operation Telic. The Battalion followed this up by doing superbly at BATUS, which was a fantastic achievement and a superb team effort (Richard Chadwick deserves particular credit for this). All of this left me with little to prove, other than to take the Battalion back to Iraq for Operation Telic V and to see us safely back to the UK. I have therefore counted them out and I counted them back! 1 DWR leaves Germany on a high note and those that have served here with the 1st Battalion can be proud of the part they have played. Despite the steady turnover of personalities the character of the Battalion has not changed. Both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes remain as strong as ever and the boys have never failed to deliver.

Our new role as the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup (LWC BG) promises to be interesting. We know 1 BW well and we can be confident of a good handover from them. We also inherit an RTR Armoured Squadron and a Troop of Engineers. We will lose no time in ensuring that they feel fully integrated with the Battalion. We might even ask the Engineers to re-build the bar in the Officers' Mess, which has been removed by 1 BW! Battlesbury Barracks looks a little tired, but I suspect that is largely as a result of a lack of continuity by any one unit in that location, we will do our best to make good the situation. The latest plan has the 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), as we will become on 6 June 2006, remaining in Warminster as an Armoured Infantry Battalion for the foreseeable future. This will provide much-needed stability and the opportunity for those who wish, to establish themselves in the local community. I seem to remember that we were very happy as a Battalion on the two most recent occasions that we served in Wiltshire, and I see no reason why it should be different this time round.

The LWC BG role will rotate around the Armoured Infantry Battalions serving in Bulford, Tidworth and Warminster and we can expect to be re-assigned to a Brigade in a couple of years time. We would be foolish not to use the next two years to re-charge our batteries. I have no doubt that we will remain busy, but the programme will allow us to re-establish some of our sporting prowess and compete at the highest level. Rugby remains and will continue to be the principal sport in the Battalion and there is more on this subject from Scot Richardson elsewhere in this publication. The enthusiasm and will to win is there and only last week I was thrilled to see the Dukes retain the Army Rugby League Trophy in Aldershot.

If we have learnt nothing else from our time in Germany, it is to expect and be prepared for the unexpected. Even as I prepare these notes, I have had to ask Peter Monteith to write a detailed penalty statement as to why we should not deploy a Warrior Company back to Basrah next month. The fact that we have only been back from that theatre for five months cuts no ice and gains little sympathy these days. The situation in Southern Iraq has deteriorated and there is no movement around Basrah without Warrior Support. Nothing would surprise me and my bags remained packed!

**OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND NCOs SERVING WITH 1 DWR**

as at October 2005

**ALMA COMPANY**

OC - Major M. Robinson MBE  
 2IC - Lieutenant M. Cataldo  
 CSM - WO2 (CSM) R. Carter  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant R. Hollis  
 1 Platoon - Lieutenant B. Redshaw  
               - Sergeant S. Risdale  
 2 Platoon - 2 Lieutenant B. Obese-Jecty  
               - Sergeant E. Whitehouse  
 3 Platoon - Captain A. Shand  
               - Sergeant M. Clarke

**BURMA COMPANY**

OC - Major S. Lees  
 2IC - Captain M. Crawford  
 CSM - WO2 D. Owens  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant S. Blake  
 4 Platoon - Lieutenant B. Carmen  
               - Sergeant D. Hinchcliffe  
 5 Platoon - 2 Lieutenant T. Spilman  
               - Sergeant G. Walkingshaw  
 6 Platoon - 2 Lieutenant M. Wade-Smith  
               - Sergeant C. Barker  
 Drum Major - Corporal A. Oxley

**CORUNNA COMPANY**

OC - Major R. O'Connor  
 2IC - Captain C. Armitage  
 CSM - WO2 S. Moroney  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant K. Yeadon  
 7 Platoon - 2 Lieutenant P. Dennien  
               - Sergeant L. Seviour  
 8 Platoon - Lieutenant D. Hayton-Williams  
               - Sergeant M. Clarke  
 9 Platoon - Captain C. Johnson  
               - Sergeant J. Coulson

**SOMME COMPANY**

OC - Major S. Richardson  
 CSM - WO2 A. Knight  
 CQMS - Sergeant T. Conley  
 OC Anti-Tank - Captain D. Nelson  
 2IC Anti-Tank - Colour Sergeant L. Smith  
 SNCO Anti-Tank - Sergeant D. Nettleton  
 OC Mortars - Captain C. Adair  
 Mortars WO - Sergeant J. Barclay  
 OC Recce - Captain A. Brown  
 2IC Recce - Sergeant C. Goddard

**HOOK COMPANY**

OC - Major A. Pigg MBE  
 CSM - WO2 M. Lumber  
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant W. Mills CGC

**RAO**

RAO - Captain M. Ratnaik  
 RAOWO - WO2 M. Doyle  
 FSA - WO2 J. Malcolm  
 Regt Acct - Staff Sergeant J. Muir  
 SSA - Sergeant J. Wright  
 Docs Supr - Corporal H. Munro

**QM'S DEPARTMENT**

QM - Captain T. Sutcliffe  
 QM(T) - Captain J. Fear  
 RQMS - WO2 D. Cole  
 RQMS(T) - WO2 M. Stannard  
 Clothing - Sergeant R. Wyett

**FAMILIES**

UWO - Captain S. Caine  
 2IC - Colour Sergeant J. Goodall

**SIGNALS PLATOON**

RSO - Captain P. Smith  
 RSWO - WO2 S. Smith  
 Signals SNCO - Sergeant A. Spink

**TRAINING WING**

BGGWO - WO2 J. Hallsworth  
 Training SNCO - Sergeant J. Stroyan

**MESSES**

Officers' Mess - Colour Sergeant S. Bramwell  
 Sergeant's Mess - Corporal P. Sutcliffe

**MT**

MTO/RCMO - Captain M. Ness  
 MTWO - WO2 N. Wood  
 MT SNCO - Sergeant C. Simpson

**CATERING PLATOON**

RCWO - WO2 D. Asquith  
 Chefs - Staff Sergeant P. Carpenter  
               - Sergeant D. Carr  
               - Sergeant M. Meacham

**LAD**

ASM - WO1 M. Fox  
 AQMS - Staff Sergeant R. Anderson

**MEDICAL CENTRE**

RMO - Captain E. Fieldhouse  
 Medical Sergeant - Sergeant L. Robinson

**GYMNASIUM**

APTCI - Staff Sergeant M. Davies

## ALMA COMPANY

A member of the RHQ team recently remarked that we were constantly on leave and intimated that it was about time we did some work. Well, in an effort not to disappoint, Alma Company disappeared on summer leave and unfortunately were forced to work prior to departure. Training in a variety of guises has been the order of the day and has taken up the majority of the Company's time over recent months.

Prior to summer leave members of the Company completed a series of individual courses and cadres covering the full gamut of infantry skills from driving, through to basic tactical training. The aim for the pre leave period was to re-balance after Iraq and prepare for our future role in Warminster. In addition to the individual cadres Burma ran a Potential NCOs' course. Eight Alma soldiers made it through to the end of the testing six week course. All were tired but happy with their performance and brimming with stories about the hardships they faced. At the conclusion of the course the following Alma Lance Corporals were promoted: Barma, Bedford, Elvin, Johnson, Kisby, Nichol and O'Hara. The promotions not only demonstrated the soldiers' diligence on the course but were a just reward for the application they displayed throughout the year. Unfortunately for Alma some of the individuals were moved on for career reasons and to help bolster the Somme gene pool. Lance Corporal Nichol moved to Recce and Lance Corporal O'Hara has switched temporarily to Snipers. O'Hara has clearly lost his marbles and, not content with six weeks in the field, has opted to cover himself in grass and leaves and crawl around in fields for hours. There is a rumour circulating that he has become so keen and green that many now liken him to Doctor David Banner!

In addition to the individual cadres Alma found the time to deploy on two exercises. The first occurred prior to leave and saw the Company deploy as an Opposition Force (OPFOR) for the 9/12th Lancers in Hohne. The exercise was the culmination of the Lancers' pre-deployment training as they prepared for Operation Telic VII. Playing enemy certainly appealed to the Alma soldiers and could be construed as preparation for our role in Warminster. The soldiers certainly had the right mindset, acting in a dastardly fashion throughout; as is the enemy's wont. I was concerned at the ease in which they turned their hand to terrorist activities, taking great delight in setting up numerous training Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Unfortunately for the Lancers, Alma's soldiers quickly adapted their IEDs, mirroring the ability of the insurgents in Iraq to tailor their devices to defeat our countermeasures. Alma's IEDs migrated from the simple thunder flash planted in obvious locations to a noxious mix of thunder flashes (numerous) and a blend of yoghurt with sour milk. These unwieldy and none-too-pleasant devices were rapidly secreted in a variety of locations to cause the unsuspecting Lancers a number of concerns (and cleaning bills) and create much mirth amongst the gleeful Alma terrorists. Sergeant Goddard and Corporal Jump were the main culprits, but were ably assisted by Sergeant Lockwood.

The second exercise occurred at the start of October and was a continuation of the conventional infantry skills training the Company has embraced since our return from leave. The patrols-based exercise was the culmination of six weeks' preparation and tested all the basic infantry skills and tactics from harbour drills, patrols, to section and platoon attacks. The exercise culminated in the customary pre-dawn attack in the early morning mist followed by a day's paint balling to round things off. The paint balling was a particularly popular exercise and taught individuals a number of valuable lessons on tactics, as well as who not to trust with a loaded paintball gun. All the soldiers were thoroughly shattered by the end of the week-long package, but had worked hard and produced some excellent results. The low level training will continue in the lead up to our arms plot move and will prepare the soldiers for the forthcoming challenges presented by Salisbury Plain in winter.

The recent announcement of the honours and awards list from Operation Telic V saw two Alma personnel win well deserved recognition for their efforts in Iraq. Sergeant DC Wyeth may have left the Company for Catterick but he is not far from our thoughts. He receives our hearty congratulations for his award of a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS). The newly promoted Lance Corporal Nicholl was awarded a Joint Commanders' Commendation for his outstanding work as a Light Machine Gun operator. The award caps a memorable year for the Lance Corporal and his wife Carole, who recently become parents for the first time. Both DC and Nico personified the diligence and professionalism shown by all the soldiers and junior officers in Iraq and set an example for all new Alma soldiers to follow.



**Lance Corporal Nicholl receiving his Commendation from Brigadier C. M. Deverell MBE**

Some could describe the switch from OPFOR to Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course (PSBC) or Section Commanders' Battle Course (SCBC) as moving from terrorist to terrorised. The old methods of destructive testing may be long gone at Brecon but the arduous nature of the course and the educational benefits in terms of core infantry skills remain. These blue riband promotion courses still attract many applicants and Alma has been fortunate to get a number of personnel away on the latest courses. As I write, Corporal Raistrick and Sergeant Lockwood are currently crawling around the bondu in deepest darkest Malawi on PSBC whilst Lance Corporal Ayre has deployed on SCBC. Lance Corporals Johnson and Kisby are also away on career courses completing the Warrior DMI and SF Section Commanders' Cadres respectively. Our best wishes are with them all and the Sergeant Major is looking forward to their return to bolster the duties list.

Adventure training continues in one of the most varied programmes for some time. Without the collective training and operation focus, time is available to get soldiers away on a variety of adventure training days. Twenty four Alma soldiers will deploy in late October to take advantage of the REME's

mountaineering lodge in Bavaria. In addition, twelve soldiers have seen fit to leap out of perfectly good planes, with parachutes attached. The broad consensus is that parachuting is great although Private Martin may disagree having jumped once, got tangled in his wires, landed safely and promptly informed the instructors that they could shove their parachutes were the sun never shines, or words to that effect! Needless to say he chose not to remain on the course.

Despite the lack of operations and Battalion-level exercises such as BATUS, Alma remains busy. Thoughts are beginning to turn to Warminster and the role of OPFOR certainly appeals to the soldiers, as does the ability to travel home on a more frequent basis. Whilst we remain in Germany our focus will continue to be the development of individual skills and our build up to Bowman. The awards and recent promotions demonstrate that Alma and the other companies retain some high calibre individuals. Through varied and interesting training, this will continue to be the case and will keep on driving our programme over the coming months.

M. Robinson  
OC Alma

## BURMA COMPANY

Since the last edition of the Iron Duke, Burma Company has continued to prepare for the impending move back to Warminster. Warrior cadres are up and running for the second time, training our future commanders, gunners and drivers. Bowman training began this week and a large number of soldiers and officers from the Company will be attending various short courses over the next two months. Inevitably, it is the same people, who are required in different places at the same time for all the various courses and commitments. This is making the day to day management of the Company extremely difficult, the biggest challenge of which will be manning all of the Company vehicles in the Spring of next year.

The vast majority of the soldiers within Burma Company are extremely positive about the forthcoming move back to the United Kingdom. Our event forecast is already filling up and we will roll straight into it in the New Year with Bowman confirmatory training run by the Bowman Training Advisory Group. This will be the first time that most of the soldiers have physically seen the new equipment they will be working with and will take up the majority of January and February. In the second half of February, we will deploy onto Salisbury Plain on Exercise Wessex Warrior. This will give us a chance to carry out some platoon and company level training prior to Exercise Druid's Dance when we pit our wits against Alma Company who will be playing enemy for the Battlegroup exercise. For Burma Company, Exercise Wessex Warrior will be the first time that we have been able to carry out collective training as a company since Operation Telic 5.

There has been the usual quota of arrivals and departures within the Company over the last three months. Most notably, WO2 Richie Hind has said farewell to the Company and is now attending the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant's course. As CSM he worked tirelessly for the Company, his tenure

included the preparation for and deployment to Iraq on Operation Telic 5 with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Battlegroup in Al Amarah. He carried out a sterling job throughout the tour for which he was awarded the accolade of a Commendation by the Chief of Joint Operations. WO2 Hind's departure has made way for the arrival of the new Company Sergeant Major, WO2 (CSM) Dean Owens. Having originally joined the Parachute Regiment, WO2 (CSM) Owens has spent most of his service with the Green Howards. His last posting was as a Colour Sergeant instructor at Senior Division, Infantry Training Centre (Wales) in Brecon and he has already encountered a few of his former students within the Battalion. It can now be said that Burma Company is leading the way in embracing the concept of the Yorkshire Regiment, with a PWO Officer Commanding, a Green Howards Company Sergeant Major and a Dukes Company Second in Command to keep us in line.

Other departures from the Company over the last few months include Corporal Bartholomew, who has left us for the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick), and Corporal Perkins, who leaves us at the end of this month for HQ 2 Mechanised Brigade as a Sergeant Instructor. We have also welcomed 2nd Lieutenant Mike Wade-Smith as OC 6 Platoon, following his successful completion of the Platoon Commander's Battle Course and Armoured Infantry Platoon Commander's Course. However, he has temporarily left us to command a platoon with 1 Kings Own Royal Border Regiment in Iraq on Operation Telic 7 until February next year. He will be joined out there by Lance Corporal Walsh and Privates Luvaluvawaga and Koroi, all of whom have chosen to support J Battery, 3 Royal Horse Artillery during their forthcoming tour. We wish them all the very best of luck and look forward to seeing them in Warminster.

Major Steve Lees, OC Burma



## CORUNNA COMPANY

Since the return from Summer leave there have been a number of personnel changes within the Company. We welcome Privates Barton, Foster, Graham, Frere, Gledhill, Dale and Mitchell who all join the company direct from Catterick. After two years as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Colour Sergeant Yeadon has returned to Corunna replacing Sergeant Harris as CQMS. Sergeant Harris has now moved from Corunna to Somme where he will be Second in Command of the Sniper Platoon. Captain Chris Armitage has stepped up from OC 7 Platoon and has assumed the appointment of Company Second in Command vice Captain Doug Nelson who takes over as OC Anti-Tank Platoon. Corporal Burrill has been posted from Corunna to ATR Pirbright and Lance Corporal Moore will be remaining in Osnabrück at Roberts Barracks where he will be working with a Forward Air Controller Team. Finally, by the time this edition is printed we will have said farewell to Lance Corporal Tawakalai who is moving to 102 Logistics Brigade.

The main effort for the Company post leave has been on Armoured Fighting Vehicle training with a host of Corunna personnel learning the intricacies of the Warrior as drivers, gunners or commanders. This has been a very intensive period, not just for Corunna but for the Battalion as a whole and several Corunna Non Commissioned Officers such as Lance Corporal Fitzgibbon and Sergeant Pearson have been key to the provision of Warrior training to the Battalion.

In addition to the large proportion of the Company involved in Warrior training, the number of additional tasks such as Court Martial Duty and assistance to the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) has prevented field training at Company or Platoon level. However, it has been possible to concentrate on individual skills training. The company has made much use of the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT). This is a development of the old Small Arms Trainer (SAT) but is a quantum leap forward in technology terms. Although no substitute for live firing, it does

allow realistic training where otherwise no training would take place. Currently it allows for rifle and Light Support Weapon (LSW) training in either range or simulated combat conditions. It analyses the performance of each firer giving feedback on muzzle movement, trigger squeeze and can thereby allow the soldier to correct any shortfalls in his marksmanship before firing live ammunition. Next year should see the addition of the Light Machine Gun (LMG) and the New Light Anti Armour Weapon (NLAW) onto the DCCT thereby extending its utility.

Before we move to Warminster there will be an opportunity for the Company to conduct live firing with both Warrior and small arms. We have begun the process of converting to the Bowman radio system, details of which appeared in the last edition of the magazine. Although the initial work will take place in Germany, the majority of this will be conceptual, without actually working with physical radios. The majority of the hardware training will take place in Warminster. Once we are established in there we can expect that our Warrior fleet will not only contain the Bowman digital radio but also the Battlegroup Thermal Imager (BGTI). This will add a thermal weapon sight to the Warrior turret giving the vehicle a true 24 hour capability.

It has not been all work for Corunna Company. Privates Middlemiss, Barton and Hodgson have all completed a parachute jump, and there may be the opportunity for others to jump before we leave Germany. On the sports pitches Corporal Kittridge and Lance Corporal Moore represented the Battalion in the Infantry Six-a-Side Soccer tournament and Captain Armitage, Corporal Farrington and Lance Corporal Tawakalai have been heavily involved in Army Cup Rugby. Despite the busy work schedule there will remain plenty of opportunity for sport and adventure training, not just for the remainder of our time in Germany, but also when we move to Warminster.

Major R. C. O'Connor, OC Corunna

## SOMME COMPANY

The Company remains firmly focussed on individual training and life within barracks is a constant hive of activity. Both Anti-tanks and Recce are busy on Cadre Period 2, with Mortars inevitably picking up guards and duties. There is now a genuine buzz amongst the lads, as the move to Warminster becomes a reality. The Advance Party is in, Quarters have been allocated and we will be issuing MFO boxes shortly to the remainder!

Initial reports from Warminster have been mixed, some quarters are shabby and the soldiers' blocks are run down, but it's only a couple of hours from Yorkshire. Ultimately life is what we make of it and wherever I've been posted with the Dukes we've always raised the standard and improved our own quality of life. The move to Warminster will be no different.

As ever, a few personalities are moving on, it's goodbye to Colour Sergeant Mills CGC and hello to Sergeant Conley as Somme and Hook CQMS exchange stores. Best of luck to Colour Sergeant Hill who has been posted to Lydd on the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) training team as an instructor, and congratulations on his award of a Joint Commanders' Commendation. The Company will sorely miss both Colour Sergeants Mills CGC and Hill. They are typical Dukes in the sense that they have always given that little bit extra and rarely received the credit they deserve. My personal thanks to you both - jobs more than well done.

Major S. Richardson  
OC Somme



**Colour Sergeant Hill receiving his Commendation from Brigadier C. M. Deverell MBE**

### **MILAN PLATOON**

The period after Summer leave has been dominated by the Battalion's last ever Milan Cadre and the change round of personnel. With days dominated by fitness training, Milan drills and seemingly endless AFV lessons under Corporal 'Little Smudge' Smith. The Cadre is instructed and run by Colour Sergeant Smith, Sergeant Nettleton, Corporal Wilson, Corporal 'Pee-pod' Painter and Lance Corporal Lane; who have succeeded in running possibly the most effective Cadre in years and almost doubling Colour Sergeant Smith's blood pressure in the process.

Sergeant 'Eggy' Egbury has been detached (sloped off) from the Platoon to work with Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG). He has been busy working hard in Bergen Hohne, or so he constantly tells us, whilst regaling the latest anecdote of whoever has been the most recent victim of his OPTAG package. Allegedly this is all in aid of preparing 7 Armoured Brigade for the forthcoming Operational tour to Iraq and not just Sergeant Egbury's amusement.

The Platoon bids a fond farewell to Captain Ed Colver who moved to Warminster to take over the Armoured Infantry Platoon Commanders' Course in July. Lance Corporal Shinn and Private Hampson are all suckers for punishment as they return to Iraq with the

KORBR for their upcoming tour on Operation Telic 7 and we wish them the best of luck. Lance Corporal Kowacz is returning to Kosovo to have a fun-filled six months with the Gurkhas as part of the Brigade Surveillance Platoon and last but not least Private Tyson, who has not moved that far away to the Mechanical Transport Platoon.

It is said that, as one door closes another one will open, and as the Platoon mourns the loss of so many members, it has been joined by Captain Doug Nelson, the new Milan Platoon Commander, Lance Corporal Leleavono and Privates Rogers, Robinson, Curr, Atkinson, Campbell, Gregg, Seru, Takidugo, Walker, and Wilkinson. A warm welcome back must go to Private Barrett who returns from his exile in the Mechanical Transport Platoon.

Everyone is now looking forward to the live firing of Milan at the end of October and the much-awaited move to back to the UK. The arrival of the Platoon in Warminster will herald the conversion to the new Javelin Anti-Tank Missile and a quantum leap in capability, which is due to start in the New Year.

Captain Doug Nelson  
OC Milan

## MORTAR PLATOON

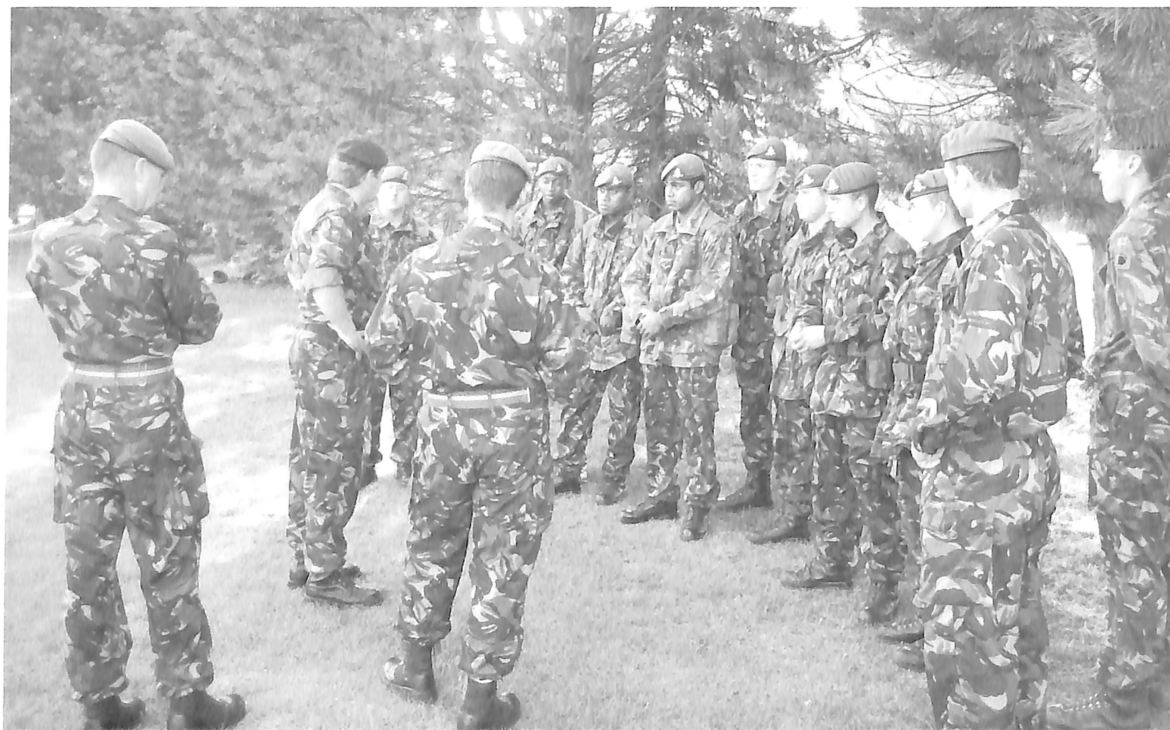
The Mortar Platoon has been very busy over the last couple of months with the move to Warminster and tackling the two cadres which have been running. For a recent visit from the Brigade Commander we just managed to get enough Mortar numbers together to display the Platoon's slick Mortar drills with ease. With a fully-manned and now trained Platoon we have been concentrating on getting all the guys away on various courses and cadres. Corporal 'Old Man River' Humphreys and Lance Corporals 'Harry Potter' Lilley and 'Jace' Bradley have just returned from Bovington with three passes on various Driver Maintenance Instructor (DMI) courses, with an extra well done to Corporal Humphreys on achieving a School's recommendation. The Captain 'Boss' Adair has managed to show his face for a week after completing his Mortar Platoon Commanders' Course and has now been whisked away to attend a long running Court Martial. The Platoon has had a good run of promotions as of late with Corporal Rowlands now promoted to Sergeant (hence he can sit in his big leather chair doing even less work), Lance Corporal Humphreys to Corporal and Privates Carty, Ceacea and Skeldon to Lance Corporal on completion of their JNCO's cadre. It's finally time for Lance Corporal 'sorry I didn't quite get that' Wibberley to hang up his binos as poor hearing meant he has had to go to the CQMS staff. It is also a sad farewell to Corporal 'Bold Leader' Ogilvie who is leaving the Army and hopefully searching for pastures new as a plumber in Civilian Street and not to forget Captain Pete Lee who, after two years, is now leaving

the Command of the Mortars to take up a cushy office job as the Battalion's Adjutant, the Platoon would like to thank him and Leilani for his leaving gift as this takes a special place on the office walls.

With the imminent arrival of Bowman we have sent Lance Corporal 'Daz' Baker off to do the Bowman Instructors' course in which he obviously passed, as no one else in the Platoon could get so excited over a radio. Sporting his new Instructor's badge and a vast array of certificates he has already started teaching the Battalion. It's also a warm welcome back for Corporal 'Wonky Knocker' Hopkinson who has just returned from COTAT as a Sergeant Instructor and is currently in Warminster attending his Mortar Advance Course under the watchful eye of Colour Sergeant 'now slim' Burton.

The Platoon is looking forward to the Battalion's return to the UK (except the loss of the LOA and having a bed space on Salisbury Plain). They know the role is demanding and challenging but now they're only hours away from home and the fact that there will be no more 'Dover Dashing' is a bonus. With the Mortar Division just over the road, this is definitely an advantage to us all and the amount of live firing we should be getting will give us good training value. So as we prepare to leave Osnabrück and 4 Brigade to the pastures of Salisbury Plain we say goodbye to Germany and Belfast Barracks.

Sergeant J. C. Barclay  
Mortar Platoon 2 I/C



**The Brigade Commander, Brigadier C. M. Deverell MBE, meeting members of the Mortar Platoon.**

## RECCE PLATOON

Phase One of the Battalion Recce Cadre has already started. The commanders and gunners are on a three week cadre run at Imphal Barracks, leaving the lads who will be driving our vehicles doing their cadre in Belfast Barracks. This will run for four weeks.

The Platoon has three soldiers training as Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance-Tracked vehicle commanders (CVR-T). They will be taught by the Platoon's Regimental Instructor Gunner (RIG) Sergeant Garbutt, who will also instruct and train-up five lads who will fill the role of gunners.

The Recce Platoon in the armoured role operates in eight CVR-Ts, with each vehicle having a crew of three: a driver, gunner and commander, all of whom are required to be mentally and physically robust. Once trained they will be deployed forward of the battlegroup and, in effect, will become the eyes and ears of a much larger combat force. Our main role is finding and fixing an enemy force, passing timely and accurate intelligence back to the battlegroup so that the command element can plan for a combat force to strike, kill and destroy the enemy.

All soldiers joining the Platoon are hand selected by their platoon commanders for a move from a rifle company to the ISTAR Company - Somme. This is why the soldiers in the Recce Platoon are the best within the Battalion.

When the cadres have ended and our new drivers, gunners and commanders are qualified, the Platoon

would normally deploy to the ranges to enjoy a week's live firing package firing the 30mm rarden cannon and the 7.62mm L37 machine gun. However, due to other commitments within the Brigade, our vehicles have to be re-allocated to another Regiment. During what would have been our range package we will learn and practise vehicle tactics and take part in dismounted activities like recce patrols, close target recces and observation post logging and reporting exercises.

Prior to the move to Warminster the platoon will partake in the conversion cadre for the new Bowman radio systems. During this initial phase we have soldiers already in Warminster taking over our new stores. Captain Brown the new Platoon Commander, Sergeant Goddard the new Platoon Second in Command and Corporal Lighthowlers are away on the Armoured Recce Commanders' Course.

Once in Warminster, the platoon will operate in its crews and practice how to tactically move across the battlefield in all phases of war. The crews will also be trained to a high standard of dismounted, light role recce skills, finishing all the hard work in April, live firing at Castlemartin ranges in South Wales on what will be a fantastic culmination for the Battalion Recce Cadre.

Colour Sergeant M. A. Hill  
2 I/C Recce Platoon

## HOOK COMPANY

It is surprising how quickly time passes. In the few short weeks since returning from leave we have achieved so much and still have an extremely busy programme ahead. The Potential Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre results were announced and congratulations go to the following on promotion to Lance Corporal:

Lance Corporal Matthew Bolton  
*Mechanical Transport Platoon*

Lance Corporal Lewis Brown  
*Gymnasium Staff*

Lance Corporal Mark Cartwright  
*Communications and Information Systems Platoon*

Lance Corporal Andrew Hird  
*Sergeants' Mess*

Lance Corporal 'Rocky' Kerrigan  
*Quartermaster's Department*

The annual Logistic Support Inspection went extremely well. Although both Quartermasters are key to this success, most of Hook Company had some part to play and certainly more than their fair share of hours to put in. It is now the turn of the Regimental Admin Office staff who are preparing us for the Annual Pay and Clerical Inspection. The driving and commanders' cadres are still on-going as are the initial Bowman courses. These will continue throughout October and November and for some soldiers right up to the day of our move to Warminster.

Recent arrivals to the Company include the new Padre Major Richard Downes who will be staying on in Osnabrück with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, WO2 Richie Hind as Operations Warrant Officer, WO2 Mark Doyle the new Regimental Admin Office Warrant Officer, Lance Corporal Kevin Stevens to the Quartermasters, Sergeant Lee Robinson who takes over as the Medical Sergeant, Sergeant Paul Hutty as Provost Sergeant and Colour Sergeant Simon Bramwell as Officers' Mess Manager. Farewells go to Colour Sergeant Craig Rutter who is posted to the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick, Sergeant Richard Stockbridge posted to the Recruiting Office in Halifax and Sergeant Patrick Walsh who is posted to the Intelligence world.

Congratulations go to Captain James and Jo Glossop, Captain Anne (our doctor) and Jonas Fieldhouse, Private David and Shelly Griffiths and Private Sean and Sandra Padgett on their recent marriages. Congratulations also go to the following who received awards as a result of the Battalion's recent tour to Iraq:

*OBE* - The Commanding Officer

*QCVS* - Corporal Tony Devanny

*Joint Commanders' Commendation:*

WO 2 Richie Hind

Colour Sergeant Simon Bramwell

Private Christopher Dick



**Brigadier C. M. Deverell MBE presents Joint Commanders' Commendations to Colour Sergeant Simon Bramwell and Private Christopher Dick.**

As we approach the end of what can only be described as a manic five years we can all look back with a degree of satisfaction that it's been a job well done. Our success in Germany has only been achieved with a great deal of honest hard work and a lot of determination. All of the Officers, Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers in Hook

Company can be justifiably proud of their overall contribution and subsequent achievements. We now look forward to Warminster, a degree of stability for the families and some excellent training opportunities on Salisbury Plain.

Major Andy Pigg  
OC Hook Company

### OFFICERS' MESS

Life in the Officers' Mess has picked up recently after the welcome interruption of summer leave. The pace of change remains frenetic and a large number of individuals have come and gone since the last edition of the Iron Duke.

Major Phil Wilson and Wendy have now moved to Shrivenham having served in Germany for five years with both the Battalion and 4th Armoured Brigade. Both were stalwarts in the Mess and are sorely missed, particularly Phil, as he has left me in the invidious position of PMC. Phil Wilson did an excellent job, resolving a number of long term issues as the PMC and will be a hard act to follow. Hopefully Phil and Wendy are enjoying a quieter pace of life and we look forward to seeing them on our return to the UK. Captain Dan Pawson and Captain Dan Ogilvie have gone to the dark side and joined the civilian ranks. Both are endeavouring to climb the corporate ladder and we hope for Captain Pawson's sake that the ladder is longer than the one he used on a now infamous surveillance op in Iraq. To lose two such characters from the Mess is a real shame and they are missed by one and all, especially as 'Ruperts' looms large. Both may have had starring roles and reduced the flack other Mess members will now draw. The Dans leave us with some amusing anecdotes

and two leather bound books for Mess Members to record moments of undue grandiose bravado, more commonly known as 'stinking chat'.

Captain Dave 'Zim' Wilson has moved to ATR Winchester to teach members of the AGC basic military skills. We can only hope that his corporate knowledge and tactical skills are up to the challenge. His best friend and soon to be civi Captain Shand is not entirely convinced. We have also lost a Mess Treasurer extraordinaire in Captain Danny Renihan, and his wife Rachel. Danny ensured that the Mess remained solvent despite the best efforts of one and all to spend the Mess's money. Through fiscal probity of Dickensian proportions Danny managed to keep his own Mess bill to ridiculously low levels whilst boosting everyone else's by always being on hand when drinks were purchased. Danny presented the Mess with two framed £50 notes in case of emergency! As a Yorkshireman I salute him. Finally we say goodbye to the subbies' best friend Lieutenant Dan 'No Holidays' Holloway, Padre Pat Aldred and Lieutenant Richie Jenkins REME. Lieutenant Jenkins introduced a new and unfathomable voice procedure in Iraq and doubtless caused much confusion to insurgents eavesdropping on the Dukes' net.



Additions to the Mess include Padre Major Richard Downes, Captains Ed Smith and Toby Smart fresh from their exploits at Pirbright, Captain Adam Brown and his wife Abigail and Lieutenants Wade-Smith, Obese-Jecty and the ubiquitous Mickey 'The Fish' Cataldo. For some it is a welcome return to the warm bosom of the 1st Battalion. One and all have been welcomed with open arms and have been fully engaged in the numerous impromptu Mess gatherings of recent weeks.

The number of functions is on the increase as we look to say our farewells to Germany. Mess parties of many hues are the order of the day. In addition, we are planning a number of events to mark our return to the UK and see out the year in style. Preparations have already begun for our last 'Rupert and Andy Capp

Awards' as the 1st Battalion on 15 December followed by a Ladies' Dinner Night on 16 December. Both functions are to take place in a Warminster Mess that at the moment lacks a bar, staff and many of the basics we currently take for granted.

The issue of a Mess presentation has been resolved and four silver goblets are to be purchased listing the names of all 1st Battalion officers that served during our tenure in Germany. The goblets will provide a timeless reminder for those who have enjoyed the many delights of Germany and will doubtless be used for many years to come. Despite the draw of RAAT, training support, career courses and Court Martial appearances the Mess remains a vibrant place to be.

P.M.C.

## DUKES' RUGBY

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment has been synonymous with Rugby for nearly a century. Rugby is an integral part of the Regiment's identity and the sport plays a key role in the recruitment of our officers; it is also increasingly responsible for attracting soldier recruits who have a rugby league background. Despite the Regiment's impending title change, 'The Dukes' will retain its corporate image and reputation as the Infantry's premier Rugby Battalion. It is our intention to remain The Dukes' Rugby Club, as we become the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. Indeed the 3rd Battalion will represent the Regiment across the sporting spectrum from within The Dukes' Sports Club.

### Army Rugby Union Premiership Cup

The Premiership and Community Cups have replaced the Army Cup. There are to be two leagues drawn randomly every year for the Premiership. For the 2005/06 competition the leagues are:

League One	League Two
1 RGBW	1 RRW
1 RS	1 GH
1 DWR	23 Pnr Regt
7 RHA	Welsh Guards
1RWF	1 PWRR

The winner of League One will play the runner-up of League Two and vice versa as semi-finals. The winners contest the final. Each year, irrespective of how many teams participate, the bottom teams within each league will play off to determine a winner and a loser. They will then play the loser and winner of the Community Cup respectively and the winners of these play-offs will be automatically granted Premiership status for the next season.

If, due to operations, a team is unable to participate, they must seek a waiver and as a consequence will remain a 'Premiership team' and be able to enter the following year's competition. This is the case for 1 RGBW this year.

The rationale for the change in format is self-evident. With the league system you are guaranteed three to

four high standard games of rugby every cup run as a minimum. With the old system you could be knocked out first round or you could play a minor unit and thrash them. The Premiership is in its inaugural year and thus far is proving a success.

We played our first fixture against 1 RWF on 7 September 2005. This was a hard-fought contest that was typically a game of two halves. As you would expect, the Welsh threw plenty of passion into the first half and, through our ill-discipline, kicked their way into a marginal lead by half time. Honours were even up front, but it was clear to see we out-paced them in the backs. The second half saw the Dukes on the ascendancy and the Welsh's lead was inevitably reduced. Unfortunately they were able to hang on as time ran out on us. The score line of 19-16 reflects on how fiercely this match was contested.

1 RGBW have withdrawn due to operational commitments, which leaves us 1 RS and 7 RHA to play. If we win both games we can still make it to the semi-final stage.

### Army Champion of Champions Rugby League Cup Final

After the disappointment of the first game of the Premiership, the Rugby Club had to quickly change tack and focus on Rugby League. This is a growing sport within the Army and is gaining momentum each year and I am pleased that we are able to compete at both codes from within the Dukes Rugby Club. We had four weeks before the final with 1 RGJ on 5 October 2005 and every day counted. Sergeant Nettleton and Corporals Farrington and Perkins stepped up on the coaching front and had to go back to basics in order to reconstruct a Rugby League team in time for the final.

Their tireless efforts were well rewarded when a highly motivated Dukes team took to the pitch. Before the game kicked off all that were present could sense the desire to win. There was no doubt that this was going to be a bone jarring, big hitting colossal game. From the very first hit (sorry tackle) neither team was prepared to give quarter. They battered the hell out of each other. An early 12-0 lead by the Dukes was reduced to 12-12 half way through the first half. By half time the Dukes had regained a narrow lead.

The second half was set to be as explosive as the first and we were not disappointed. Not so much bone jarring but bone breaking, several gladiators had to retire from the battlefield on both sides as they continued to batter each other up and down the park. Slowly but surely the tide turned and where 1 RGJ failed to capitalise on ground hard won, the Dukes did not. After a hard-fought second half the Dukes were victorious 50-12 and were deservedly crowned Champion of Champions.

As you have already read, this score line flatters the Dukes, as 1 RGJ fought valiantly up to the final whistle. This was an excellent display of courage and commitment with Private Karavaki picking up a well-deserved man of the match.

Major S. Richardson  
OIC Rugby



**The Dukes' Rugby Team playing against 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.**

### **INFANTRY SIXES FOOTBALL COMPETITION 2005**

The traditional opener to the football season is the Infantry Sixes competition held at ATR Pirbright. The Sixes is a competition open to all Infantry Units and is usually well attended by the better of the footballing Regiments most of whom commit two teams to the event. This year was no disappointment, with a total of 32 teams completing a very demanding schedule over two days. Given the venue, it can be difficult for Germany-based Regiments to enter the competition, but this year, as in recent years, we managed to get a team across to compete. It was against the backdrop of usual courses and cadres that we managed to scrape a team together to make the ten hour journey.

Having not touched competitive football for some 16 months, we certainly didn't expect to do anything other than complete the group stage and perhaps feature well in the plate competition, however it was apparent from the outset that what we lacked in competitive practice

we more than made up for in desire, and this showed through by our winning the group stage in top place, beating one of the teams 5-0 along the way. Once through this test, the groups trimmed to the real competitors at the second group stage; to our surprise we won the group again and had not lost a game to this point.

The Sixes is a cagey affair and teams will come and watch what they see as real opposition for the later stages, it was obvious that we had a cult following toward the end of the group stages and built quite a crowd of curious onlookers.

Each of the players would readily agree that it had been fitness and desire that had us through to this point and this was demonstrated by Corporal Rob Smith who had captained the team in every game scoring some real scorers along the way and Lance Corporal D. J. Fulton who had been a real rock in defence. Although



**Left to right, Back row: Corporal Sykes, Lance Corporal Moore, Private Shaw, Lance Corporal Shinn, WO1 (RSM) Wilson. Front row: Corporal Kitridge, Corporal Smith, Private Jones, Lance Corporal Harrison, Lance Corporal Fulton.**

fantastic performances were given, legs were inevitably beginning to tire. The knock out stages could not have begun better, knocking out the Light Infantry 5-0 in the quarter-final. From here it should have been plain sailing to the final, and so it would have been but for some dubious refereeing in the semi-final against the PWRR, as the referee awarded us a penalty and then changed his mind after the fact, which robbed us of the lead we would undoubtedly have taken. The end result was a lost game, the first match we had lost in eleven and, although the whole team felt real disappointment, we did concentrate on the positives that had come from the Competition.

The main positives had been exceeding our expectations and bonding some new members to the squad. Notably the keeper, Private Jones who had been on the books at Manchester City, had a suspected broken nose in the first game but soldiered on throughout, and Private Shozzer Shaw who doesn't really know what stop running means. Also of note was

Lance Corporal Harry Harrison who gave up his leave to travel down and play for us, and of course the long running striker Lance Corporal Kevin Shinn who typically bagged a sackful of goals. Of supreme note was Sergeant Tim Morgan, who ends his involvement with the team after twenty two years' service to it, he has done an outstanding job over the years as player and latterly as coach.

From my point of view the Sixes was the springboard from which we will give most opponents real problems this season and it is from this benchmark that we will compete in the Army Challenge Cup and Infantry Cup this season.

The team is looking forward to the Arms Plot which will bring more regular football and the prospect of better availability of players and, whilst we are not yet the finished article, things are looking bright for the season ahead.

WO1 RSM N. S. Wilson

## A TASTE OF YORKSHIRE

At the beginning of August, the ball was passed to me by the outgoing chaplain, Padre Pat Aldred who has gone to care for trainee 'Black Hand commandos' at the REME vehicle mechanic's training centre in Bordon. I came here to Osnabrück with my family from Catterick Garrison on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales to be met with the same Yorkshire hospitality and friendliness I had grown accustomed to. It has been a pleasure to work with the Dukes and to be 'tret' as a valued member of staff. My side-kick and fellow caped crusader, Captain Sean Caine, the Unit Welfare Officer, and I have got on brilliantly; I have quickly become immersed in welfare support for the Battalion. Which

one is Batman and which one is Robin, I leave to others to decide.

Sadly my brief fling with the Dukes is about to end as the Battalion leaves for Warminster. Instead, with the arrival of the replacement battalion, the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, I shall have to content myself with 'hot pot'. I have enjoyed the Dukes' mixture of good humour and lively banter which makes for 'a taste of Yorkshire' and I wish them every blessing as they demonstrate to units using Salisbury Plain exercise area at the Land Warfare Centre how soldiering is really done!

Padre Richard Downes

## USAREUR LAND COMBAT EXPOSITION 2005 - HEIDELBERG

Every year for the last four years the General Commanding, US Army in Europe (USAREUR) has put on a Land Combat Exposition at the base of 7th US Army in Heidelberg. This year was to be no exception, and, as always, an invitation went out to the British Army to provide men and vehicles to put on display alongside our American allies. This year the honour went to 4th Armoured Brigade, who in turn tasked the 1st Battalion to lead with the organisation and running of their multi-capbadged display team. Our remit was to take four armoured vehicles, comprising a Warrior 510 AFV, a Challenger 2 MBT, an AS90 artillery vehicle, and a CRARRV recovery vehicle, along with an Infantry display stand. This involved taking a team from the Royal Dragoon Guards (RDG) based in Munster, including one of their Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) crews; and a team from 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery, based in Osnabrück. In total our combined team came to twenty men of all ranks.

The venue was Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg; one of the family camps in this US Army garrison town. The Exposition has grown in strength and popularity over the years, and can now boast inviting fifteen foreign armies as well as countless civilian companies trying to educate and sell their wares, ranging from Camelbak and Gerber to Hesco Bastion, the engineering company. There were also plenty of different US Army stands, from education and health and nutrition, to future army technology, including weapon systems, and their equivalent of Future Integrated Soldier Technology (FIST). There were in total over 250 stands, in five industrial marquees, all aimed at educating and familiarising US

Army personnel and the families of the units and formations that make up USAREUR and their allies. The General Commanding US Army in Europe, General B.B. Bells, was intent on ensuring as many of his soldiers made it to the Exposition as possible, and had over 14,000 bussed in from all over Germany and Italy, during the three day event.



**Lance Corporal Geoff Marshall showing a member of the US Army and his family round the intricacies of a Warrior 510 AFV.**

One of the organisers of the event obviously had a keen sense of humour by placing the Infantry stand opposite the French Army (Armée de Terre) Display Team. This did wonders for our continuing international relations as we unfurled the Regimental Colours on the first morning to looks of disgust; however, I managed to rescue the situation by indulging them in morning coffee and pastries, which was returned in kind by random bouts of sweets, mortared at us from their display table.

The Exposition gave our British soldiers a perfect opportunity to interact with some of the other nationalities present. These included the Germans, Danes, Italians, Polish and Russians, who all seemed to take a great liking to the British Army. It was obvious that these countries had brought along their own Presentation Teams, however, with our own inimitable style, it meant that the Dukes' Infantry Display stall was one of the most popular, if not the most popular stall at the Exposition. The Armoured Vehicle stand was also very popular with US Army personnel and civilians alike. It was great to see our



**The Infantry Display Stand replete with Regimental Colours, Milan and 81mm Mortar.**

Warrior crew conversing at great length with their opposite Bradley AFV crew, and the natural fallout of the two crews working so closely together for a week was receiving some natural 'squaddie' banter from a US Army Sergeant at the end of the last day.

It was more than pleasing to see our soldiers at such ease talking to any rank of the US Army on any number of topics; from the differences in our weapon systems; to the history of the Regiment, and the different Battle Honours on the Regimental 'flags', as one American so eloquently put it; to swapping stories about being 'down range', or in Iraq, as I was later informed. The event was also a perfect opportunity for the men to view some of the other stalls, including an Apache simulator, a simulated Small Arms range, and fighting in their mobile Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT). They were also able to view, at first hand, some of the American vehicles on display, such as the Stryker AFV and the Patriot Missile Launcher.

Congratulations must go to the Warrior crew of Lance Corporal Geoff Marshall, Lance Corporal Darren Kilner, and Private Andy Barrett for having an inexhaustible supply of patience with endless number of children wanting to clamber across their vehicle; Privates Andy Barrett and Shane Pleasant, who provided their expertise of Milan, and the latter for his numerous lectures on Regimental history; Corporal Alistair Padgett and Private Andrew Watkinson, for their masterful explanations of the 81mm mortar;



**Private Andy Barrett showing off the Milan stand.**

and Corporal Damian Farrington for his limitless knowledge of international weapons, accrued from spending two years working in the stores in Hereford. It would be an understatement to say that we, as the British Army representatives, were well received by the US Army, and as a result, we very much enjoyed our time in Heidelberg. The Exposition opened all our eyes to how the US Army work, and what they are capable of doing. It was, in effect, a learning exercise for us all.

Captain Chris Armitage  
2IC Corunna Company

## THE LONGEST DAY : PCBC, AIPCC AND EVENTUALLY BATTALION

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, but mainly it was the coldest of times. As anyone who has attended the Platoon Commander's Battle Course (PCBC) will no doubt testify, the proverbial "Fourth Term of Sandhurst" is the most testing of the Young Officers' courses following Commission, and for many it starts badly, tails off towards the middle and the less said about the end the better.

The January intake at Dering Lines saw Second Lieutenants Ben Obese-Jecty and Mike Wade-Smith arrive freshly commissioned. This was in fact the first PCBC to be conducted under its new guise, having moved from its traditional home in Warminster to Brecon in order to bring it in line with both Junior and Senior Brecon. Sennybridge training area having been deemed a more testing arena for the Infantry's newest officers.

The format of PCBC is now very clearly split into two halves. It begins with an initial introduction to the Infantry proper following the more generic approach offered at Sandhurst. However the course swiftly progresses to its first phase, Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT). These seven weeks are spent learning

the complex ins and outs of planning and running a live range, made all the more complicated by the addition of support weapons and moving troops. Curiously though, the most taxing aspect of the course is not making sure that everybody is in the right place at the right time once the targets start appearing. Much to the chagrin of many on the course the ability to cut out and draw around plastic shapes was the undoing of many a ham-fisted young officer. Indeed even the steady hand and deft touch of a renaissance sculptor would have failed to produce a Weapon Danger Area template of sufficient accuracy at the first attempt; enthusiasm and exuberance slowly giving way to exasperation and extreme irritation. However, sooner or later (and usually later) this seemingly innocuous obstacle was overcome, a feat that many felt was worthy of a battle honour. Indeed, once the art of planning a range on paper had been mastered it was soon put into practical use in the form of the "final exercise" of the LFTT phase, a section sized battle lesson on Sennybridge's ranges, with troops kindly provided by the Green Howards. For many this was the first time that we'd had soldiers, rather than our peers, under our charge and the experience proved to be a real eye-opener.



From here we progressed onto the second phase of PCBC. Indeed if LFTT was the undercard, then Tactics is very much the main event. A week of theory and Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs) moved rapidly into Exercise Sittang Bridge, a two-week pre-deployment exercise on Salisbury Plain, designed to iron out the creases prior to the course moving to Malawi for the final exercise. Exercise Sittang Bridge was something of a mixed bag, having deployed in four inches of snow, the company soon found that even once the snow had melted it was  $-11^{\circ}\text{C}$  at night and arguably not the ideal preparation for acclimatising to spending spring in Central Africa. Although, with each platoon in the company joined by a number of international students, some of whom had never seen snow before, it was the "schadenfreude" in everyone that took solace from the old adage that no matter how badly off you thought you were, there was always somebody more badly in need of a morale boost. Rapidly diminishing morale was exacerbated by the phrase "Full Scales", and indeed for many, the sight of the 94mm LAW and the GPMG during a command appointment change was greeted by the sort of shoe-gazing and sloping shoulders previously reserved for the more illustrious positions within the platoon. However, weather and 110lb Bergens aside, the exercise itself threw up stark contrasts to the notoriously unimaginative Sandhurst exercises, as the PCBC company found itself at times with a platoon of Royal Marines attached, or even defending Copehill Down village against a NBC attack from an Armoured platoon of Grenadier Guards. Ultimately, however, it was an excellent exercise and a fine way for the Platoon Commander's Division to bid farewell to Salisbury Plain after over half a century, before relocating to Sennybridge Training Area.



Second Lieutenant Ben Obese-Jecty on PCBC.

The end of one exercise saw a seamless segue into another and with just a weekend in order to administer ourselves, and purchase what little jungle kit remained in Brecon after the Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course had been through it a fortnight earlier, we deployed to Malawi. An initial air of scepticism pervaded the course as we made our way to South Central Africa, having abandoned a great deal of kit one would ordinarily deem essential for a two day exercise, let alone a month, in order to make the draconian weight limit. The journey itself involved a number of connecting flights and we arrived in Malawi having conducted whistle stop tours of Kenya and Zambia. None of the students on the course had been to Malawi before and even the heads up given to us by the Malawian Officer who was one of our international students didn't really prepare us for the change in surroundings which greeted our arrival. Being one of the world's poorest nations, it was strange to see the sort of scenes one is only usually exposed to on a television rather than first hand, and the four hour journey to Kasungu National Park was one that none of us would ever forget.

The exercise began with a number of days of acclimatisation training, as we adjusted to the stifling heat, incorporating morning PT and low-level skills. For many, to hear Malawi described as "Secondary Jungle" conjured images of 'Bridge On The River Kwai' and 'Platoon'. Alas, this was not so. It was far more like dense scrub and conventional woodland than the Amazonian, snake-infested scenario we'd envisaged, at which we were both disappointed and relieved in equal measure. We were still surprised at the sight of the indigenous wildlife when it decided to expose itself, and the occasional sight of a bolting Zebra was somewhat surreal. Though it became something of a cause for concern in the middle of night to hear a Lion roaring uncomfortably close, coupled with the dawning realisation that the sentry only had blank rounds.

Following the training phase the exercise quickly gathered pace and under the Exercise OC, Captain Sam Humphris, we soon found ourselves in a cycle of a deliberate operation a day, with a light sprinkling of reces thrown in for good measure. During this time we went through much of the conventional warfare we were used to, as well as a number of new phases, the "Camp Attack" being the one farthest removed from anything we'd done before. There were a number of highlights over the course of the exercise. The attack on Black Rock being particularly memorable as it became evident from the view at the summit that it was one of only two pieces of relief for hundreds of miles (and also the only place to get any mobile phone reception). The attack on the airstrip was another as it gave us a, now rare, opportunity to utilise some FIBUA tactics we'd learnt how to utilise in Copehill Down, as well as marking a landing site for a Casevac dust-off.

The final exercise was, in many ways, two exercises rolled into one, and the second of these was the live firing package that followed at the end of the blank firing phase. Exercise Final Harvest was three days of live firing, and I would suspect that it is perhaps the most realistic live firing that many will ever get to conduct, short of the real thing. 360 degree arcs, coupled



**Malawi attack.**

with endless supplies of ammunition arriving more quickly than could be expended meant a hitherto unseen level of intensity and a tempo which came as a surprise. Two days of company level advance to contacts culminated in the third and final day's attack on the Russian Trench System. This was approximately a kilometre long and had thoughtfully been dug in a riverbed. The trench system itself was cleared in short order, with the use of some forty-odd grenades, as the entire company echeloned through each position, wading through the knee-deep clay in scenes reminiscent of the Western Front. It was by far and away the best live firing that any of us have done to date and was a definite high point upon which to draw proceedings to a close.

Following the Platoon Commander's Battle Course the Armoured Infantry Platoon Commander's Course (AIPCC) is far more of a non sequitur than it would appear. Second Lieutenants Obese-Jecty and Wade-Smith arrived at Bovington staring down the barrel of another four months of training (no pun intended). The course had by now been dramatically downsized, from the sixty-odd officers on PCBC to a more intimate eight. Right from the offset it was easy to see that "Chateau Bov" as it became affectionately known, was a far cry from the shell scrapes of Malawi, as we arrived to the dulcet tones of our fellow Sandhurst alumni in the form of the Cavalry Troop Leaders' Course and the Royal Artillery Young Officers' Course, both of whom were aghast at our exploits over the last few months and were quick to regale us with how much horse riding and skiing they had managed to squeeze in (in particular the Artillery who described their Young Officers'

Course as a five-week sojourn crammed into five months). Thus so began four months, spanning the summer, on the south coast of England, learning the ins and outs of the Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle.

As if to taunt us in the manner akin to a parent withholding dessert until all the vegetables have been eaten, the first month of the course was spent learning about signals, and much as I would love to go into intricate detail about the merits of the Clansman Secure Speech Harness, I feel that it should be saved for another time. Needless to say all concerned are now fully conversant with it and can't wait to learn it all again from scratch once Bowman is introduced.

From here we then moved onto the Driving and Maintenance phase and this was where the whole course really stepped up a gear (again no pun intended). This was more or less the only opportunity as Officers that we would get to drive the Warrior and we made sure that it didn't go amiss. As the instructor bellowed in the headphones for you to "drive it like you stole it", it needed no second invitation as the Warrior found itself thrashed to within an inch of its life. It was staggering to see how easy it was to drive nearly thirty tonnes of armoured vehicle around the maze of off-road tracks on Bovington's training area, as it handled very much like an oversized go-kart. Although negotiating the famous knife-edge in reverse was quite an experience.

After the driving phase came Gunnery and for that it was necessary for the course to relocate five miles down the road to Lulworth Camp. By now of course, two months in, it was the height of summer, and Lulworth Camp almost seemed too good to be true after the dreariness of Brecon.

... continued on page 140



The Colonel outlines the route taken by Lieutenant Denman's patrol.



Quiet reflection in Massicault Cemetery.



YEARS ON



The Colonel was wont to start his briefings with: "Right. Which is North?". Here we all agree, save Pat Harley, David Harrap and Simon Ellis - who think it's somewhere else!



man demonstrates his most expensive silk-ware -  
- a flying carpet!



John Young teases the Colonel about his new headgear.

The Gunnery course was an excellent opportunity not only to learn the complex workings of both the Rarden Cannon and the Chain Gun, but also for the Cavalry to teach the Infantry how to play croquet, at which they were subsequently beaten. Unfortunately yet more LFTT followed (this time with bigger templates!) only now with the added incentive that as soon as it was finished it was back to the Mess for croquet and lashings of ginger beer; productivity increased ten-fold. Somewhere along the way another range management qualification was acquired and now apparently the eight intrepid young one pip wonders were qualified to plan a live firing range involving armour up to Battle Group level.

The final phase of the course was Tactics, and for this we moved back to the spiritual home of the Infantry and the new home for the Battalion, Warminster. Having been hosted so opulently by the Cavalry at the home of the Royal Armoured Corps, enjoying such luxuries as the swimming pool, the tennis courts and the croquet lawn, as well as attending their Summer Ball, it was only right that, having lived a lifestyle befitting a young Cavalry Officer, the favour should be returned. Thus on their arrival at Warminster the Troop Leaders found themselves in run-down bungalows with no heating and no hot water. Such is life.

The tactics phase was by far and away the part of the course that we had looked forward to the most, and in fact has now been taken over by Captain Ed Colver as SO3 Armoured Infantry, who attended our course as his familiarisation period. The course was run side by side with that of the Troop Leaders and after a few days of TEWTS and numerous lectures on the theory of armoured warfare it was time to go on exercise. Well, not strictly "exercise" but the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), which gave us all ample opportunity to get lost in virtual reality and generally make expensive mistakes in an environment where nothing was going to be damaged for real (pride being the exception). Once we'd mastered the art of operating alongside the heavy armour callsigns (and having watched innumerable cringe-worthy action replays of the two courses unintentionally playing computer dodgems) we were finally let loose onto the Plain. Given that the last time we'd been on exercise we were in "The J", it came as something of a shock to be told that we could bring a travel fridge, bacon, sausages and anything else we fancied frying up for breakfast. We weren't sure how we'd ever coped without these items when on a light role exercise? The exercise itself, unbelievably, was the

Troop Leaders' final confirmatory exercise, to which we were attached. It would be lying to say that there wasn't a slight feeling of resentment towards the Troop Leaders that they weren't going to be thrashed a bit more, and indeed that having already done our own final exercise, we were required to do theirs as well. Where were the Bergens with cheese-wire straps, where was the digging-in, the NBC phase and tabbing off towards the horizon in the pouring rain?

The exercise itself saw each man in his own vehicle, crewed by soldiers from the Black Watch, including dismounts, and proved to be an insight into the role that we Dukes will find ourselves in shortly. The first three days were spent cantering around the plain, launching attacks at enemy positions. Whilst the attacks were perhaps not as detailed as on PCBC, it was a credit to those in charge that it ran as smoothly as it did given the huge swathes of ground that an Armoured Company/Squadron group is required to cover. It is undoubtedly fair to say that over the three days a great deal was learned, particularly navigation at speed, controlling a box formation of armoured vehicles, route selection and use of cover. Many of these lessons were then applied on the final day of the exercise, where the Infantry became the OPFOR and the Cavalry became our prey. Now, finding ourselves up against a live enemy made a significant difference to the way in which the operations were conducted, as stealth played a much larger part in proceedings. The highlight of the day being the six up attack launched from dead ground, catching their much-talked-about "ring of steel" completely unawares. Much panicking on the net ensued as correct and succinct voice procedure gave way to effeminate histrionics and a withdrawal of gazelle-like speed. Infantry 1 (2 if you include the croquet), Cavalry 0, and a fitting end to our specialist-to-arm training.

And so, after 19 months of training, the Battalion receives its two newest Platoon Commanders. It does indeed feel strange to finally have taken over a platoon, but we will be keen to make the most of the experience, particularly as it's widely regarded as the best job in the field army. The Battalion is undergoing change and as it takes over a new role in Warminster we are proud to be a part of the history of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Second Lieutenant Ben Obese-Jecty  
OC 3 Platoon

Editor's Note to Self: *It's good stuff this; but must have a word with this young man about verbosity.*

## BRECON : THE PLATOON SERGEANTS' BATTLE COURSE (PSBC)

Brecon evokes many emotions. Former students appear haunted by the memories, while prospective Sergeants are apprehensive at the prospect of eight weeks in South Wales. The 'Brecon Myth' has only served to reinforce these beliefs. Times have changed...

The course itself has altered dramatically. More cynical readers may associate change with a decline in standards; that certainly is not the case. The current course is justifiably demanding, teaching and testing all aspects of mental and physical robustness. It is arduous

and rigorous. Students are no longer exclusively trained on Sennybridge Training Area. PSBC now incorporates an overseas battle camp in East Africa, to date it has deployed to Kenya once and Malawi twice. The concept of an overseas battle camp is designed to reflect the nature of current and future expeditionary operations. Students depart Wales after four weeks of training and teaching. PSBC veterans will be reassured to know that old favourites such as Exercises Fan Dance, Hard Pounding and Firestorm are still included.



Once in Africa, students then spend three and half weeks totally immersed in the bush. This has a number of benefits. First, students do not learn false lessons as they did when on exercise from Monday to Friday. Second, there are no distractions (i.e the Sarah Siddon's public house and its accommodating ladies) and so students become focused on their training. Weaker students in particular have been seen to benefit enormously. Third, students enjoy total exclusivity of the training area, with the exception of seeing the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course getting put through their paces. Curiously this has always had a positive effect on morale. Kenya and Malawi present challenging climates and environments in which to conduct training where it has been unanimously agreed that if a Platoon Sergeant can administer himself and his soldiers there, he is very well equipped to do it anywhere.

The second, perhaps most notable change, is a determination to eradicate the 'Brecon Myth'. For the record, it does *not* exist. The Infantry Battle School philosophy is 'train in, not select out'. Students are taught all aspects of platoon tactical doctrine and techniques that they are tested on. The most successful students tend to have prepared thoroughly, maintained a high level of fitness and approached the course with an unwavering determination to succeed and willingness to learn.

Living in the shadow of the Brecon Beacons, serving as an Instructor on the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course, was a tremendous privilege and inspiring experience. I wasn't alone; the number of Dukes on the staff at the Infantry Battle School makes us one of the best-represented single Battalions in the Infantry. Captain



**WO2 Lee Flitcroft in Malawi with PSBC.**

Sam Humphris (Platoon Commanders' Battle Course), Captain Jim Kennedy (Adjutant), WO2 Dave Childs (RQMS), WO2 Lee Flitcroft (Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course), Colour Sergeant Johnny Bennett (Section Commanders' Battle Course) and Lance Corporal Mosely (Storeman) have all ensured that the Dukes' flag is flying high amongst the Welsh (and African!) countryside.

Captain Stu Dick  
Operations Officer

## **YORKSHIRE WARRIOR AND THE SHEPARD OCEAN FOURS RACE 2006**

As an instructor at the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn I often found myself with little or nothing to do. Many an afternoon was spent on a spurious 'reccé' and the imagination naturally started to wander. I either reminisced on my glorious actions in war torn Iraq or tried to think of some course I could book to avoid duties. One afternoon in January this year was spent at the 'London Travel and Adventure Show' and in the corner of the room was a large rowing boat that quickly caught my attention.

Four weeks later and I had secured a team place in the Shepard Ocean Fours, the first four man rowing race from New York, USA, to Falmouth, Cornwall. Fifteen boats will race 3,100 nautical miles across the North Atlantic, completely unsupported, in 29 ft fibre glass rowing boats, in what is expected to take between 45 and 60 days.

Prior to joining the Army I had worked as an outdoors instructor at 'John Ridgway's Adventure School' in North West Scotland. Ridgway and a Sergeant Chay Blyth had been the first pair to row the Atlantic back in 1966 and, though the man is positively barmy, Atlantic rowing had always sparked my imagination. This was going to be an ambitious project, but one I knew the Dukes would benefit from and so I quickly used my spare time to get the project off the ground.

Why row the Atlantic? A pointless endeavour some may say, but there are three clear motives for our involvement: in times when the Forces are busier than ever I thought it important that the Army be represented. Many pioneering adventures and achievements that I had read about as a child had been led by the British Army and I wanted to remind people that the spirit of adventure is alive and well in the Army.

Being a high profile event we also thought it appropriate to raise money for a worthwhile charity. With Major General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter KCVO OBE as Colonel of the Regiment as well as Chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) it seemed fitting to raise money for the Army's Charity - the ABF.

My most personal reason and one close to many hearts is the upcoming merger into the Yorkshire Regiment. With a departure date of 10 June 2006 it is expected to coincide almost perfectly with the planned formation. The Shepard Ocean Fours will not only be a final and grand achievement (all being well) for the Dukes, but a pragmatic and positive approach to the inevitable. We have aptly named the boat Yorkshire Warrior, utilizing the Dukes recruiting logo that can be easily adapted for the new Yorkshire Regiment. One should remember that this is an all-Dukes team and I only hope our motto rings true: *Virtutis Fortuna Comes*

On my return to the 1st Battalion from ATR Bassingbourn I was encouraged by the reception the project received and the response of volunteers was greater than I would have expected. Selecting the team, however was not easy and with so many calibre nominations some hard decisions had to be made. The all ranks team was eventually whittled down to Captain Paul Tetlow, Lieutenant Mick Cataldo, WO2 Mark Stannard, Colour Sergeant Wayne Mills CGC, Corporal Stephen Lynch and Lance Corporal Carl Powell. Unfortunately, only four of us will be able to embark on the epic voyage, but all acknowledge that it is essential to have reserves and every team member will be fully involved in the training, planning and preparation of Yorkshire Warrior.

An event of this nature is not cheap and on current predictions is expected to cost approximately £75,000. Once the boat is completely equipped it will be worth in the region of £30,000 with the remainder going towards race entry fees and associated costs. Despite this the Army and the Regiment have been exceptionally generous in their support and far greater than I had ever imagined. Army Central funds and Welfare services will purchase the boat, Army Recruiting (North East) is expected to support generously and several other military funds are being explored. We are also



**A four man rowing boat, similar to Yorkshire Warrior.**

concurrently approaching civilian companies who may be interested in backing Yorkshire Warrior, an event that is expected to generate considerable interest across Yorkshire.

I believe this is a worthwhile endeavour and you can find out more by visiting the website

**[www.yorkshirewarrior.co.uk](http://www.yorkshirewarrior.co.uk)**

I have already discovered that if you have an ambitious plan but present it positively the Army will gladly support you. I am not only excited about the personal challenge, but think it will be a positive venture for the Infantry, Army and most importantly the Dukes during sensitive times.

Lieutenant M. H. Cataldo

## **JUNIOR OFFICERS' TACTICS (JOTAC) COURSE**

The Junior Officers' Tactics Course (JOTAC) is a relatively new course that started 18 months ago, along with the Junior Officer Leadership Programme (JOLP) which forms part of the new qualification to Captain, replacing the old JOTES exam. Whilst Captains Chris Adair, Stuart Dick and I had completed the old system, the chain of command have decided that, where feasible, all should attend to help improve the education of young officers.

JOTAC provides a good opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues, particularly those with whom you attended Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. It also allows you to meet people from across the Army, which gives an all-informed view of the integrated battle.

The course focuses on company/squadron tactics and the aim is to teach individuals approaching the rank of Captain how the integrated battle works, allowing command appointments in all areas of a Battlegroup Headquarters and Company Headquarters. This allows the lowly ranks of Lieutenant to step into the shoes of a Colonel commanding the Battlegroup and that of a Major commanding a Company. However the real focus is on the roles of a Company 2IC, Support Platoon Commander, Operations Officer, Intelligence Officer and Regimental Signals Officer. This is achieved through the use of Battlegroup Command and Control Trainer, which is basically a large computer game that simulates a live battle. The major advantage with the trainer is that it pitches two live forces against each other and the

battle is free play. When the battles are finished, there is an opportunity to review the actions carried out in an After Action Review Theatre.

The course takes an individual through the entire planning cycle that takes place in Battlegroup Headquarters. Individuals cover the decision processes, which include a detailed insight into the Seven Questions Estimate process (the new combat estimate) and how to carry out an intelligent preparation of the battlefield analysis. This is developed further by the teaching of the Decision Support Overlay, and the Decision Support Matrix.

The three week course involves numerous Tactical Exercises without Troops (TEWT), which allow junior commanders to talk through their thought processes and tactics. This is aided by the fact that each syndicate consists of a cross section of cap badges and is directed by the syndicate leader. However the course is not all operations, as administration is also covered.

JOTAC is a well-worthwhile course that definitely fulfills a training need of young officers. Previously there was little in the way of formal development, which this now allows. It is a great opportunity to catch up, transfer ideas and expertise, while away from Battalion life, enabling you to focus on your own personal development.

Captain M. B. Crawford  
2IC Burma Company

# The East and West Riding Regiment

## Commanding Officer's Introduction

Since the last edition, Normandy Company of the East and West Riding Regiment has returned from a very successful tour on Operation Telic 7. One third of the Company was provided by Ypres and Fontenay Companies, and the individuals are now the proud recipients of operational medals. These soldiers have returned not only with a sense of a job well done, but also with a body of experience which will be shared with their fellow Duke TA soldiers.

The focus of the Regiment in recent months has been Annual Camp, which this year took place in Sennybridge. The Camp was run as a series of courses and cadres, and culminated in the Progressive Infantry Cadre, conducting a live fire company FTX, fired in by Milan and GPMG (SF). Instrumental in the success of the Infantry Cadre were the PSIs, and in particular WO2 'Chopper' O'Neill and WO2 Foster. Other Duke

instructors providing top quality training to the TA were Sergeants Ledingham (Sharpshooters Cadre) and Rowland (Signals Cadre). Also during Annual Camp the Commanding Officer had the pleasure of presenting the award of Champion Company for the third year in a row to Ypres Company.

Manning of the two Dukes' Companies continues to look promising, with good numbers currently in the pipeline with the RRTT in Strensall. Also, looking over the horizon to next year, there will be an awful lot to squeeze in before the Regiment makes its transformation to 4 Yorks under FIS(V). The main highlight for most will be the prospect of an overseas exercise. Although the situation remains fluid, at present the Regiment will be sending soldiers to Cyprus, Gibraltar and Albania during April and May next year.

## YPRES (DWR) COMPANY (KEIGHLEY)

### MOBILIZED SERVICE AS AN INDIVIDUAL REPLACEMENT - A CAPTAIN'S STORY

It was a cold morning in January when I received my mobilization documents telling me to report to Chilwell in Nottingham for my induction into the regular army. The reporting date was three weeks away, which does not give much time to sort out issues such as informing family, employer etc.

The process at the Territorial and Reserves Mobilization Centre based at Chilwell is slick: 180 arrived on the first day, 14 February 2004. The first two days are taken up with various briefings, kit issue and the medical. The age range of the people being mobilized ranged from 18 to 53 years old.

The failure rate for the individuals was approx 18-20%, quite high. This was mainly due to failing the medical, as each person was assessed as an 18 year old fresh off the street who wants to join the army; no allowance is made for age, which can be quite daunting for a 42 year old like myself. After passing the medical, the next few days were taken up with Infantry training directives, fitness and range work. The whole process from start to finish takes fourteen days.

As I was due to work in the Headquarters for 12 Mechanized Brigade, I departed Chilwell and set off for Bulford to join the Brigade for a ten-day pre-deployment exercise. Upon arrival it was straight into work at Brigade HQ, working long days and nights for the exercise period. This turned out to be very useful, as I had not worked in a Brigade HQ before. It gave me chance to find my feet and remind myself what G1-G9 were and what they did.

Once the exercise had been completed, attendance on the Joint Media Ops Course at RAF Uxbridge was required, along with OPTAG, before I could deploy to Iraq. Shortly before my departure date I received notification that my mobilization role had been changed. I would now be working for Divisional Headquarters rather than Brigade.

On 21 March I flew out to Basra from Brize Norton along with 200 other individuals of various cap badges and from all three services. The flight itself takes about six hours and was uneventful other than the last twenty minutes on the approach into Basra airport when everyone has to wear body armour and helmets. This does have the effect of concentrating one's mind.

Arrival at Basra airport from the UK is always designed to take place in the hours of darkness. A very slick operation then kicks in, to control, brief, and disperse 220 people off every flight. It ensures that the minimum amount of time is spent in the airport complex.

I reported to Divisional Media Ops the morning after arrival to start my new job. The role I was assigned was SO3 Media Plans (Arabic). The role required the incumbent to actively engage with local and regional Arabic media to get them into theatre, plan and organize their visit, ensuring that it fitted both theirs and our requirements, escort them on the visit around the Area of Operations (AO), 'road test' various visit plans, seek out good news stories and liaise with Multinational Force Iraq (MNF-I) through the US Central Press Information Centre (CPIC) in Baghdad.

The daily routine commenced at 07.30, dealing with e-mails from media agencies, asking various questions about specific points connected with British/Multinational forces in the AO, or questions specific to individual press visits. If you had press in theatre and you were assigned to escort them, then the day would be taken up with that task. The day ended around 19.30 unless I was involved with a press visit.

Escorting the press on visits was probably the best part of the job. Duties included arranging travel and accommodation, ensuring that the right personalities were interviewed and that their actions were safe for themselves and the unit involved.

Another aspect of my role involved actively engaging the regional media and getting them to visit the AO. During my tour we managed to get in journalists from Dubai, Oman, Bahrain and Egypt. They were keen to report from Iraq, although a bit apprehensive about being there because of the usual stream of bad reports coming from the media channels. Once they were in theatre it was good to hear them say that it was not as bad a picture as was painted by the media. Most of the journalists arrived into the country through Bahrain with the assistance of the US Fifth Fleet Public Affairs Office.

The local Basra media were, as individuals, quite new to the media world, after living under the old regime when reporting was strictly limited. I found them to be extremely polite and eager to report stories about UK forces in southern Iraq. They were also useful as a source of information about what was going on in Basra from a local's point of view. We set up a number of press facilities for them, from the first Iraqi Airways plane to land since the fall of the old regime, to the re-opening of schools and medical facilities; they were always keen to attend these media opportunities.

During my tour I was able to visit Baghdad on a number of occasions to liaise with the US-run CPIC to discuss media opportunities and future plans. I visited the Iraqi Parliament whilst it was in session and had meetings at the US Embassy, the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence. Not bad for a Captain from the East and West Riding Regiment!

My six-month tour seemed to pass quite quickly and I had to start planning the handover to my successor. I arrived back in the UK at the end of September 2005. The demobilization through RTMC at Chilwell took two and a half hours.



**Captain S. A. Routh with his Iraqi opposite number.**

I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed my nine months of mobilized service. It was not always smooth sailing - some parts of it were very frustrating. However, my advice to anyone considering whether or not to do it would be to look closely at the role you are required to carry out in theatre, to ensure that it fits your requirements and that you fit the army's requirements for the role you are interested in.

Would I do it again? Most definitely yes, but don't tell my wife.

Captain S. A. Routh  
OC Ypres Company EWRR

### FONTENAY COMPANY (SHEFFIELD)

The summer has been a busy time for Fontenay Company. With the focus being very much on building up to annual camp in September, there has been a great deal of field-based training organised under the direction of WO2 O'Neill, with excellent training weekends at Leek, Warcop and Otterburn, to name just a few. At the time of writing, Camp has just finished and attention will now be focussed on CCRF training and the build-up to Christmas.

We were pleased to welcome back to the Company all those who had served on Operation Telic V, who completed their demobilization leave just in time to join us for the adventure training weekend which, amongst other things, included orienteering on Ilkley Moor. We also welcome to the Company WO2 Hollinshead who, having left the 1st Battalion recently, has joined the TA and takes over as CSM from WO2 Padley who returned from Operation Telic and then virtually straight away moved on to take over as RQMS. He goes to his new post with all the very best wishes of everyone in the Company. We also say cheerio to Corporal Deakin who has left the Company Signals Detachment and moved on to HQ Company and also congratulate him on his promotion to Sergeant.

One of the key events that the Company undertook during the summer was the entry of a team in the Alpine Challenge, which is essentially an orienteering event up and down a number of Bavarian peaks. The team comprised Sergeant Burton, Corporal Schofield and Private Teal as runners, Sergeant Fitchett provided the admin support with Corporal Dolan as driver. The team finished a very creditable seventh out of twenty teams and were pleased to receive an invitation to return next year.

The TA 10k Challenge was held in August as one of the Company's recruitment and representation activities. The 10k road race around the Barnsley area attracted in excess of 130 entries and, coupled with a barbecue and various other activities for families, proved to be a very successful day. The event attracted some very serious amateur runners and we intend to organise it again next year, therefore anyone interested in taking part should contact either the PSAO or the SPSP early in 2006.

Recruiting remains strong at present and the Company has fared well out of the recent Battalion promotions board, with twelve members gaining promotion. Namely: WO2 Johnson, Colour Sergeant Burton, Colour Sergeant Machon, Sergeant Schofield,

Sergeant Evans, Lance Corporal Abu Qaoud, Lance Corporal Brunton, Lance Corporal Ellin, Lance Corporal Daynes, Lance Corporal Steele, Lance Corporal Teal, and Lance Corporal Le Gros. Congratulations to each of them.

We also welcome to the Company two new officers. Andy Walker joins us from Sheffield UOTC and Andy Goodspeed is a Lieutenant in the Canadian reserves who has moved to the UK and signed up with the Company in Barnsley. As a result of this and the recent round of promotions, most of the senior roles within the Company are now occupied by people of the appropriate rank, which represents a complete change to the position the Company was in eighteen months ago.

A number of vacancies still remain, which it is hoped we should be able to fill over the next twelve months, hopefully with further internal promotion. We have plenty of opportunities though for anyone who wishes to join us; therefore we would be pleased to hear from anyone coming to the end of their regular service, who is returning to the Barnsley or Sheffield areas and who would still like to spend some time in green. Indeed with a number of ex-regulars now amongst us, anyone who wants to come along and catch up with them is more than welcome to spend some time in the bar any Tuesday evening. For further information the Company can be contacted on 01226 200116.

## THE TERRITORIALS OF YESTERYEAR THE WARTIME MEMORIES OF JACK ROBINSON

*We continue Jack Robinson's tale, which we left on page 87 of Issue No 258.*

The Major sent for me and told me not to unpack because the next day I had to go to the REME HQ, CREME (that is Colonel King who was the senior REME officer in the division) wanted to see me. I had to go there with two fitters and a 15cwt truck and all our tools. When I met the Colonel, and it was the first time I had met him, he wanted to know how I had got on in Devon and would I give him a report of the water-proofing. He then told me to report to a LAD Captain on the Orford training area. The Orford training area was a large area where all the civilians had been moved out of the villages. The Colonel said they were having a lot of trouble with Bedford engines, so would I give the LAD a hand (LAD is short for Light Aid Detachment which is a REME small workshop attached for mechanical repairs to another unit). When I met the REME Captain he told me to report to the tank Sergeant Major for accommodation. The Sergeant Major put us in a tent and said we would lay out our kit as per regs, and parade with his men every morning. Also, later he would get an extra tent for me as I could not sleep with the other ranks. The next morning we did not lay our kit out and we did not parade. The Sergeant Major came looking for me, but I had already seen a Captain of another unit and told him we had come to work and not to play at soldiers. He told me to see their Sergeant Major to fix us up, which he did, he put us in a small room in the old hall which they had taken over. It was ideal, only we had a long way to go to the latrines but we managed, so we moved in with the 1st Assault Squadron.

The Captain told me that the two units had Matilda tanks with Bedford engines, these were bolted on to the side which drove the rotors that had chains fitted, these were flail tanks - the idea was that as the chains went round and hit the floor with such a force they would detonate any mines that they hit. I was told that the engines failed after less than a week's flailing and when I looked around the tank area there were Bedford engines everywhere and it was covered in oil. The Captain said he thought sand was getting in to the engines, but I thought that impossible as they were

sealed and the air feed to the carburettor was a flexible hose to the air cleaners in the tank, and this air cleaner was cleaned every day and no sand had been found to pass the cleaners. We stripped an engine down and the wear was definitely due to sand. When a tank is flailing it gets covered with powdered sand - about as fine as face powder. I rode on the back of the tank while it was flailing and noticed powder accumulating on top of the flexible hose, I also saw a small amount disappear into it; I now knew how the sand was getting into the engines.

Two of the fitters attached a new engine to a tank, and I went out of the training area looking for garages where I would be able to buy old car inner tubes. As an experiment we fitted an inner tube over the metal flexible hose, and after a week of flailing the engine was examined. We found no sand in the engine and it still ran as well as when it had been fitted. We had solved the problem and the CREME was very pleased.

My next task was to find out where all the oil was coming from that covered the tank area. The flail tanks had the code name 'Barons'. The rotors had chains bolted to them which were raised and lowered by the ram on the same principle as a truck tipping gear. An oil storage tank piped oil to a pump, then to a valve which fed oil either to the ram or back to the oil tank. It appeared that every time the tanks returned from flailing the system had to be bled to get rid of air. This meant draining two to three gallons of oil every time and most of it ended up on the ground, and the oil that had been caught could not be used again as it was full of air. I knew it was not necessary to drain the trucks tipping gear so something must be wrong. The fault was easy to find when I looked in the oil tank. I noticed that when the pump was running, the oil going back into the tank under pressure was going on to the top of the oil, hence emulsifying it, causing a lot of air bubbles which then got into the system. We soon cured that problem by soldering a copper pipe from the outlet to the bottom of the tank. After that it was very rare that the oil system had to be bled. The tank chaps thought we were marvellous because bleeding the rams had been a long and filthy task.

I went to see the Colonel to explain what we had done and give him my reports. He said he would like to promote me but there was no establishment for a WO so he was going to give me one pound and ten shillings a week extra, which he called "hard living allowance"; in those days a Staff Sergeant got three pounds and one shilling per week. He told me to go back to Oxford as they still had lots of troubles and to give thought to two things:- one, how to keep the tanks in line and not run into each other; and two, how to mark the ground that had been flailed.

The two fitters who worked with me were called Bob Kadwill and Barney Barnwell. We all got on very well and were together until we parted in Normandy. We also had a D/R with us who sometimes helped with repairs but most of the time he was going to the workshop for parts or taking messages to HQ. Bob had a ukelele and was very good at making up songs. We had some very good sing-a-longs

Between different jobs we were trying to make the tanks travel in a straight line and in formation. We fitted Gyro compasses and then Barnacle compasses but neither appeared to be the answer, so the Colonel said to leave it, he had another job for us. He gave me two map references, at the first we had to meet a transporter with a Churchill tank, and with the transporter meet a Signals Captain at the other reference; the Captain took charge.

Our destination was an Air Force camp near Woodford, not far from London. The guard on the gate was surprised when we drove up. This was a new camp, it had been built especially for WAAFS to train with barrage balloons but they had all moved away. It was now a radio training centre and transit camp, with people moving in and out at all hours. The cookhouse was open 24 hours, which meant we were able to get good suppers after a night out at the local pub. We were all given very good accommodation; my room had a bed which had a pillow and clean sheets, there was also a small room with a bath, toilet and wash basin. We never had anything like that in the army. I was also issued with a push bike.

The RAF had a radio transmitter which sent out dots and dashes; dots on one side and dashes on the other and in the centre was a beam, it was used for guiding planes onto small airfields. Someone thought that if a beam was directed onto a target, a tank with receivers fitted would be able to follow that beam through smoke and attack the target. Our job was to fit a receiver into the Churchill tank. We did manage to fit a receiver by the driver, but when we tried it the driver could not hear the radio for all the noise the tank made, so the radio chaps made it flash a light, this took time but we did not mind as we were enjoying the luxury of the camp. They got the radio working to their satisfaction so we had to return to Oxford training area for trials. The RAF loaned us a three-ton van with the transmitter in, it had a large aerial which had to be pointed at the target. They also loaned us a portable receiver. We took the tank and the van to a quiet spot on the training area, but we had great difficulty lining up the aerial to point the beam on to a target. So I went on the scrounge and managed to get a telescope from the artillery. When we fitted it to the aerial we were able to direct the beam onto the target and it worked! The tank was able to pick up the beam and travel towards the target.

The Colonel came with the General and a few more officers, they walked around with the portable receiver. The General came and spoke to us and said "Good show". Then the Colonel came over and told us we had done a good job. The RAF took their van back, we returned to camp and I don't think the receiver was ever used again! When we arrived at camp there was a message saying the Colonel wanted to see me, he told me to take a few days leave and then report to his office on the next Sunday with all my tools and equipment prepared for a long journey. So Bob, Barney and I went on leave, we came back on the Saturday, got our vehicle loaded and were at HQ early on the Sunday.

... to be continued

## SERGEANT ARNOLD LOOSEMORE VC, DCM

*Tony Podmore's History of our Volunteer and Territorial Battalions tells us that Sergeant Arnold Loosemore gained his VC at Langemarck on 11 August 1917 with the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He was later awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for a further act of bravery on 11 July 1918, and died in 1924, aged 29, as a result of his wounds.*

*The Citation for the award of the VC reads: "For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during the attack on a strongly-held enemy position south of Langemarck, Flanders, on 11 August 1917.*

*His platoon having been checked by heavy machine gun fire, he crawled through the partially-cut wire, dragging his Lewis gun with him, and single handed dealt with a strong party of the enemy killing about twenty of them, and thus covering the consolidation of the position taken up by his platoon. Immediately*

*afterwards, his Lewis gun was blown up by a bomb, and three of the enemy rushed for him, but he shot them all with his revolver.*

*Later, he shot several enemy snipers, exposing himself to heavy fire each time. On returning to the original post he also brought back a wounded comrade under heavy fire at the risk of his life. He displayed throughout an utter disregard of danger."*  
(London Gazette, 14 September, 1917)

*We are grateful to Colonel Geoffrey Norton TD, JP, DL, for bringing us the following account. Ed.*

Sergeant Arnold Loosemore VC, DCM, returned to Sheffield after the end of the First World War.

At that time the Rotary Club of Sheffield had just been formed and the members heard that this notable hero was still suffering from his war wounds and was deserving of help. They purchased a plot of land at



Shatton in Derbyshire, near to Sheffield, where they erected a chalet for him to live in and helped, where necessary, to make life more pleasant for him.

Unfortunately he died on 10 April 1924 and was destined for a pauper's grave in Burngreave Cemetery. By chance, his aunt Sarah Johnson had died four days earlier, aged 53, and the family invited Arthur's widow to have her late husband interred at the same time in the family grave at All Saints Church, Ecclesall, Sheffield.

The inscription is on the side of the gravestone and reads:

Sergeant Arnold Loosemore VC, DCM  
8th Duke of Wellington's Regiment  
the dearly loved husband of Amy Loosemore  
who died April 10th 1924 aged 27  
Awaiting Reveille

His wife received no pension from the army, as she had married Arnold after the war, knowing of his wounds. His medals were purchased by Viscount Kemsley, who owned the Star newspaper in Sheffield. The paper raised over £800 for her by public subscription.

Recently, it was noticed by ex-servicemen searching for his grave that it had become overgrown and that it was not prominently marked as being the grave of a deceased holder of both the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal. This has now been corrected with the addition of a plaque on the front of the grave. The plaque was dedicated by the Associate Minister of All Saints, the Reverend Rick Fillingham, and attended by members of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association, of which Arnold's son Arnold is a member, and many others.

It is interesting to note that after Arnold's death, the site in Derbyshire was further developed and for many years the Rotarians staffed a holiday camp for fatherless boys from the First World War.

Today the camp has been re-established as a youth camp in Castleton, providing holidays for young people on a site of 28 acres valued at £650,000. What a fitting tangible memorial to the memory of Sergeant Loosemore VC, DCM, whose name will never be forgotten.



Arnold Loosemore at his father's grave with the Reverend Rick Fillingham.

## “HULLO ZERO, THIS IS CALLSIGN CATTERICK”

*by Captain Paul Tetlow*

Since the last transmission from the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick, there have been many changes in both the way business is done and the Dukes' staff who are posted here. Nevertheless, the work of training the appropriate numbers of soldiers for the Field Army continues undeterred. I am glad to say, however, that we have, in many ways, moved on from the 'Bad Lads Army' techniques of National Service training. Well, almost glad.

Over the last year or so, ITC Catterick has settled down to a new system of recruit training whereby soldiers are taught their trade as part of a Divisional Company. A recruit will form a platoon with other soldiers from the King's Division and will be taught, led and managed by a King's Division Chain of Command. Many will spot that this is not a new system at all and just a reinvention of the Divisional Depots system on a smaller scale, but it does regain the benefits that the system once had.



**Some Dukes at ITC Catterick (left to right) Corporal Wall, Lance Corporal Murphy, Lance Corporal Pearson, Captain Hosty, Captain Tetlow, Sergeant Wyeth, Corporal Collington**

In a divisional system it is easier to track DWR recruits as they progress through training in what is proving to be a difficult time for retaining soldiers in training. It promotes a stronger sense of identity and camaraderie within the soldiers at a younger stage of their career. This helps them in their training and welfare and should lead to happier and more professional soldiers for the 1st Battalion.

Currently the Dukes have fourteen officers and soldiers posted to the ITC(C). Most of these work in the King's Division Company but there is Colour Sergeant Watts as Company Quartermaster Sergeant in Somme Company, dealing with Territorial courses for the East and West Riding Regiment, Corporal Wall in the medical centre and Corporal Collington in the gym.

For those who instruct recruits, the job can be an extremely rewarding one. As a section commander, a Corporal has the satisfaction of teaching and developing recruits from being a civilian to passing out as a soldier. However, because of the current perception of Army training establishments, our work is frequently scrutinised by outside agencies. This is often a frustration but it helps to protect the instructors as much as the recruits and the reputation of the ITC.

For the instructors, the experience of a posting to the ITC is an enjoyable and rewarding one. It opens your eyes to life beyond the 1st Battalion and I think that the DWR permanent staff return better off for their experience. For the recruits, well, you never forget your time in training ... good or bad.

## **SAILING IN THE REGIMENT**

### **A TRIBUTE TO ALISTAIR AND CAROLYN ROBERTS**

For something over a hundred years members of the Regiment have indulged in recreational sailing. When was the first occasion I do not know but I have a photograph of my grandfather, R. N. Bray, sailing the Regimental yacht, *Maid of Erin*, in Malta in 1896, when it won the beautiful thistle cup which is still in the Officers' Mess of the Battalion to this day.

Between the World Wars, members sailed from the Royal Bombay Yacht Club and from the mists of time in that subcontinent we inherited as our own Regimental club, the Hindoostan Yacht Club.

After World War Two the Regiment made the most of sailing in Gibraltar, Hong Kong and Belfast, often with the late Brigadier Tony Firth as our inspiration. In Germany we sailed frequently in the Army's boats at Kiel and in the mid 60s at Dummersee near Osnabrück, it was Tony who instructed me on the importance of the Hindoostan Yacht Club and provided the design of its flag.

Whatever the Regiment's sailing achievements over the years, we can be certain of one thing: no one has ever sailed around the world with his wife, just the two of

them, overcome every challenge from Tsunami to Red Sea dramas, entertained us all with excellent reports as they went, and arrived home with boat, marriage and perhaps finances still intact! To have the courage to begin such an adventure is admirable; to succeed in such style is beyond the comprehension and dreams of us amateurs.

So it seemed appropriate to have a Hindoostan Yacht Club flag made, a maroon elephant on a French grey background, and present it to Alistair and Carolyn to commemorate this great feat. This presentation was happily achieved in Wales, as Alistair records below and is shown in the photograph overleaf.

Michael Bray

## ROBERTS AROUND THE WORLD

### Leg 7 - The Home Run - Crete to the UK, April - July 2005

On 30 July we sailed into Milford Haven, our home port in South West Wales, two years and ten days after embarking on our dream of sailing around the world. We had done it! Technically, we had completed a circumnavigation when we crossed our outward track as we sailed back into Gibraltar in June, but the return to the UK was the real goal. We had a truly warm Welsh welcome from family on the day, followed a week later by a surprise quayside party with twenty or so friends including Michael and Anne Bray, Nick and Margot Newell and Charles and Wendy Good. Michael made a "welcome back" speech and presented us with a Hindoostan Yacht Club burgee. Fame at last!

Our sail through the Mediterranean was relatively uneventful, but nevertheless very relaxing after the challenging sailing of the Red Sea. Highlights included a week in Salerno visiting Pompeii, Herculaneum, the Amalfi Coast and Naples and some pre-season cruising in the Balearics. And then we were back in Gibraltar for a couple of days, twenty months after we had left for the Atlantic crossing. Time had flown by.

The Algarve, the Atlantic coast of Portugal, Spain and Brittany followed in quick succession and suddenly we were in the Scillies, our first landfall in the UK. The sky and the sea were grey - we nearly turned round and went south again!

So our adventure has ended and reality is beginning to set in - jobs, houses, family, pets, friends all return to the top of our agenda, rather than boat maintenance and self preservation.

What therefore are our immediate thoughts - we do feel that we have done something special. I read the other day that more people have scaled Everest than sailed around the world. We have been to some truly memorable places (32 countries), met some fascinating people in their own cultural environment and seen some amazing sights. The highlights included the Panamanian San Blas Islands and its inhabitants the Kuna Indians, the Galapagos Islands and the many different South Pacific Islands, especially the Tuamotots, Fiji and Vanuatu. Diving in the Pacific with sharks, rays, turtles and sea lions in beautifully clear warm water has spoilt us for subaqua in UK waters! India was very special amongst the Northern Hemisphere countries visited. And then, of course, there was the Tsunami!

For nearly two years we were in shorts (occasionally a tee shirt as well!) with beautiful sunny skies, spectacular sunrises and sunsets, and stars from horizon to horizon at night. Not a drop of rain fell on the boat

from 19 December 2004 till 8 May 2005 (Thailand to Crete)! It may sound like one long holiday, but the sailing was consistently more challenging than we had perhaps envisaged. However, we can now say with confidence that we were well prepared and we had exactly the right type of boat. We covered 32,000 miles, more than most boat owners do in a lifetime. We sailed on 360 days of the 740 we were away, spending 240 nights at sea, 250 nights at anchor. About half our sailing time was in winds strong enough that we needed to reef; we endured six gales, one severe gale and had 50+ knots of wind on three occasions. Almost worse in a way were the lengthy periods of no wind, when we had to motor and fuel consumption was a constant concern. We had sixty gallons in our tank, plus up to thirty more in jerry cans, giving a range of about 700 miles. There was always a maintenance "to do list" on the go and we had regular anti-chafe patrols as the wear and tear was frightening. There were two passages of twenty-three days and nights, one of eighteen, another of fifteen and several more of over a week, a challenge for just two people sharing all the duties. There were long periods when we did not see another boat, although we were always in radio contact. Between March and May 2004 we had no resupply of fresh water except what we could catch, so the 120 gallons in our tanks had to last sixty days - a gallon each per day for everything. It is worth adding that of the eleven boats which left Gibraltar in October 2003, intending to return in June 2005, only two made it.

Would we do it again? Absolutely - but we would allow an extra couple of years! Although we were able to spend about half the trip anchored or alongside land, therefore sightseeing/touring extensively or just enjoying the solitude of a remote island for a couple of days, we did feel rushed to keep up with the two year schedule we had set ourselves. There is just so much of this fascinating world still to see.

*Editor's Note: One hesitates, as a mere quill-driver, to correct a round-the-world sailor, but experience on the foredeck of General Bobby's boat tells one that Michael Bray is correct, he presented Alistair and Carolyn with a Hindoostan Yacht Club flag (which is square), as distinct from a burgee which is triangular.*

*On a more positive note, those who are not content with Alistair's version of their epic voyage, can apply to Carolyn for a copy of her 120-page book (@ £10 plus postage) by calling 01451 860284, or via e-mail at carolyn.roberts@talk21.com*



**Left to right: Anne and Michael Bray, Alistair and Carolyn, Margot and Nicky Newell, Rhiannon and Rebecca Roberts.**

## SCRATCHING THE ITCH

With the exception of those who succumbed to cakes on bayonets, as all Dukes know only too well, many young men actually volunteer for the military life, lured by the chance of living a "boys-own adventure tale". Rugger, sport, outdoors, and the occasional piece of active service truly offers the chance to shape the brain, biceps and character of a man.

So what happens when one leaves the infantry? Does that longing for the outdoor life ever really leave our characters? As all too many of us know, being exported into civvy life can be a tough transition - not least because our new-found civilian friends have, perhaps, more limited horizons and seem quite happy with a more sedentary life. Memory inevitably lingers, secretly yearning for Wednesday matches, outdoor training, and, like an itch, such thoughts need to be scratched.

It was with this in mind that I took part in the 2005 Prince's Trust Sahara Challenge. My employer, Hudson, is a great company and recognizes the value of teamwork. It took the decision to sponsor two five person teams (note - not five man teams) to take part in what turned out to be a gruelling week of half marathons and mountain biking across some of the most severe terrain that I have ever encountered.

Despite being forty one, my military service was on my employment records and I was 'volunteered' to lead one of the teams. Sadly, I had to explain that I had been bullshitting when I had put 'SAS' on my curriculum

vitae, but redeemed myself when I was able to explain that the Duke of Boots were the real deal and that commanding the Drums Platoon, complete with Barraclough brothers, actually made me tougher!

Hudson, being a sensible employer, engaged a fitness consultant called Anna. A stunning girl, Anna soon confirmed all our worst fears: we were fat, had gone to seed, and were likely to die on the hill unless we avoided McDonalds and put some hard yards in.

Three months and a stone lighter, Hudson's teams arrived in Ouzazarzate - south of the Atlas, and proceeded to base camp. Highly organized and well coordinated, the event proved a real challenge. The first shock was on the first night. Minus nine degrees and falling. All of us were bitterly cold, drinking water froze and as blushing first night brides, no-one took up the sensible offer of sharing body warmth - clearly not an ex-Green Howard amongst my civvy colleagues!

The next shock was modern technology - out went the maps, the cases, the chinagraphs and the compasses - in came the GPS. Thirteen miles turned out to be as the crow flies, and with the mountain ranges rising from ninety metres to several hundred, pounding the miles on the London Embankment proved somewhat inadequate training. By noon temperatures rose to 35-45 degrees and water intake was a priority.

During the week we raced other teams through the Jebel Sahro, a dramatic and remote mountainous area on the edge of the great Sahara, one of the most amazing places on earth.

We repeated the process - freeze at night, melt by day, for five days, biking 91km and running 43km through an environment of towering rock sculptures, steep-sided echoing gorges and dark shadowy canyons, and the occasional oasis. At the end of each leg, brain teasers and command tasks, and some of the most unique food known to mankind.

So what did we get out of it, and what Army training proved useful? The teams raised a small fortune for a worthwhile charity - this in itself was a fantastic result. Beyond this however, once the management barriers were down, our employees truly got to know each other. The humour was endemic, as was the mutual support, cunning, the initiative and the drive and determination to finish. People stuck together, no-one was left behind and by the end of it we all had an understanding that Wet Wipes were the new currency to trade!

Personally for me, it was just great to get "back into the saddle" and do something quite tough again. Old habits die hard and my teams, by the end of the week, were glad of the foot inspections, the powdering, the nannying and the general pastoral care that has always gone with the territory of section leader or platoon commander. More importantly, I got to feel truly alive again and to see tremendous, breathtaking scenery whilst feeling utterly physically challenged, not something that the average commute gives me these days.

So, if you are retired from Army life, and fancy a challenge, the whole thing is being repeated in 2006. Check out [www.theprinces-trust.org.uk](http://www.theprinces-trust.org.uk)

Andy McNeilis

## CAPTAIN OF ARMY RUGBY

*We congratulate Captain Ed Smith on his selection as Captain of Army Rugby and we thank him for submitting the following article. Ed.*

In August this year I had the honour of being awarded the captaincy of Army Rugby. The responsibility was handed over by Sergeant Mal Roberts, 9 Supply Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (RLC), who had four unbeaten years driving a vastly improving ever-competitive army side.

Thanks to the recent success of the Army Fifteen and the supremacy of the Army Seven on an international stage, the reputation of army rugby is growing and becoming a household name in its own right. Southern hemisphere training camps, live television coverage and sponsorship rights play a huge part, not to mention the 50,000 slightly intoxicated friends and colleagues all demanding Twickenham be painted red in early May. To fully credit the army schedule with the appropriate time, judgement and personal performance is a busy but satisfying duty, and one I fully intend to succeed at.

As a player, the army season is long and requires your full attention. Areas such as personal performance, time and injury management, fitness and technical analysis all require consideration in order to maintain form and keep your place. As the captain, much like being an officer in the army, you are expected to do all of the above whilst captaining the side on and off the field, representing the players at the AGM and entertaining at the President's annual dinner. This combination of tasks and friendships within the squad suggests I have been

given the opportunity of doing one of the best jobs the army has to offer.

The task for me now is to take army rugby forward. We need to keep on achieving, challenging the players and management in order to maintain inter-service supremacy, extending the rugby-gap between the army and whoever can get closest. This will not be an easy task as army rugby already supports a near-professional profile. Already assisted by capable and experienced backroom staff; high specification technology, motivated coaching staff, fitness and conditioning coaches, doctors, physiotherapists and two masseuses, the players have the majority of burden taken from them so as to perform at an optimal level. If we relent we offer our competitors the opportunity to develop and present a challenge to our crown in the future. One of the hardest aspects of my role in the squad is not trying to get to the top ...but staying there.

The opportunities for development and 'go-forward' this year are already underway and plans are in place taking the Army Rugby Union (ARU) through to 2007. These are exciting times, for me personally and for the whole squad looking to make history in May 2006, by being crowned Inter-Service Champions five years in a row. This achievement, never accomplished by any of the three Services, would be a perfect introduction for the ARU Centenary year of 2007/8.

## TRUE TALES FROM THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA

**TAIL OF A SHIRT, MEERUT, 1944, by John Cuffley**

*Dedicated to Major "Baron" Emmet*

Meerut, scene of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, is situated 40 miles north-east of India's capital, Delhi.

The tale comes from the 2nd Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment which, with the Queen's and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiments, formed 2nd Independent Infantry Brigade. Within the structure was

the strategic combat tactical force long-range penetration group known by the name "Jungle Fighters".

I was in the Guardroom at Meerut cantonment when a message came through that I was to report to Brigade HQ. An inquiry was in progress and, although I was not involved, someone was required to deal with witnesses.



On arrival, I was handed a list of names by the Duty Officer. Those on the list were mainly officers involved in the inquiry. One name was my own OC. He arrived on a bike minus his shirt. He had come straight from the Officers' Gym, which was just down the road from Brigade HQ. It was quite in order for officers and other ranks, if within a short distance of a sports area and having participated in sport or within their own compounds, to be improperly dressed. All other areas were strictly taboo; correct dress would have been observed at all times.

My OC was on the point of being called, so he ordered me to hand over my shirt. He could hardly go in front of a tribunal without a shirt on and, as we were the same build and height, and after I had removed my Sergeant's chevrons, which were fastened by clip studs, the shirt fitted perfectly. He commented on the quality of the cloth, very soft and cool, very nice material.

"Unusual colour, lovat. I would say not issue."

"No, Sir" I said, "I had two made up in the bazaar. Apparently, Sir, the cloth was specially ordered by the Maharaja of Jaipur, but it was the wrong green as it did not quite match the Maharaja's eyes. So the merchant was left holding the cloth and was losing on the deal. It was only because I had a kind face that he would have the material made up into shirts for me, but he was practically giving them away."

"And did the bazaar merchant say that the cloth was woven by virgins while a holy man chanted a lament?"

"Yes, Sir, but how did you know?"

"And I suppose" continued the Major, "that the wearer of the cloth will be endowed with mystic powers?"

"Yes, Sir. According to the merchant, the wearer would live a long and happy life, free of wife troubles."

"Well, Sergeant, if I was you, just to be on the safe side, don't get married!"

It was obvious that the Major was getting in some light banter, mainly to take his mind off the inquiry and to amuse those around him, and one must remember that I was only 18, and such selling powers by bazaar merchants in India was commonplace.

My OC ordered me to go to his quarters and collect a clean shirt from his batman and to use his bicycle. His parting words were: "Don't get caught without a shirt on. It will be most embarrassing for you to come up before me on orders issued by me."

I reached the officers' quarters unobserved and collected a clean shirt from Major Emmett's batman.

On the return journey, I was just turning a corner when who should be standing at the crossroads, deep in conversation?, none other than RSM Parr and my own CSM Upyours. It was obvious that they were very preoccupied, although one could be sure that anyone improperly dressed would not go unnoticed. So I stopped and put on the Major's shirt, pulling the epaulets forward so that the crowns would not be noticed. I had just reached the two and was about to cross the road when a Company of Queen's Regiment came into view. On seeing me, the Captain in charge of the Queen's gave the order: "Eyes right". Each of the three platoons which made up the Company responded, with platoon officers taking my salute.

RSM Parr and CSM Upyours had by now turned to see who was taking the salute and they, in turn, had

to stand to attention as they were not required to salute as this was being taken by an officer of higher rank (being myself). Their faces, to say the least, were expressionless. I do not believe, to this day, that they could believe their eyes. A soldier of their Regiment wearing Major's crowns!

As soon as the last platoon had passed, I cycled around to its far side, putting as much distance as possible between Parr, Upyours and myself. As I drew in line with the front rank of the last platoon, a Second Lieutenant in charge remarked: "Gad, Sir. See that Major? He can only be in his teens. Those two Warrant Officers look positively elderly by comparison."

I was hoping that such remarks had not been overheard by the two

Warrant Officers in question, namely Parr and Upyours.

One of the many stories surrounding the event to come out later was that CSM Upyours had it in mind to call out: "Excuse me, Sir. Can I have a word with you?", but Upyours just could not bring himself to call me "Sir" and run the risk of never living it down.

RSM Parr was quite correct in bringing the matter to the attention of Colonel Dalrymple, our Battalion Commander. At least he would be forewarned should it come to light, and no doubt what was going through RSM Parr's mind was that CSM Upyours, a nice enough chap as CSMs go and, although he would swear discretion on a stack of bibles, once in the Mess, surrounded by cronies and full of beer, he would not know one religion from another and was always ready to spin a good yarn.

As usual, RSM Parr was right. It was not long before wild stories abounded and the incident being exaggerated out of all proportion and recognition.



**Major Emmett**

After a few days, I received a message from the Adjutant, Captain Upjohn, that the officers were due to play a game of hockey against the Queen's, and that Lieutenant Hope-Grant had gone sick. Would I stand in? (Officers could call on other ranks, if good players, to make up any shortage.) It was, in fact, a ploy. The OC wanted to have a quiet word with me socially over the shirt incident. The match was played between officers of the Duke of Wellington's and the Queen's Regiment. As it turned out, it was a cracking good game for all concerned. We won 4-0 with Colonel Dalrymple, as Team Captain, and myself scoring two each.

After the match, we were all invited back to the Officers' Mess. Colonel Dalrymple called me to one side and we were joined by Captain Upjohn, the Adjutant, and RSM Parr. It was customary to invite the RSM to the Mess, especially whenever other ranks were invited. One could say that he spoke other ranks' language and so could put them at ease. He was also on hand to give a little cough should other ranks forget where they were and speak out of turn - particularly after a few gins. The Colonel asked Parr and myself what we would like to drink. We both settled for gin as it was customary, and a steward arrived with four very large gins. The Colonel opened the conversation.

"I wanted to have a private word with you, concerning the incident of the other day. It would have

been incorrect to just let the matter pass or, due to its delicacy, to see me in my office, and I agreed with the RSM that you acted correctly and, what's more important, in the interest of the Regiment. This goes without question: Wearing Major Emmett's shirt saved you being put on report, which would have been most embarrassing for all concerned and, more importantly, to let a Company of the Queen's Regiment see one of my men improperly dressed would have given a very bad impression. I've had a word with the CO of the Queen's, mainly out of courtesy. Also, as I understand it, a junior officer of the Queen's passed remarks pertaining to individuals' ages. The remarks were overheard and commented on, among other things, by someone whom I wish to see in my office first thing tomorrow morning, RSM."

RSM Parr glanced at me. The person in question was, of course, CSM Upyours.

"Anyway", the Colonel continued, "You acted correctly and the matter is now closed. Now, shall we join the others?"

These little get-togethers between officers and other ranks usually lasted around half-an-hour, but once we all got involved in the finer points of our game, and hockey in general, three hours had passed and, finally, we were seen to the door by Colonel Dalrymple and Captain Upjohn.

## A BOY'S LIFE IN THE ARMY

*We continue China Gill's story from page 92 of Issue No 258*

I would like to mention a few things I have missed. Lieutenant Colonel Wellesley left in June 1930 and was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Wilson (a former Rugby international), who was then replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Rusbridger in June 1932.

I think my first company commander in May 1929 was a Major Gibson, then I recollect a Captain Harker-Taylor (noted for his high score at cricket against the touring Australian team in the early thirties). At Aldershot Captain Webb-Carter was OC HQ Company. There seemed to be a quick change of officers, probably due to postings to the 2nd Battalion; secondments, attachments, staff appointments, courses etc. A large number of Boys arrived, but most of these were earmarked for the next draft to India.

The 1932-33 rugby and soccer season had now started and everyone looked forward to the rugby team continuing its success in the Army Cup. However, having won the Command Cup, the semi-final was lost. But the soccer team came to the rescue. It had been performing well in the District League and was being trained and brought to fitness by Band Sergeant Peter Thorp: training every morning and having specially made beef tea for elevenses. Two cooks were stalwarts in the team, they were Doddie Taylor and Taffy Evans. Corporal Jackson was goalkeeper; Sergeants Myatt and Roberts - full backs; Jack Aynsley and Taylor - half backs; Corporal Owen, Evans and Rumbold - forwards. Corporal Goodwin played in some of the ties, he was the rugby team's full back in the 31/32 Final.

The team did well in the League and started their Cup run with some outstanding results. In the last couple of rounds they were losing with ten or fifteen minutes to go; in one they scored a couple of late goals to earn a place in the Semi-Final, in which they again forced a couple of late goals and two more in extra time. One North Staffs supporter bet £1 at full time that the Dukes would win and made a bob or two. In the Final against the Sherwood Foresters (who had won the last two Finals) the Dukes were 1-3 down and the North Staffs man again backed the Dukes to win. Alas!, he lost his money, but was still in pocket from the previous bet. This was the only year the Dukes had such success at soccer.

I must now mention the increased activity of other sports. The Boys also had a successful soccer team that consisted mainly of 17 year-olds who had played together since Devonport days. They just failed to win the Boys' League and were unlucky not to progress far in the Cup. There was good opposition that year, the Royal Ulster Rifles that year had a Boy Martin, who was the Army centre forward. Our sports fields were so near to the barracks that they were continually in use. Inter-company rugby matches were played regularly and, as first team players did not take part, there was more scope for novices. HQ Company, being so strong in numbers, was split into two parts, one being Band and Drums, the other comprising signallers, pioneers, Mess staff, clerks, transport and numerous odds and ends. A cricket team played in the summer, mostly

comprised of officers and a few other ranks, such as Dearnley, Tug Wilson and Al Heap. Athletics also increased, usually with the same participants, Burt, Rumbould, Annesley, Johnson, Swain and Ansell. We were not strong enough to compete with the best, but later, with a few new arrivals, we improved.

Evening entertainment was mostly sought in the bars in Aldershot. Those who stayed in Barracks had an excellent Church of England Institute right on our doorstep. With only the RASC barracks nearby, it was mostly packed with Dukes. There was always some entertainment; billiards and snooker contests and, once a month, a professional snooker player came and gave demonstrations. There was a draughts competition once a week, the winner receiving a small cash prize. This was always won by a signaller, Private Colbeck, which was not surprising because he had been Yorkshire Champion. After a few months he was barred, giving others a chance. The refreshment room was always full. I think they served suppers, but their speciality was steak and kidney pies they were certainly tasty. Even our Sergeant Major, Horace Coates, would send one of the Boys for a mug of tea and a pie. There was a billiards league and every other week the home tie was played in the billiard room. Our expert was Corporal Benner, who invariably won his match.

After leaving Boys' Service I immediately linked up with my old pal, Tug Wilson. We were part of a group who went out together into Aldershot to visit a few pubs, mostly the Imperial, the Standard and the Mount Pleasant. Our group nearly always consisted of Mucker Heaney, Topper Brown, Hector Brown, Jumbo Miles, Bernard Boon, Tug Wilson and myself. We were a happy crowd, well-liked wherever we went and never got into any trouble. Beer was 4d (2p) a pint, cigarettes 6d (2.5p) a packet. I think I was the only non-smoker.

On Sundays, immediately after Church Parade, we made our way to one of the pubs. At closing time, 2.00pm, we went to the Victoria Café for dinner of meat and two veg for 1/-s (5p). Then we discovered a café down the street which served the same dinners for 6d (2.5p) and we transferred our custom. We became friendly with other customers, but, apart from barmaids, we seldom had female companions and we were all bachelors. The only Drummer who married in four years in Aldershot was Buller Nobbs. We often wondered how he always seemed to know our movements, then realised his father-in-law was a regular at the Imperial.

At last I started my duties as Guard Bugler, and this was due to Drummer Clark going absent when it was his turn for duty. I was pressed into the vacancy and from that day took my turn of duty as Guard Bugler.

When Corporal Cherry, a clerk in the QM's office, went on leave, the QM, Lieutenant Laverack, asked the Drum Major if he could spare a Drummer to fill in for a couple of weeks and, as I had slight typewriting experience, I was chosen. I coped fairly well and I thought I would like an office job. Also, as I had always been interested in CQMS Cullen's work, I had visions of one day becoming a CQMS. As will be seen later, this turned into reality and over a third of my Army life was to be as a CQMS.

Some time since arriving in Aldershot a Regimental bus had been acquired, with Corporal as the driver. It was a square-bodied vehicle with seats on either side and down the middle. I think it could hold twenty people and it was very handy for carrying sports teams; it also took the Corps of Drums to various engagements.

*... to be continued*

## EARLY DAYS OF THE 9th BATTALION (146 REGIMENT RAC)

by Captain M. A. Girling

*We continue the story from page 94 of Issue No 258*

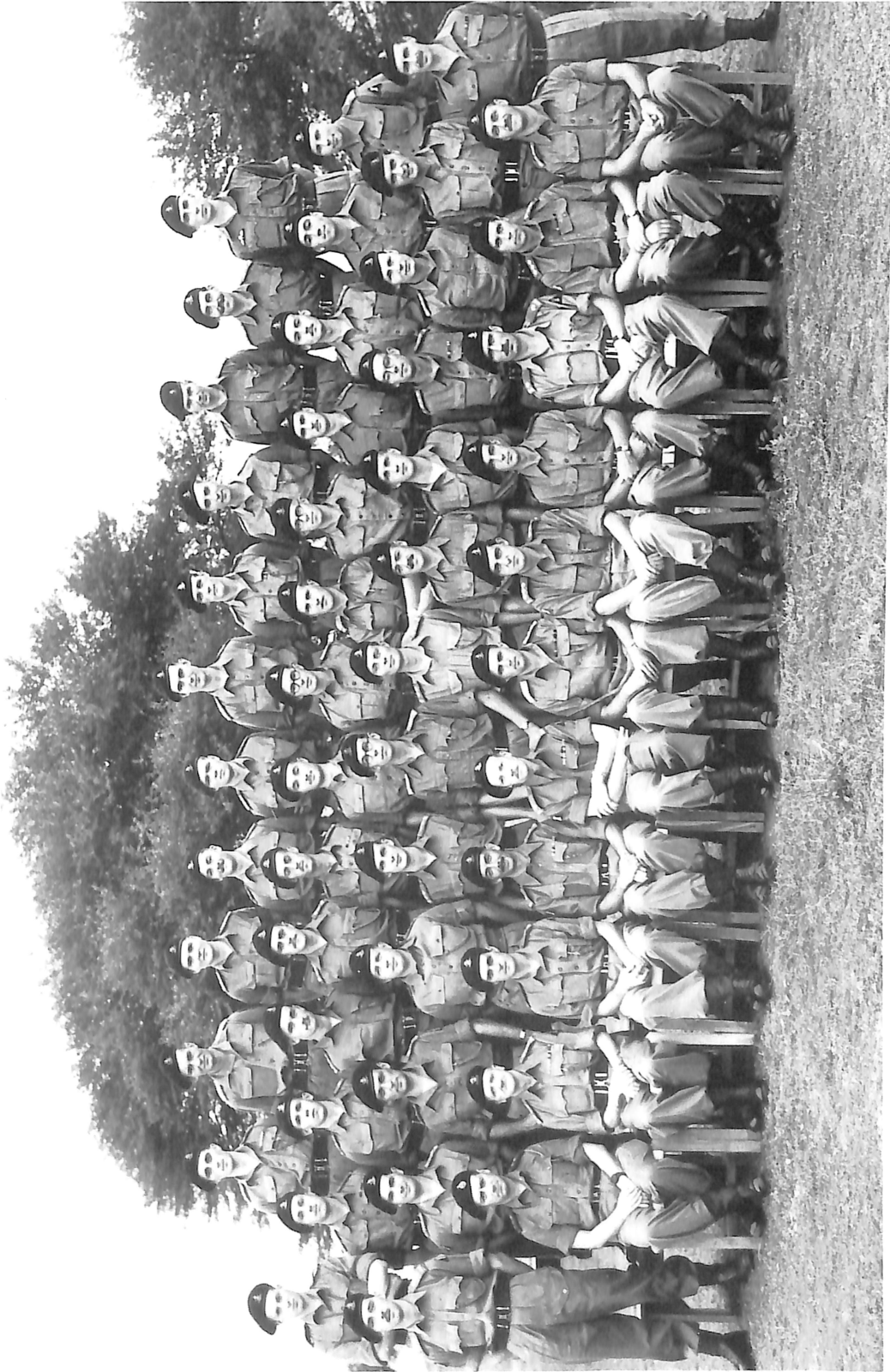
### Life on the Cape Town Castle

Altogether it took about two months to reach India. Soon after leaving Liverpool we were into an Atlantic gale. We were, of course, in convoy but I cannot remember the names of the ships - or the escorts. But I do recollect the first day out in an Atlantic gale seeing the battleship with water coming over the fore-part "shipping it green" is the expression. There was also much sea-sickness among the troops. The 'troops' were in fact almost entirely officers with a few nursing sisters. The quarters were good, though most of the cabins were doubled up, the food was quite first class and the drink was incredibly cheap! There were the usual deck games, a swimming pool and, as far as I remember, little or no duties apart from routine 'submarine watch' at nights. A concert party was formed and somehow I became involved in writing part of the script (in fact we had one or two professional actors among the troops). We learnt a little Urdu, played a lot of Bridge and generally enjoyed life as much as we

could in semi-peacetime conditions. We stopped once at Freetown, but there was no shore leave. We did, however, have some leave when we put into Durban and, for a change from the UK, I lived for three days under peacetime conditions with lights and no food rationing! We were also well entertained by the 'locals'. We left on Christmas Eve, 1941, eventually landing in India about four weeks later.

### Life in India - Barracks in Kirkee, Poona

Here again, to start with, life was very much as it had been in peacetime. We were billeted in bungalows round a central Officers' Mess, we had Indian servants, wore topees and generally kept our skin away from direct sunlight. After training hours there was plenty of time for games and one could go out in the evenings, if off duty, to local officers' clubs, mainly in Poona. The BORs (British Other Ranks) were well off as far as accommodation was concerned, being in well-built, airy barrack rooms and with generally good facilities.



*We are grateful to Tom Moore for providing this photograph of the Officers of the 9th Battalion, which, although it is probably in the wrong time-frame, is relevant to this article.*

*We think the photograph also includes Tom Harper (seventh row from the left, in the second row from the top), whose Obituary we publish on page 164. Ed.*

However, off duty they were not well provided for. Peacetime conditions provided good leisure facilities for officers but not for British other ranks, as in peacetime the ORs had been almost entirely Indian. Nor were the rank and file encouraged to have anything to do with the local population. There was, in fact, a very clear class divide. There was an Indian equivalent to the NAAFI but not much else. I was lucky enough to get in with the Poona Gymkhana Club cricket and, on Sunday afternoons, there were excellent games, often including the odd Indian equivalent of County players.

### Further Training

This semi-peacetime existence was soon to end. We were told to get rid of any 'civilian' luggage we might have which was sent to be stored in warehouses near the docks in Bombay (some time later a ship exploded in the port, the warehouses were destroyed together with all our luggage. We did, however, get some compensation for our losses.) We moved out of our peacetime barracks into tented or hutted camps on the Deccan. The War Diary has this part mostly missing and I can only give a general account. The Deccan itself was a fine place for training, in the two areas I remember at Kedgaon and Dhond. There were vast open spaces of land, mostly cotton soil and fairly flat, and mostly areas on which we could travel at will. I am not certain what type of tanks we had at this time, they were always being changed! Our training was very much on the lines of desert warfare, all rather ironical as eventually our jungle experiences were entirely the opposite to any kind of large-scale employment of tanks. In fact, our Squadron group in the landing on Ramree Island, and on to the mainland, consisted of fifteen tanks to one division of infantry; and even then the tanks were limited to paths through the jungle. One interesting aspect of the cotton soil as it affected tanks was that after any rain it became very viscous, so much so in fact, that at times it not only clogged the tracks, but actually stripped them from the suspension. At this time we were often sixty or seventy miles from any town, which meant there was little or no chance of 'entertainment' for the troops, only occasional trips by three-tonner on a Saturday, usually known as the 'passion wagon'! We always made soccer grounds on the dirt fields and used sport of any kind to relieve the boredom, though in fact training took up most of the daylight hours. There was opportunity for leave and many of us found places in the Nilgiri Hills in S India, where climate was akin to the British Isles.

### Move to the Ranchi Area

In July, 1942, we moved from the Deccan to the area of Ranchi in East Bengal - I think the original idea being the defence of Bengal in the possibility of a Japanese invasion of India. Less the tanks, we moved across central India by road. To those of us who had read any of Rudyard Kipling's books many of the names were familiar - Shivpuri, Kalpi, Cawnpore, Allahabad, Benares, Aurangabad, Hazaribagh and, eventually, to Lahordaga, about fifty miles from Ranchi. I was lucky in the respect that I was responsible for going independently in front of the Regiment with two vehicles and a few men, contacting the officer in charge of each staging point and seeing the main body of the Regiment into its harbouring area. I saw enough extraordinary sights to fill a small book and saw India at its basic best - or worst! Not least the extraordinary mingling of an ancient Hindu temple in the semi-jungle area of Shivpuri and not far off a modern yacht club on a lake, complete with a cocktail bar and full size billiard table! I was also lucky enough to see the temple of Benares near the Burning Ghat.

### Training in the Ranchi Area

By 17 July, 1942, we were based at Lohardagar and carried on with training. It was by no means an unpleasant area, heavily wooded with sal forests in part and not too unpleasant a climate. The exact details, obviously, I cannot remember. Odd moments I do remember. The War Diary (January 1943) mentions a rugger match v the 2nd Battalion DWR which we lost 5-8! We played on a paddy which had been levelled! There was also a 'night exercise' to try and trap a tiger (or hyena) mentioned on page four of the War Diary in which I was engaged. As usual it was Alan Bucknall's idea and involved firing a Verey pistol (which, as far as I remember, I did) but the whole thing came to nothing apart from Brigade HQ thinking they were being attacked, which, of course, we found amusing!

The Brigadier (Todd, I think) organised a jungle shoot for a few officers (about five) which included myself and my CO, Colonel Wood. The latter knew a little about jungle shooting (which the Brigadier did not) and told me whatever I did if a tiger broke cover I was not to shoot at it, as a .303 was unlikely to kill it and we would only have to spend days following the wounded beast. The whole shoot was rather farcical and the total bag was one hare-like animal! I also had the job of recceing an area off the Bengal coast which had been hit by a cyclone, with experiences not unlike, but nothing like so bad, as the tsunami of Boxing Day 2004.

... to be continued

## MIND YOUR LANGUAGE PLEASE

*or - Ah-Foo Ning-Ting Ahpen Onwei Thuda Ka-zee*

I was reading an amusing item in *The Hill*, the journal of the Durham and Cleveland Branch of the BKVA in which you could 'Learn Korean in Five Minutes', but you were advised to read it aloud. For example, the Korean for 'Have you been on holiday?' is 'Wai yu so tan?' and for 'Staying out of sight' is 'Lei

ying lo'. So true, it is easy if you say it out loud! It was a very amusing collection. I liked the translation for 'England will win the World Cup', which is 'No wai'.

Those of you who have experienced any time in the New Territories of Hong Kong may have spent a four day spell in an observation post looking across to China.



One OP was cut into the top of a mountain ridge called Shat Au Kok, and the town, whose military barracks and roads could be observed through extremely powerful telescopes, was called Fa Tin. I used to invite the soldiers in the OP protection party to take a look through a telescope at the activities in the barracks, the people in the town and the vehicles on the roads. One of them, having slowly scanned the whole panorama in front of us, turned to me and said, "Being in the Chinese Army stationed over there must be similar to being in the British. There seems to be a lot of Fa Tin about."

Intonation is important in both Chinese and Korean speech. Take the word 'jin'; depending where and how you raise or lower the level of your voice in each part of each letter sound decides its meaning. There are at least a dozen alternatives for it, from 'gold' to 'cloth', but it can be used to give its 'watery' or 'soak' connotation. If you place an 'M', pronounced like a cross between 'Im' and 'Um' before it, it can come out rather like Imjin, which can be interpreted as 'Mother Stream'. When I was in hospital being tended to by Chinese nursing staff, I had to be careful not to mis-tone my 'Dor-te-er', when I hoped to be saying 'Thank you', because they might reply by asking 'Re huo leng?' ... 'Hot or cold?' Because my 'Dor-te-er' had come out as 'Water'. Incidentally there is an element of Chinese theatrical humour that is based around the confusion that can be caused through the subtleties of intonation.

Quite naturally the most entertaining words in a foreign language are those that sound like the 'naughtier' words in English. The Orient in particular provides many examples of such words. A recurring ending to place names is 'king', which is the Chinese and Korean equivalent of settlement names that in Britain would end in 'ton' or 'ham'. The first part of the name tells you something about their foundation; for example 'furu'

means an enclosure, and 'wan' indicates it is on a bend of a river. All are good for a bit of a laugh, especially if you don't come from Heckmondwike, which regularly produces a chuckle on the pantomime stage, except for some reason in Heckmondwike itself. Two places familiar to travellers to the East that are without innuendo in sound or translation, as far as I am aware, are Hong Kong - 'Red Empty Space' (though 'kong' can mean a 'fearful terror', hence King Kong) and Pusan - 'Growing Cover'. So far, I have not ventured into the origins of Bangkok.

My favourite Bob Monkhouse story is to do with phonetics. It concerns a foreign gentleman in the City of London, holding a piece of paper with a name on it in his hand, asking people for directions to, what he called "Quay Apps Siddey". No one could help him until, at last, a man actually took the paper and read the address. He was able to direct him to Cheapside. A reputedly true story I tell in my lectures on understanding maps is the one of the 1912 survey of the Sudan, when towards the end of a long hot day in the rugged wilderness of the desert, the Military Map Surveyor turned to his Sudanese guide-cum-interpreter, who was also pretty-well whacked, and said, "We'll do that last hill then we'll call it a day. What is it called?" The guide peered across the still shimmering sands, checked the position of the last feature they had noted and replied, "Bahg-ug-riff Anho". This was duly noted down and transcribed on to the Ordnance Survey map of East Sudan. It was not until World War II that what the guide had really said, not in Arabic but in English, was discovered.

As that great and wise Chinese philosopher, Confucius, is sure to have said; "Sum ting wong wing yu. Yono ting di samu sing. Ai ting yu zting ki pu!"

Mac Dowdy

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: ian@fillans.co.uk

Editor, The Iron Duke  
Dear Sir,

I was honoured to know Mike Campbell-Lamerton when he was posted to Huddersfield as Adjutant of the 5th/7th Battalion in the Sixties.

I experienced all the qualities of the man, both in the Drill Hall and socially. But the one that remains etched in my mind is his humility. As an example, I was running a very low grade Wednesday afternoon rugby team in Huddersfield. Mike agreed to play in my team! What humility! He asked to play on the wing, but, as I was playing stand-off and there was no chance of him having a sniff of the ball, after about twenty minutes he asked to move into the pack. At the first line out he carried three defenders 20yds over the line for a try.

I shall always be grateful to Mike for giving me the opportunity of putting on my Rugby CV that I had included a Lions' Captain in my Wednesday XV!

Yours sincerely,  
Captain (Retired) Ian Fillan TD

From: 48 East Witton  
Leyburn  
North Yorkshire  
DL8 4SL  
21 October 2005

Editor, The Iron Duke  
Dear Sir,

In the Iron Duke, issue 258, page 99, Philip Hewitt writes about the grave of Private Oddy in Poznan, Poland. This is a long shot, but I had a range warden at Battle Hill, Barnard Castle, who had been put in the bag at Dunkirk. He was sent to work in the coal mines in Poland. He was most unhappy that, having been liberated, he had been left to walk, or so he claimed, all the way to the Channel ports.

In the same issue, page 104, you show a photo of Dukes in Filey. This is a picture of the 7th Battalion TA who were in camp at Rolston, when I was Adjutant. Margaret Norman confirms that Bill served with the Battalion and is in the photo. He is furthest right of the middle row on the steps with Sergeants' stripes. The date is 1948.

ORQMS Arthur Wood, later Regimental Secretary, is standing second left, front row, featuring an attractive Redcoat. Just after opening a very depressing and empty Drill Hall on Scar Lane, I saw Arthur pushing a milk float uphill. I shouted: "Do you want a job? I am looking for an ORQMS". He signed up straight away.

Bottom row left man is a subaltern and the largish man in plain clothes, same row, may be a Maltby. Beyond that, my memory fails me.

There was another Wood, who was Chief Clerk at HQ 147 Brigade and who became Editor of Soldier Magazine; not a Duke, but had been a journalist on the Halifax Courier, I think.

Yours sincerely,  
Hugh Le Messurier

*Editor's Note: We are grateful to Scott Flaving for the report which he has produced following some research:*

*Private Ronald Oddy was a member of the 2/7th Battalion deployed as Line of Communication troops in April 1940.*

*When the Germans broke through the Allied line at Sedan on 10 June, 1940, the 51st Highland Division was moved back from the Maginot Line. At the same time, the three Territorial Army Second Line Divisions, including the 46th Division, with 137th Brigade containing the Dukes 2/6th and 2/7th Battalions, moved forward towards the front line. The two Divisions met in the region of St Valery en Caux and the 2/7th Battalion was subsequently ordered to join 51st Highland Division, on 9 June 1940.*

*The Battalion was in action at Veules les Roses a few days later, against elements of the German 10th Panzer Division, and the remnants of the Battalion were evacuated through St Valery on 11 June, leaving behind 65 dead and 97 Prisoners of War.*

*Private Oddy was presumably taken to a POW Camp near Posnan, probably to Stalag 21 D, where he either died of wounds received during the fighting, of disease or even as the result of an accident. Unfortunately, RHQ records do not show the cause of death.*

S.F.

22 October 2005

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

I joined the 1/6th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in mid 1939 at Skipton, as World War II then seemed imminent.

As I was the only suitable member of HQ Company who could keep the books (I worked in the Yorkshire Penny Bank at Skipton for six years before the war), although my military experience was then limited, I was promoted to CQMS, from Private, in one go.

I served in Iceland for two years, from 1940 to 1942, where I met my Icelandic wife. We married in 1940.

When the Regiment returned to the UK from Iceland I was sent to an OCTU and was then commissioned into the Worcester Regiment, as the Hannam name originates from that part of the UK, where I served until the end of the war.

Before the war I played rugby for Skipton for five years, and for Yorkshire and suffered a displaced fibula in my left knee in a game, which terminated my rugby career. I did not feel this much, or mention it when I joined the Army or at OCTU.

During my service with the Worcesters I had an attack of appendicitis and, after I was operated on, I was posted to a Young Soldiers' Training Centre at Derby where I served for about a year. During the active part of my instructional training my knee trouble reappeared and my left knee jammed, which had to be operated on. In all, I served for six-and-a-half years in the army. Quite a slice of one's life.

Post War. After a couple of years in the bank at Skipton and Keighley, the rewards did not justify the effort and we decided to return to Iceland, where we have lived, and brought up our four children, ever since.

I was glad to have the opportunity of further serving my country as Commercial Attaché in the British Embassy in Reykjavik for 24 years, to the end of 1980.

My wife and I still retain our affection for Skipton, which we visited often from Iceland until my, now, 40% knee disability made this impossible, not to mention my age of 90 years.

I have to thank the Duke of Wellington's Regiment for bringing me to Iceland in the first place, and for my sixty-plus years of happy family life in this northern country. God Bless the Dukes.

Yours sincerely,  
Ralph Hannam (Ex - 4616240 Colour Sergeant)

From: 4 Bracken Close  
Mirfield  
West Yorks WF14 0HA  
October 2005

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

For the past five years I have been fortunate enough to be able to attend the 9th Battalion (146 Regiment) RAC Old Comrades' Association annual reunion at the Golden Lion Hotel in Leeds, as a daughter of a Duke!

My late dad (Harold 'Gary' Hall) was in the Dukes for thirteen years, ending his service career in 1945 as WO2 (SSM). He enlisted at Pontefract in 1933 after running away from a farm he was working on, he had been in care from the age of five and pushed from pillar to post. The Army, he used to say, made a man of him and gave him the chance to better himself after a rough start in life. Never a man to moan or complain about his lot, we, as a family, knew his Army life had had a big influence on him right up to his passing in February 2002, aged 88 years.

Dad attended the very first OCA reunion of the 146 Regiment in Leeds and subsequent others until his illness in 2000. I went along that year in his place and was welcomed with open arms and have attended each one since. This year, sadly, only two Old Comrade Dukes could attend, along with another daughter of a Duke, Hannah Moore, whose dad, Captain Tom Moore, organises the reunion. The lunch is always an event I look forward to, and I thank Majors Harrap and Heron for their attendance and for making us feel special.

Both Hannah and I agree that we feel privileged to be in company of the Dukes and very proud of our dads. Coincidentally, Tom Moore and my dad were on active service together and knew each other well, and the other Old Comrade soldier attending this year, Arthur Robinson, played hockey and tennis with my dad in Malta, so I feel very close to them.

Long may these reunions carry on and may I say how much I enjoy reading the Iron Duke, in my dad's words "Forever Up the Dukes". Whatever the changes in the

future to our military services and Regiments, to me it will always be 'The Dukes, The Best'!

Yours sincerely,  
Wendy Storey

P.S. My dad was always known as Gary Hall to his Duke comrades, my family never knew why as he was Harold to all of us. Can anyone who remembers him enlighten us please? Thank you.

## 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 22 January, 23 April, 25 June, 23 September 2006.

*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 WOs' & Sgts' Mess, 38 Signals Regiment, Manor Top, Sheffield.

*Secretary:* Mr P. Elwell, c/o Caretaker, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3AU.

**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.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

This year's Reunion Dinner was held in the Hilton Hotel, Bradford, on Saturday 22 October, and was attended by a total of 305 Dukes and partners. The Toast to the Regiment was proposed by the Reverend Canon Roy Matthews, our Regimental Padre. In his response, the Colonel of the Regiment explained the current situation, regarding the amalgamation of the three Yorkshire Regiments into a three battalion Yorkshire Regiment to happen in June 2006. The Colonel also made a presentation from the Regiment to Canon Roy Matthews to mark his 50th year as a priest and his long and active association with the Regiment.

### ANNUAL DRAW

This year's draw was again an outstanding success and raised a total of £3,175. The draw was held at RHQ

on Friday 21 October 2005, and the prize winners were:

		<i>Ticket No.</i>
Ms J. Roberts	£250	04184
Mr G. Harding	Weekend at Hilton Hotel	02125
Mr M. Ainley	£100	16558
Captain M. Taylor	£100	00612
Major D. M. Pugh	£75	19509
Ms S. Neat	£75	18112
Major B. Johnson	£50	01383
Mr A. D. Nicol	£50	19264
Mr J. G. Simpson	£50	06153
Mr N. Varley	£25	04320
Major S. M. Armitage	£25	06289
Canon Roy Matthews	£25	15302
Lt Col T. J. Nicholson	£25	19282

Readers will be aware that after deductions of costs and prize money, the rest of the proceeds from the raffle goes towards subsidising the Reunion Dinner, to make it affordable for all members of the Regiment to attend. Thanks to the raffle, this year's ticket price for the dinner was about 50% of the actual cost of the dinner per head. A big thank you for all your generous contributions.

### FUTURE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION EVENTS

At the Reunion Dinner, the Colonel of the Regiment announced that after the formation of the Yorkshire Regiment in June 2006, he would continue for a further two years as President of the Dukes' Association, and he gave his assurance that Dukes' Association events would continue for as long as they are supported.

The following Regimental Association events are planned for 2006:

Saturday 1 April

Regimental Service  
in Halifax

Friday - Sunday 5-7 May

Association visit to  
1st Battalion, Warminster

Saturday 7 October

Regimental Association  
Dinner in Bradford

### REGIMENTAL FUNDS

The following overview of Regimental Funds, as at 31 March 2005, shows that our funds overall are in a strong position, with steady growth in the value of the total assets of the funds from under £1,000,000 in 2003 to over £1,200,00 in 2005.

The three component Regiments of the Yorkshire Regiment are now working closely together to ensure that the needs of both the new Regiment and the Regimental Associations of the component Regiments will be catered for properly in the future.

### OVERVIEW OF REGIMENTAL FUNDS

as at 31 March 2005

Regimental Association Fund		2005		2004	2003
TOTAL ASSETS		£714,808		£618,814	£532,237
<u>Main Income</u>			<u>Main Expenditure</u>		
Investments /Interest	16,780		Benevolence	15,652	
Donations	41,755		ORs Recruiting /Retention	4,337	
			Other Trustee Grants	7,185	
			Regimental Events	3,014	
			Loss on Stock Revaluation	5,567	
			Admin /Post /Misc	4,458	
			Excess of Income	24,909	
<b>Friends of DWR Fund</b>					
TOTAL ASSETS		£239,590		£200,183	£162,820
<u>Main Income</u>			<u>Main Expenditure</u>		
Donations	16,538		Grants	8,493	
Investments /Interest	5,810		Admin /Misc	3,672	
Anzio Appeal	8,239		Yorkshire Dinner	868	
			Excess of Income	17,762	
<b>Officers' Fund</b>					
TOTAL ASSETS		£263,508		£236,897	£195,577
<u>Only Income</u>			<u>Main Expenditure</u>		
Investments /Interest	6,558		Officer Recruiting /Retention	1,780	
Excess of Expenditure	14		1DWR Iraq Painting	4,710	
<b>Iron Duke Fund</b>					
TOTAL ASSETS		£742		£1,761	£2,418
Excess of Expenditure	1,019				
<b>Honorary Colours Fund</b>					
TOTAL ASSETS		£21,031		£16,895	£16,556
<u>Only Income</u>					
CDF Interest	644				
1 DWR Subs	3,489		Excess of Income	4,133	

### SUMMARY

	as at 31-3-05	2004	2003
Total Assets of all Funds	£1,239,679	£1,074,550	£909,608
Total Excess of Income for year	= £45,771		

**Total Investments (as at 31-3-05) £1,147,554      Total Investments (as at 14-10-05) £1,230,588**

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### London Branch

The active membership of the London Branch has fallen in recent years and the Branch has decided that it is time to move from holding an Annual Dinner to holding an Annual Lunch. Branch members hope that the Yorkshire branches will join in whenever it suits them to do so, i.e. every year! The 2006 Annual Lunch will be held on Saturday 23 September.

### Skipton Branch

*We compliment the Skipton Branch members on their active public and social life and on their regular reports on their activities. We apologise for having failed to report their attendance, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, at the Town Mayor's Civic Dinner on 11 March 2005. We will try to do better in future. Ed. Here goes:*

### Waterloo Dinner, 25 June 2005

The Skipton Branch held its Annual Waterloo Dinner on 25 June. The day dawned bright and Brigadier Greenway was up from London as chief guest, and everything was good, or so we thought. We went through the day thinking of what a good night we were going to have. Then, bang the phone went at 14.30hrs, it was Skipton Golf Club, "I am sorry Mrs Bell, but I have rung to inform you that we have had a power cut about an hour ago, and we don't know when it will be back on". Help, what am I supposed to do in less than five hours? We had 76 people coming, hoping to sit down to dinner. Panic set in, and all we could do was to sit and wait. At 16.00hrs the phone rang "Yes, we have power", said the Golf Club. So, after breathing a sigh of relief, we began to get things on the road. Guests started to arrive at 18.00hrs, not knowing what had gone on. Brigadier Greenway arrived, he was told of the near dilemma, and what a laugh we had! The night got

off to a good start; the dinner was on time, only afterwards did we find out that the Chef had taken the food to a hotel in Malham and cooked it there. The dinner went well, and all speeches were short. We then had the raffle, followed by the band which played until the early hours. So after what had started as near heart failure, ended up being a good night. We would like to thank Brigadier Greenway and his wife, Judith, for being with us that night.

### 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 2

On 10 July the town was ablaze with flags and bunting to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 2. Skipton Branch was asked by the British Legion to help in organising the parade. Most of the work had been delegated by the Legion, and everyone did their job. Troops began arriving from the Apprentice College in Harrogate, the Marines from down south; the RAF from Skipton and the Navy from Leeds. It started to look like a battlefront. People shouting orders everywhere. The Waterloo Band arrived from Catterick early enough to get changed, and ready for the off. Guests arrived wearing gold chains round their necks from all corners of Yorkshire, and some even managed to slip in from Lancashire. The guests included General Sir Charles and Lady Mary Huxtable, who was going to take the salute on the March Past with the Mayor of Skipton, Mrs Margaret Spence, and Chairman of the Craven District Council. With the Band playing and standards flying the event began. There were cheers from the crowds as the veterans marched in the parade for a re-dedication of the Cenotaph. A refurbishment was followed by an outdoor Church Service which was attended by hundreds of people. After the Service the parade formed up to march behind the Band, around town, past the saluting dais and back to the forming-up point, where the Mayor of Skipton gave a short speech thanking everyone for attending, and making it such a good day for all.



Back: Mrs J. Greenway, Brigadier Greenway, Mrs P. Higson, Mr N. Spence, Mrs M. Spence (Mayor of Skipton), Mr D. Higson. Front: Mr G. Bell, Mrs M. Bell.





Left to right: Mr B. Turner, Mr C. Battersby, Mr A. Icleson, Mr D. Higson.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH ...

**The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal - 1977.** We are grateful to all who contributed the names of those pictured on page 103 of edition 258; RHQ now has the full list.

**Northern Ireland Group.** RHQ awaits names of those pictured on page 105 of edition 258. Brigadier Johnny Walker has told us: "They were not Alma, they were Burma Company". Thank you, we stand corrected. We also wish to make our own correction: the soldier on the left is, of course, Hepworth MM. One other name has been received but more names would be helpful.

**Butlins, Filey, 1948.** Photograph on page 104 of edition 258. We have had a helpful letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Le Messurier, see page 157.

**Pontefract - 1952.** We are grateful to Reuben Holroyd for the photograph below, taken by ex-Private Maud of the Assault Pioneer Platoon, of Dukes ready to leave Pontefract for embarkation on HMT Devonshire at Liverpool on 22 September 1952. Private Maud was later wounded at the same time as his Platoon Commander, Second Lieutenant John Stacpoole MC. We hope the photograph will jog some memories.



**London Group.** The group met congenially at Hudson's, courtesy of Andy McNeilis, on 12 October 2005 and plans to meet again on Wednesday 15 February 2006 at a location which has yet to be decided.

**breathingspace** and **surfersworld** will still welcome you for their various activities on 01271 890037 or at [info@breathingspace.uk.com](mailto:info@breathingspace.uk.com)

### Far Flung Dukes

We have been delighted to hear by e-mail from Mel Hodgkinson in **St Lucia**, where he has retired after three widely different careers: in the Dukes, in the Prison Service and in commerce. He has identified Mick "Stiffy" Brennan in the cupola of the vehicle in the Northern Ireland group (see paragraph two on page opposite).

In another direction, it has been good to hear from a Duke in **Iceland** - see the letter from Ralph Hannam on page 158.

Speaking of "Far Flung", readers may like to be reminded, via a snippet from the archives from Scott Flaving, of the origin of the Jumbo and Hindoostan in our insignia:

*Extract from History of the 76th 'Hindoostan' Regiment, page 39*

In October, 1806, the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company submitted the distinguished services of the Regiment to the consideration of His Majesty the King, with a representation that the 76th was the Regiment which rescued the Great Moghul and captured Delhi and Agra, the capitals of Hindoostan. In consequence of this representation, the Regiment was permitted to bear on its Colours and appointments, as an honorary badge, the word 'Hindoostan', besides which the following notification appeared in the London Gazette, dated Horse Guards, 7 February, 1807:

"In consequence of the earnest recommendation of General Lord Lake, Commanding-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in India, His Majesty has been pleased to signify his most gracious pleasure that, in addition to the permission recently granted to the 76th Regiment for placing the word 'Hindoostan' on its Colours and appointments, as an honorary badge, the Regiment shall be allowed to place the 'Elephant' on its Colours and appointments, inscribing the word 'Hindoostan' around it, as a distinguished testimony of its good conduct and exemplary valour during the period of its services in India."

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS / \*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr N. Butler, 70 Howdenhall Drive, Liberton, Edinburgh, EH16 6UP.

Mr J. W. Charlesworth, Yew Tree Cottage, The Druce, Clavering, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4QP.

Mr T. J. Coburn, Orchard House, Bleatarn, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, CA16 6PX..

Mr J. C. K. Cumberlege, 16 Winchendon Road, London, SW6 5DR.

Mr J. M. Humphrey, 17 Alansgreen, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6SF.

Mr J. P. Knight, TD, 2 Asham Hall, Lady Park Avenue, Lady Lane, Bingley, BD16 4UB.

Mr B. Scarson, 39C Woodlands Grove, Boothtown, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 6HP.

Mr G. Templeman, 102 Ryde Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire.

Mr P. A. Wagstaffe, 1 Johnson Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 2BX.

Mr A. T. Ward, Lyndene, Bewerley, Pately Bridge, Harrogate, HG3 5HS.

\* Mr P. Copley, 30 Myrtle Road, Elland, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX5 0HU.

## Obituaries

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

### Major Simon Berry

Simon Berry was born on 21 May 1933 and educated at Warwick School. He died at Long Melford, after a long illness, on 21 April 2005, in his 72nd year.

Simon joined the Army in October 1951 and was commissioned into the Dukes in 1952, initially as a National Service Officer and subsequently converting to a short service commission. He joined the Battalion in time to go as a Platoon Commander in A Company to Korea. He remained in A Company until the Spring of 1953 when, at the time the Battalion took over the Hook position, Simon moved to Battalion Headquarters as Assistant Adjutant. During his time at Battalion Headquarters he volunteered for and undertook a hazardous patrol to the caves below the Hook position, demonstrating considerable courage. He returned with the Battalion to Gibraltar and remained with them until

1956 when he went as a Platoon Commander to the Depot in Halifax. After two years in Halifax he volunteered for loan service and was posted to join the 6th Battalion, The King's African Rifles in Tanganyika, as it was then known, serving as a Platoon Commander and Adjutant of the Battalion. It was while he was with 6 KAR that he met, and married in March 1960, his wife, Jan. At the end of his loan service tour he rejoined the 1st Battalion and served with them in Catterick and Osnabrück. In 1963 he was posted as a GSO III to Headquarters Malta, a posting he thoroughly enjoyed. At the end of his time in Malta he went as a Company Commander to The King's Division Depot at Strensall. He retired from the Army in September 1968.

Simon was not perhaps a typical Dukes' officer. At times he seemed to find it difficult to adjust to and enjoy the rough and tumble of life in the Battalion.

He was not a natural games player. He did not always communicate his very real and genuine concern for the well being of the soldiers under his command and his respect for them as well as his genuine enjoyment of soldiering. He was a great companion and added a great deal of fun to life in the Battalion. He had a pretty sharp tongue at times and he certainly did not match up to the modern idea of "political correctness"!

On his retirement Simon, Jan and their two daughters set up home in Haxby, subsequently moving to Hessle. Simon went into an estate agency business, managing to qualify as a Fellow of The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors whilst working full-time. They subsequently moved to Suffolk where Simon continued his business career and was able to develop and enjoy his great love of gardening. He became an important part of the community around Sudbury, taking a great interest in the Church and contributing a great deal to it and the community in general, without any thought of thanks and without having to be asked to undertake a task. If he saw that a job needed doing, he got on and did it. He took a great deal of pride in his daughters and his grandchildren. He even became a sports fan in his enjoyment and pride in their abilities.

C.R.H.

### **The Reverend (formerly Major) K. Gregory**

Kenneth Gregory, who died in Nelson, New Zealand, on 1 August 2005, aged 91, was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1934 into the Dukes. It was also at Sandhurst, through the Officers' Christian Union, that he discovered the evangelical Christianity that inspired him for the rest of his life.

A year in the 1st Battalion in England was followed by active service with the 2nd Battalion in India, before a posting as Adjutant of the Infantry Training Centre in Halifax in 1940. As Adjutant he opened a telegram which sought volunteers for service in Norway; his Commanding Officer supported his wish to volunteer and, within 24 hours, he was on his way to join the York and Lancaster Regiment on the fateful operation in Norway, where he received the injuries which were, in due course, to bring his military career to an end. But this was not before he had attended the Staff College and filled a number of staff appointments. His disabilities led to his discharge in May 1945 and he was then able to pursue his wish to be ordained.

His first stint as a priest, in Rochester, was soon interrupted by an invitation, which he accepted, to pursue his new career in New Zealand where, with a break of over four years in Pakistan, he remained. He leaves his widow, Philippa, and an extensive family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### **Mr T. H. Harper**

Tom Harper died in September 2005, aged 80. Commissioned from Sandhurst in 1944, he completed Royal Armoured Corps training in Catterick before joining 146 Regiment RAC (9 DWR) in India in 1945, where he served in Ahmednagar, Poona and Agra before transferring, when the Regiment was disbanded, to 1st Kings Dragoon Guards. He had represented the Dukes at rugby and cricket and left the Army with the honorary rank of Major. After the War he obtained his MA at Magdalen College, Oxford, playing for the College rugby team, and joined his family wool business in Bradford in 1950. In 1976 he obtained his FCA and joined a firm of Chartered Accountants in Ashby before moving on to join Cluttons, Chartered Surveyors, in London where, judging by the attendance at his funeral, he became a much-respected Administrator.

Tom was a regular attender at London Branch gatherings, much of the time serving also as Honorary Secretary of the Chelsea Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Genial and charming, towards the end of his life Tom did well to fight and win a battle with alcohol addiction. He was good company and was known, we later learned, to one of his daughters as "Happiness". He leaves his widow, Doreen, and three daughters. The Chairman of the London Branch, Brigadier John Greenway, was glad to be able to represent the Regiment and the Branch at his funeral in St Mary's Church, Battersea, on 21 September 2005.

*RHQ has also been informed of the following recent deaths:*

**Captain Peter Hinchliff**, ex 5th Battalion, died on 6 October 2005.

**Captain Edgar Leach**, ex 2nd and 6th Battalions, died on 21 October 2005.

**Mr James (Jim) Shenton**, ex 1st and 5/7th Battalions, died on 25 October 2005. His obituary will be published in our next edition.

### **LEGAL UPDATE**

Those who have read this publication from cover to cover may have noticed that the letters JP have crept back again after the name of your Editor on the title page of this edition. This is not because he has been reinstated after suspension, but because the Lord Chancellor has reviewed an earlier ruling and decided that, since Magistrates perform an unpaid public service in dealing summarily with some 95% of recorded crime, it is after all appropriate for them to be accorded public recognition.