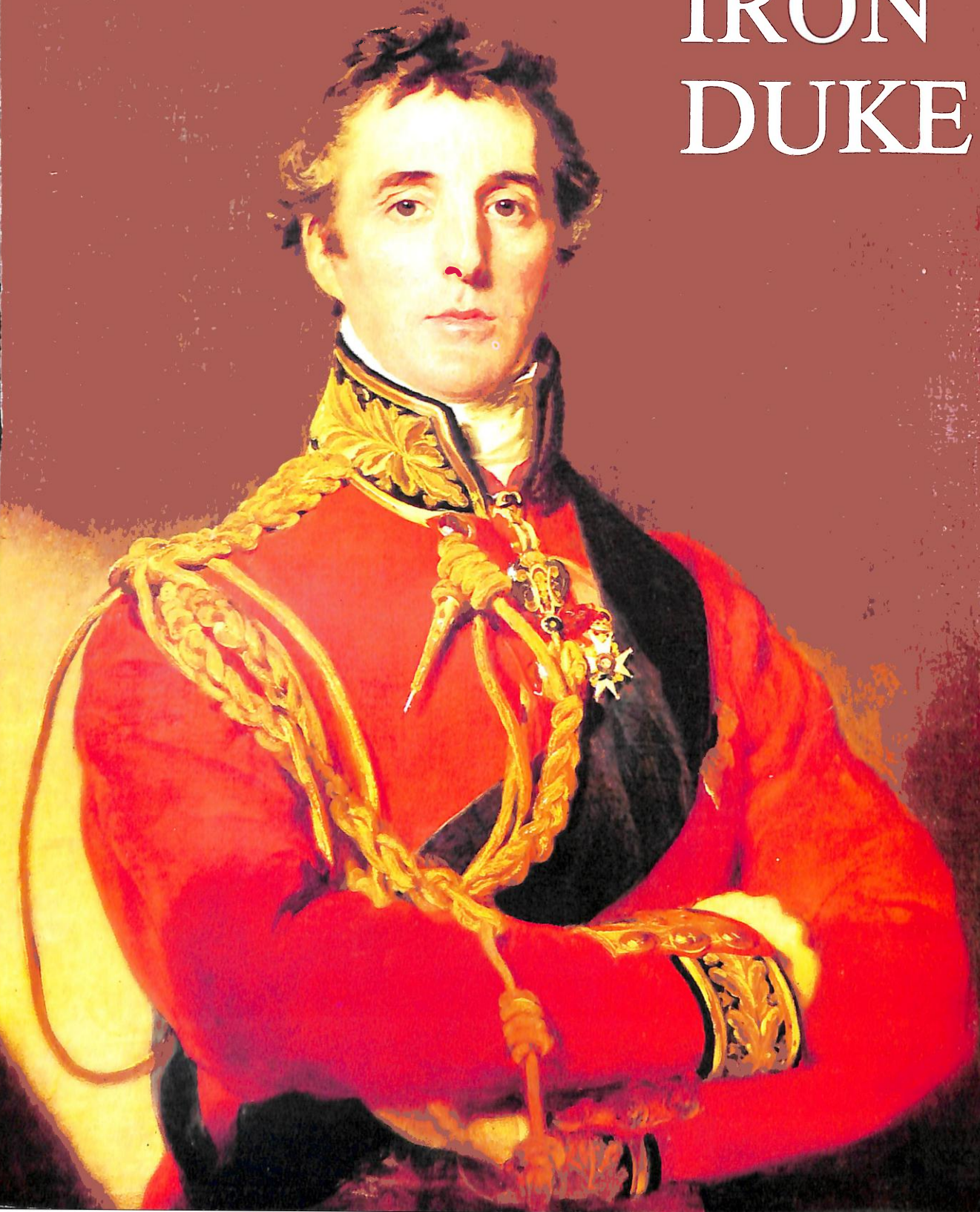


SPRING 2007
No. 262

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of
all who served with*

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suvla
Afghanistan 1919
North-West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St Valery-en-Caux
Fontenay-le-Pesnil
Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53
Iraq 2003

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BUSINESS NOTES

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Editor:

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Nicholson, Forge Farmhouse, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 2QE. Tel: 01580 712657 (office) 01580 714035 (home). tim_nicholson@btconnect.com

Business Manager:

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

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Member of the Association of Service Newspapers



Head of the Parade.



Colour Party outside the church.

No. 1 Guard.



The Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor inspect.

LAYING UP OF COLOURS

Halifax 31 March 2007



Looking down the aisle from the altar.

The biting edge of a brisk north easterly wind was softened by bright sunshine as the Colour Party, escorted by two guards of forty men each from 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), carried the colours of 1 DWR from Halifax Town Hall to the Parish Church. A good crowd lined the streets to watch the parade, and many followed on behind to join members of the Regiment old and new outside the church, to view the proceedings.

Led by mounted police officers and escorted by others on foot, with the Cambrai and Heavy Cavalry Band and a rank of 3 Yorks Drummers at their head and Battalion 2i/c Major Paul Fox in command, the parade marched down Southgate and Horton Street to Church Street, halting just short of Cripplegate to file through a corner of the church yard to form up again outside the church door.

The guards were inspected by Dr Ingrid Roscoe FSA, Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire, with the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Colin Stout and Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, President of the Regimental Association and former Colonel of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. After the inspection the Colours were trooped and taken into the church, followed by a numerous congregation.

These colours were presented in 1981 at Somme Barracks, Catterick (on a bitterly cold day, if memory serves) and were taken out of use at Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück, Germany in the tercentenary year 2002, and we have waited ever since for a suitable occasion to lay them up in the proper style. The visitor to Halifax Parish Church will find them hanging with many of their predecessors, each telling a tale of a generation or so of exemplary service in peace and war.

Inside the church the Dukes' Regimental Chaplain, the Rev Canon Roy Matthews, conducted the special service for laying up the Colours, which includes an exhortation to those who see them hanging up in the church in future "...may all who look on them be reminded of their duty

to God, their Queen and their Country..." The Rev Canon Wendy Wilby, former Vicar of Halifax and now Precentor Bristol Cathedral, gave the Address.

The Service concluded and the congregation dispersed, many to the Town Hall for a buffet lunch, and others to Halifax's pubs and inns for a pint and a chat over old times. A good day if one tinged with sadness, as it all mixed in the mind with the reordering of things and the loss of much that was familiar and once thought good. But those who saw how the men of 3 Yorks carried themselves, and the very evident support of Dukes Old Comrades and townspeople alike, know that there is much to look forward to in this latest chapter of Dukes' history.



The Reverend Canon Roy Matthews and the Colours.

EDITORIAL

New Editor

Brigadier John Greenway has edited this Journal for ten years; he handed over a stack of back copies for which he had been Editor, the first dated Autumn 1997, the fruits of his labours. In this period he has informed, advised and amused his readers, and kept us all in touch. I shall be pleased to do half as well. On behalf of us all, I thank him warmly for his dedication to the Iron Duke and the Regiment.

A brief word about the new boy. I joined 1 DWR in Hong Kong in 1969 due to the disbandment of my first, the York and Lancaster, Regiment. After a brief spell as a platoon commander I was given the ferret scout cars of the Recce Platoon to play with, in Somme Company under the late Major Mike Campbell-Lammerton, a great man to serve with and learn the business of soldiering from. I became IO and Ops Officer, staying as the latter for our first Belfast tour in 1971.

Later I commanded Alma Company in Londonderry, Aldershot and UNFICYP, still later Burma Company in Minden and Belfast. I went to Staff College and have a couple of MOD tours under my belt, commanded the Depot, and was senior adviser at the Zimbabwe Infantry Battle School. I left the Army at the beginning of 1988, nearly 20 years ago, since when I have been employed in and around London, mostly in the City or travelling in what were, perhaps still are, known as emerging capital markets, and rounded up my "proper" working life running the UK recruitment industry's trade association.

Plus ça change ...

In February 1940 the Editor of the Iron Duke wrote "The fog of war has descended on the Iron Duke.." He was referring to the strict censorship rules which had just been imposed, constraining him to such photo captions as "Somewhere in Iceland" and "A camp in South West England", and to stopping reporting on some battalions at all. It is the "fog of reorganisation" that has descended now.

In his history (Famous Regiments series, Leo Cooper 1971) of our Regiment Maj Gen James Lunt wrote "After the Treaty of Fontainebleau, which ended the Seven Years War, there was the usual scamper to reduce the strength of the Army." Any projected slack from the Northern Ireland "Peace Dividend" has been hand-somely taken up, and more, by subsequent conflicts in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. The medal rows of the young men now serving tell the tale, in sharp contrast to the very modest splashes of colour on the chests of most of the generation before them. All in favour of a Cold War Winners medal please show.

One can only hope that the authors and drivers of the new arrangements knew what they were doing, and that good comes of it. We shall see. Meantime, those of us who started life in the Yorkshire Brigade, with a single cap badge worn by officers and men of all four Yorkshire Infantry Regiments, might think that there's been a lot of bother for not much outcome.

We nearly lost the baby with the bathwater - we should count ourselves lucky to have retained so much; think of the Cheshires, Worcesters & Sherwood Foresters and Staffords, for example, who in July 07 will lose their county names to become soldiers of Mercia. Where? We have Yorkshire on our banner, and moving the DWR part of the title from the front to parenthesis at the back does not diminish our joy at the survival of a fine battalion, "our" battalion, 3 Yorks and Dukes to a man, for us to support and encourage, and we will read about their activities with great interest. A read of the Battalion's reports in this Journal tells us what an active, professional and successful unit they are.



The Halifax protest, Saturday 13 November 2004.

Round the camp fire

The Iron Duke will continue to report on the current activities of its associated regular and territorial battalions, and its cadets and affiliated units and ships, and look back at the past activities of the Regiment in war and peace. We want to print material that you, the readers, want to read.

As well as memories from world wars and relatively distant times, I hope to lay before you tales that many current readers will remember themselves and, indeed, can add to. Whilst nearly everything was reported on at

the time in 1st Battalion Notes, looking back even just five years later calls for a different kind of writing, with some reflection and the benefit of hindsight. From fifty words to two thousand or so, private soldiers to generals, I want to hear your stories, and we have some this time, from Belfast in '71, Cyprus in '75 and Germany in '79.

The Iron Duke is our camp fire; come and sit round it, tell your tale and listen while others tell theirs.

And, because a Duke is always a Duke, make sure that all the other Dukes you know subscribe to this Journal. We mail out to 700 or so subscribers; where are the rest? A tanner a year to keep in touch is not much. Please help us with this, because there is a line in the sand from June 2006, and after that date Dukes' old and bold dwindle by natural causes as Yorkshire Regiment's old and bold start to build. We'll make sense of all this one day, and remain staunch friends meanwhile, but for the foreseeable future lets keep this Journal alive and well with a healthy subscribers list. You can help; a subscription could be a welcome present for an old pal, for example.

The Editor



Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, President of the Regimental Association.

Going Forward

This edition is the first under the editorship of Colonel Tim Nicholson and I would like to begin my message by saying how grateful we all are that he has come forward to take over from Brigadier John Greenway. Brigadier Greenway has run the Iron Duke for ten years and in a brilliant and uncomplicated

way. There have been a multitude of informative and interesting articles in that time. Dukes all over the world are immensely grateful for his dedication and industry for maintaining what has become Regimental lifeline. He has indeed left a legacy of high quality.

Now the Regimental scene is very different but perversely the importance of the Iron Duke is even more important. Without several of the other strands to keep old friends together the Iron Duke is one of the main ways for keeping the "Golden Thread" of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment alive. The Association web site run by Colonel Charles Cumberlege and the Annual Dinner are other ways. I hope very much that readers will support the journal and encourage others to subscribe. Our intention is that the Iron Duke should expand its readership NOT wither as people might think. This is a real challenge that I know Colonel Nicholson is prepared for.

The new Regiment is in good order and has taken quickly to its new identity. It is early days but already we hear of men of the Yorkshire Regiment in action in Iraq. The 3rd Battalion, the Dukes as they are firmly called is in fine form and I was able recently to meet with the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Andy Pullan, who reported very positively. You can read for yourselves how busy they are. From other quarters I have heard how the "Golden Thread" in the 3rd Battalion is very much intact with our history and traditions respected and revered every bit as much as before. "After all" the CO said to me "a battalion must have its individual and unique identity as well".

My message is that these strands of the "Golden Thread" currently in focus will continue for as long as you wish. If the ID, the Annual Dinner and the Officer's Dinner are all well subscribed then on we go. If not they will go the way of so many things we value. I am resolved that this should not happen because I believe we have an important role to support the 3rd Battalion - the "Dukes" - by keeping the West Riding link alive through recruiting and public awareness.

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE,
President of the Regimental Association.

Honours and Awards

Congratulations to ...

Captain (now Major) A. S. (Andrew) Garner MBE

"Staff Officer Grade 3, Equipment Commitmnt HQ Land - the detailed management of the BOWMAN Conversion Programme has required him to find robust solutions to problems of the highest complexity and has demanded unusual levels of commitment and dedication and to carry responsibility well in excess of the norm for an officer of his rank and experience."

Lieutenant Colonel S. E. (Stephen) Bostock OBE LANCS (OC Support Company in Weeton)

"Staff Officer Grade 1, Liabilities Directorate of the General Staff - he has been responsible for implementing all liability changes as a result of Army restructuring, Northern Ireland Normalisation and Territorial Army rebalancing."



THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

Fortune Favours the Brave

Whilst the Iron Duke will naturally focus on the 3rd Battalion (The Duke of Wellington's), the activities of the other two regular and one volunteer battalions will surely be of interest.

1 YORKS (Prince of Wales's Own)

Based in Somme Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, at the time of writing is serving on Op TELIC 9 in Iraq, but should be back home by the time we go to press. The sad death of Private Luke Simpson of Howden, East Yorkshire, on 9 February received full coverage in the national media. He died as a result of injuries sustained when a road side bomb detonated close to his vehicle. We send our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. On 3 March 1 Yorks were visited by HRH the Duke of York, Colonel in Chief of the Regiment. The CO, Lt Col Andrew Jackson said "I really wanted him to leave here with the impression that these soldiers have risen to every single challenge thrown at them and they will continue to do so throughout the remainder of this tour."

2 YORKS (Green Howards)

Based in Chepstow (Gwent), is in a battalion training phase until June 2007, having been Spearhead Lead Element and carrying out an operational tour to the Balkans last year. They are engaged in BOWMAN conversion and have a move to Weeton barracks in Preston coming up in the Summer.

4 YORKS

The transition from East and West Riding Regiment has now been completed with companies based in York, Middlesborough, Barnsley, Hull and Huddersfield. They continue to support regular ops in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. This year they can look forward to Overseas Exchange Training in Oklahoma.

Some other Regimental matters that may be of interest:

Recruiting continues to be an area of considerable importance to the Regiment, and Major David Harrap has assumed this responsibility, with CO 2 Yorks taking on serving responsibility for officer recruiting and CO 3 Yorks leading for soldier recruiting. A new OC KDRT, Major Greg Peck, is in the process of taking over in Strensall and getting to grips with the reorganisation of Army recruiting in Yorkshire.

Journal. The Regiment has its own Journal, and the first edition was published towards the end of last year, with the second coming out in April 2007. The news from 3 Yorks (DWR) will be sent to both the Iron Duke and the Yorkshire Regiment Journal at the same time, so both will carry the same "Battalion Notes".

Regimental Colours. The Regimental Board approved at its meeting in December a new set of Colours for the Regiment. Most of the discussion centred on the design of the Regimental Colour. In the end the Cross of St George was chosen as the background to the Colour as this will be unique to the Regiment. Four antecedent emblems will be placed on this Colour - the White Horse of Hanover, the Star of Brunswick, the Dannebrog Cross and the Elephant. The appropriate Battalion Roman Numeral will be placed in the top left corner. Furthermore, the Board agreed a set of Battle Honours - forty-three in total - which best carry forward our Golden Thread. Although there is to be a reduction of the total to be incorporated onto the Colour it is important perhaps to clarify that no Battle Honours are being 'lost'; all of them will appear in the Army List but only some will be carried onto the Colour. The time-frame for production has still to be confirmed but we may get them some time in 2009.

Regimental Church Service. There will be a Service to Celebrate the Formation of the Regiment, in the presence of the Colonel in Chief, in York Minster on Saturday 22nd September 2007. It will be a ticketed event and further details will be available in due course. It will be open to serving contingents from the battalions, members of the Yorkshire Regiment Association and members of antecedent Associations as well. After the Service there will be a March Past and Parade through the City of York; followed by a Reception and Lunch

Finance. Part of the amalgamation involved a financial agreement with the antecedent Regiments that they would pass over in the region of £1,000,000 each to the Yorkshire Regiment. This has been done, and RHQ YORKS has taken over responsibility for benevolence. Sufficient funds have been retained for the continuing administration of the Dukes' Association and related activities.

Offices. RHQ is in the old PWO building in Tower Street, York. There are area offices in Richmond and Halifax, the latter staffed by Major Bob Heron.

3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

(The Duke of Wellington's)

BATTLE GROUP HEADQUARTERS

CO	-	Lieut Colonel A. Pullan
2 IC	-	Major P. Fox
Adjutant	-	Captain P. G. Smith
RSM	-	WO1 N. Wilson
Operations Officer	-	Captain C. Adair

Commanding Officer's Introduction

This is my first report as Commanding Officer of the Duke's since arriving in October 2006. It is also my first time of putting pen to paper as a Duke, having spent my previous twenty years of Army service with those allegedly born on the wrong side of the Pennines. In this regard it was with some trepidation that I assumed command, for no other reason than it is both a privilege and an honour to be trusted with leading this very fine unit which has a record that is the envy of many. It will come as no surprise to any of you that I arrived to find this record being stoically reinforced by today's custodians of its reputation. We are doing well.

I am also pleased to report that the Battalion is in good spirits but has benefited from something of a lull in battle since the beginning of December. The heavy rains of the last few months have saturated Salisbury Plain, which has restricted significantly the use of armoured vehicles (our beast of burden). We have not stood idle, as you will see from the Company notes, and have been able to focus on some much needed 'home maintenance'. I will report only on four highlights. Firstly, and thanks to the foresight of the Second in Command, the Battalion got back to basics and refreshed its dismounted infantry skills. This paid dividends at the start of March when we deployed en-mass for a week in the light role in support of the Land Warfare Centre. You should all be proud of what the men achieved. Secondly, Somme Company has received a boost in trained manpower and ethos with the running of the Support Weapons Cadres. It is now on track to becoming the senior company in both name and deed. Thirdly, sport is again a priority and under the strong leadership of Major Bibby and the RSM both rugby and football are enjoying something of a renaissance. I hope to report on the winning of some Silverware from both sports in my next notes, although sadly not the Army Cup for Rugby. That is next year's target. Fourthly, we have formed the Light Platoon, which is an eclectic mix of Drums and Sniper Rifles. Protected from the drain on time that is an armoured vehicle I aim to resurrect both disciplines to a high standard. The former helps glue our ethos the latter is a core infantry skill. There is much more that we have done recently. In all that we currently do my enduring principle is to maintain a sustainable work-life balance. This is not always easy but is essential if we are to retain soldiers.

You may also be amused to hear of the emphasis that I place on officer development, under the guise of officer education. The swapping of 'ball for crayon' has not been well received in all quarters and I have been advised that such stuff is not a traditional Duke's sport. I have even been called by two old stalwarts who have offered such gentle advice. Tough! Malcom Norman will be both amused and pleased to hear that his recently dedicated library to the mess has been much used; indeed, three books are reported as missing! I tease: but I make a serious point. Our young leaders, regardless of rank, face many challenges today and must be prepared for the challenges of tomorrow. Many of them will walk in harm's way and will lead men into shared danger and hardship. They must be prepared mentally and physically for both the foreseen and the unexpected. A good reputation is no guarantee of future success. In all that we do we must be certain that it contributes to developing our operational effectiveness.

Keeping this last thought in mind I turn now to the future and by this I mean initially the next 12 months. Looking forward into March 08, I anticipate that there will be little significant change to report. Indeed, as one subaltern observed, given the nature of our current role we could write many of next years journal notes now. Such an observation, however, masks something of a harsh reality. If I am to report 'mission-success' in 12 months we must guard against unintended drift. I am quite clear that if we are to take our place in a Manoeuvre Brigade in March 08 as a capable Armoured Infantry Battalion we will have to manage well the conflicting priorities of preparing for tomorrow whilst delivering success today. This is a significant challenge and we will meet it full on. The drift I refer to, however, concerns our ethos. There is a chance that with our nose pressed firmly to the grind stone you lose sight of where you are going and you change culture and ethos by accident. As the Yorkshire Regiment evolves, gains in strength, and develops its own ethos then so must the 3rd Battalion. Be reassured though that the 3rd Battalion will stand as one of four brothers in the Yorkshire Regiment and not as one of four twins. As a Battalion we will have our own unique identity and unique ethos, both of which will be inclusive to all who wish to serve in her. In this way I believe we will maximise our combat effectiveness. Our ethos and

identity does not need to be invented. The past tells us what it should be. So, mission success next year is to report no significant change: at heart we will still be

the Duke's but enjoying the fruits of membership of a broader church. It is in partnership that we will flourish. I can hear the elephants trumpeting!

ALMA COMPANY

OC - Major P. R. Nathan LANCS
 2 IC - Lieutenant B. Obese-Jecty
 CSM - WO2 Hollis
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant Bennett

1 Platoon

Lieutenant T. R. J. Spillman
 Sergeant Lockwood

2 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant A. D. Ross
 Sergeant I. G. Perkins

3 Platoon

2 Lieutenant N. R. Spicer
 Sergeant E. J. Whitehouse

Alma Company, the enemy company, sadly hasn't had many opportunities in the last few months to don our desert combats and pit out wits against another BG on the Plain. Instead, we have been busy providing numerous demonstrations in support of the Land Warfare Centre, training ourselves and, most significantly, preparing to backload our FV 432s, but more of that later.

One of the key events that took place in late 2006 was the Cambrian Patrol. A team of twelve willing volunteers, under the command of Sgt Whitehouse, began training in October. The build up training saw them training for and passing all of their MATTs as well as heading off to the Black Mountains to get their mountain legs ready for the competition.

The weather for the competition was surprisingly kind for Wales although it was bitterly cold at night. The team met at the pre-arranged RV at 0400 on the Monday morning and didn't stop for the next 48 hours. They covered 55 kms, conducted CTRs, crossed a 100m river at first light, fought their way out of an ambush and finally arrived back in Sennybridge Camp exhausted, but most importantly with a silver medal. The Cambrian Patrol is an outstanding opportunity to test young soldiers and junior commanders. It has been an experience that this team will remember for the rest of their Army careers.



Corporal Jones leads the way over the fan.



Lance Corporal O'Hara prepares for his next vintage car rally.

An annual task for the Land Warfare Centre BG is to host the Kuwaiti Staff College for a day of their annual visit to the UK. This normally takes place during the Combined Arms Manoeuvre and Firepower Demonstration (CAMD/CAFD). This year, however, they couldn't make the main event and so the Dukes laid on a bespoke demonstration for them. Alma's part in the plan was to provide a static BG capability stand. Not unsurprisingly it was another wind swept day on the Rookery but the boys leant into wind and delivered a professional insight into the kit and equipment of the British Infantry. The man least likely to get blown away was Private Hooley, dressed in the Osprey body armour. The weight of our new personal protective equipment kept him firmly rooted to the floor.

The New Year kicked off at full speed as the Battalion deployed onto the Infantry Field Firing Camp on the first day back from leave. To boost morale further it started with check zeroing followed by the fire team assessment! Mince pies and Christmas pudding took their toll on a few but the majority lugged their Christmas cheer round the two miles in the required time. The Battalion based itself out of Westdown Camp to avoid any of the in camp distractions.

The bulk of the ranges were only a short trip away along the northern edge of the impact area. It is about the highest point of Salisbury Plain and consequently bore the brunt of the southwesterly winds and rain. Despite the miserable weather the company performed admirably getting stuck into every exercise. The fort-night culminated in a live company attack on Lavington Folly which was preceded by a 10km night insertion. Once again the mighty Alma stepped up to the mark and dealt a decisive blow to some heavily dug in figure 11s.

And finally, a moment in history; we are losing our FV 432s! We will be the last 432 Mk2 Company in

the British Army. Many of you might remember the 432/30s that used to trundle around the Plain. Well, they're still here (less their turrets) and some of them still in the old demo battalion colours. They are all off to be converted into Bulldogs at ABRO Bovington. We will not be getting them back and the company will no longer deploy onto the Plain in 432s. We will instead deploy as a light role company for the rest of the year and concurrently start training Warrior drivers, gunners and commanders in readiness to become a Warrior company when we hand over the Land Warfare Centre role to 2 RRW in early 2008.

BURMA COMPANY

OC	-	Major J. R. Bryden
2 IC	-	Captain C. Johnston
CSM	-	WO2 Owens
CQMS	-	Sergeant Peacock

4 (Drums) Platoon

Lieutenant M. Wade-Smith
Sergeant (Drum Major) Sykes

5 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant H. Stow
Sergeant Anderson

6 Platoon

Lieutenant R. Douglas
Sergeant Parsons

Since the last edition of the journal Burma Company has taken part in the Combined Arms Manoeuvre Stand of the Staff College Demonstration, two Ex Wessex Warriors, two Mission Rehearsal Exercises (MRX), a dismounted Exercise Lions Strike, over twenty Land Warfare School (LWS) exercises, the BG IFFC and a company gunnery camp at Lulworth. We have deployed Colour Sergeant Hinchcliffe and Lance Corporal Swindells to operational posts in Afghanistan and the Company continues to invest in individual training. On this front: five soldiers have taken part in adventure training, including one major overseas expedition; seven NCOs successfully return from PSBC and SCBC at Brecon; one officer begins a long language course in Farsi, we have qualified 16 new Warrior crew

members; sent 13 soldiers to participate in the Somme Company cadres and a further 13 are preparing for the Potential NCOs cadre starting this spring.

Burma's focus in the run up to Christmas was the two Ex Wessex Warriors against the Light Dragoons (LD) and then the Household Cavalry Regiment (HCR). Both are formation reconnaissance regiments equipped with CVRT series vehicles. The formation rece used to be corps and sometimes divisional assets but have now been placed under command of the manoeuvre brigades as part of the concept of producing 'empowered brigades' to act as the primary slice of the land component on operations. This has meant that their training, employment and tactical doctrine has been rethought and taught. Part of this process is running them through Ex Wessex Warrior as a Formation Recce Battlegroup - made up of at least two squadrons of CVRT, a few Challenger 2 tanks, an Armoured Infantry Company, and plenty of ISTAR assets, real or synthetic, such as Special Forces, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and a suite of signals, electronic and imagery intelligence feeds. In addition, the LD and HCR BGs were resourced with some serious firepower in the form of Attack Helicopter (AH) and fast jet support.

Wessex Warriors can provide excellent training for both sides. They are fought with the Tactical Engagements Systems (TES) which is a safe laser system that replicates weapon effects, including indirect fire, and can 'kill' personnel and vehicles, and record movement across the whole Plain for later analysis.



Burma receive orders from their student OC, Exercise Lions Strike.



Captain Johnson leads Burma Company's reserve platoons into Imber on Exercise Lions Strike.

Burma Company provided the AI sub-unit for the BG against the LD and HCR. The vehicles were programmed as BMP 4, significantly improving the anti-armour capability that we are used to in the Warrior AFV.

A blow by blow account of both exercises is unnecessary, but suffice to say that the Dukes BG did extremely well and had to be restrained on both occasions by the exercise controllers who can narrow the redforce (us) BG's boundaries, reduce the availability of indirect fire support and impose restrictive time constraints so as to allow the exercising 'bluefor' BG chance to achieve their mission. One particularly memorable mission was when the whole BG used early morning fog to slip through the HCR's surveillance matrix, destroy their AI company, bypass their reserve squadron, evade the pre-planned air and AH strikes and then block the withdrawing force's escape route.

In late November and December, whilst the rest of the BG participated in the Bowman System Release Trial (SRT, see CIS Platoon article below), Burma Company prepared to work with the Kings Royal Hussars (KRH) to act as their infantry sub-unit for the culmination of their preparations for Iraq. This promised to be a fantastic opportunity for the Company to deploy at full establishment in an armoured BG being tested, rather than providing the enemy for that test. Sadly, after much preparation and anticipation, rain stopped play. Readers may recall the sardonic coverage in some papers as the delicate balance of the Plain stopped pre-operational preparation after a particularly wet autumn.

Irrespective of the cancellation of this exercise the programming of it precluded the opportunity for the Company to have a decent Christmas party. This was rescheduled for February and thanks to the healthy balance of the company fund and the hard work of CSM Owens it proved a resounding success. The whole Company threw themselves with gusto into fancy dress. An abiding memory of the evening was seeing Shrek and Scooby Doo at the bar in the Old Bell buying drinks for Zoro, a Barnsley tart, Samuel L Jackson, and a Fijian beach choir.



Captain Chris Adair (Operations Officer), Captain Chris Johnston (2IC Burma Company) and 2nd Lieutenant Henry Stow (5 Platoon).

Just before Christmas the Company disbanded 6 Platoon. This was to centralise the vehicle maintenance and make the tasking of individual commitments on the Plain more easily met by a discrete platoon. This should provide soldiers and their families more accurate warning of when they will be away, and provides a little more redundancy to allow for career and crew training. This change was also prompted by the loss of the Corps of Drums (a large slice of 4 Platoon) from Burma as they moved back to Somme Company in February. In Somme they will be blended with the BG's snipers to form a dual-role platoon providing, in time, four sniper pairs and a musical capability.



Privates Koroi, Nakia, Waqanavalu, Ravutia and Lance Corporal Naita provide some impromptu entertainment at the Burma Company party.

Straight after New Year we went into the Infantry Field Firing Camp based out of Westdown. It was a fairly wet and wild week but was a much needed and very useful ten days of brushing up on our dismounted skills. All the vehicle crews then moved down to Lulworth where Burma fired their Annual Crew Tests - for the first time in nearly four years. All in all the month of January was a great opportunity for the Company to come together and train together, rather than training others.

The next few months are packed with commitments. We have just completed a dismounted Exercise Lions

Strike which exercises new sub-unit commanders from across the Army in the all-arms environment.

Most of March is taken up with Exercise Desert Dragon, 1 Mechanical Brigade's MRX for Iraq. In April a team from Burma is taking a group of Officers and Warrant Officers from across the BG on Exercise Veldt Venture, a staff ride of the Second Anglo-Boer War.

In May the Company has a gunnery camp and a week's adventure training in Wales. In June the Company will conduct a dismounted patrols exercise and begin preparations for our role in this year's CAFD/CAMD.

CORUNNA COMPANY

OC	- Major R. O'Connor
2 IC	- Lieutenant P. Dennien
CSM	- WO2 Stones
CQMS	- Colour Sergeant Yeadon
Training Sergeant	- Sergeant E. Whitehouse

7 Platoon

Lieutenant C. Dawson
Sergeant Seviour

9 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant S. Farley
Sergeant Roper

The main effort for Corunna Company in the Autumn was the Combined Arms Firepower Demonstration (CAFD) which is part of the Staff College Demonstration and is designed to give students at Staff College an understanding of the lethal effect of an armoured infantry BG. This ranges from individual weapons and support weapons through to armoured vehicles, offensive support and engineer equipment. Not only does CAFD show the weapon systems being fired, and in some cases the target effect, where possible it also shows the weapons being used in context. For example, Warriors were not just seen firing from static positions, they were also used in concert with dismounted infantry to conduct an assault onto a position using live ammunition.

Although the Staff College demonstration took place over two days there was a considerable amount of preparation required. The two days prior to the demonstration were dress rehearsals with an ever-increasing seniority of spectator. However, for Corunna Company the work started months earlier. In April the company deployed to Castlemartin for a week of gunnery to ensure that all Warrior crews were qualified to take part in CAFD. Throughout the year the company had been making steady progress on small arms ranges but it was not until September that the first integrated attacks with Warrior and dismounted infantry took place. The company second in command, Lieutenant Paddy Dennien, designed a range package that would prepare the crews and dismounts for the

demonstration. Although on CAFD itself only one platoon would carry out the attack, the whole company was able to go through live attacks with Warrior as part of the preparation.

Lance Corporal Hunter was in charge of the Corunna stage team, demonstrating the basic infantry section weapons and equipment to the crowd, which included Officer Cadet Wales (Prince William). Two Corunna sections under Corporal Marshall and Corporal Burrows showed the destructive firepower of infantry weapons. Part of their demonstration was to show how the firepower of the section had been increased by the introduction of the belt fed Light Machine Gun (LMG). Both sections engaged a brick wall, the section on the left was equipped with two LMG where as the section



Mortar Platoon.

on the right had the traditional mixture of SA80 and Light Support Weapons (LSW). The section equipped with the LMGs demolished the wall in a fraction of the time taken by the other section. Lieutenant Simon Farley led a platoon attack with Warriors and a dismounted section. The attack was supported by the fire from three Warriors, controlled by Sergeant Sykes.

Somme Company was heavily involved in CAFD. The whole event started with a precision shoot from the snipers. The mortar platoon fired several hundred rounds of 81mm ammunition during the rehearsals and main event and the Javelin Platoon fired four missiles during the week. Javelin is the new Anti-Tank Guided Weapon (ATGW) for the infantry and has replaced Milan. Due to the expense of the ammunition and the sophistication of the synthetic training equipment, there is no live firing of Javelin for routine training. However, a certain number of missiles are fired each year for batch testing and four of these missiles were allocated to the BG to fire during CAFD.

The rest of the BG was also involved with CAFD. The Challenger 2 tanks and Scimitar reconnaissance vehicles from 'A' Squadron Royal Tank Regiment put on an excellent demonstration of firepower and the Royal Engineers Troop showed the mine clearing capabilities of the Python system. From outside of the BG the Royal Artillery fired the AS90 155mm gun and the Multiple Launch Rocket System. The Royal Air Force put on a display of Close Air Support with the ageing Jaguar. The highlight of CAFD for many people was the WAH-64 Apache firing its 30mm cannon. This was the first time that Apache had fired live ammunition on Salisbury Plain. CAFD also gave the Defence Procurement Agency the opportunity to show off the Heckler and Koch Grenade Machine Gun (H&K GMG), a belt fed 40mm grenade launcher purchased under Urgent Operational Requirement procedures for Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the involvement in CAFD was a tremendous training opportunity for the BG as a whole but especially for Corunna Company. As a result of the preparation for CAFD the company was able to conduct integrated live firing with Warriors and dismounted infantry, something that we would otherwise have been unable to achieve.



H & K GMG.



'A' Squadron Challenger.

SOMME COMPANY

- OC - Major S. Richardson
- CSM - WO2 Hallsworth
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant Walkinshaw

Recce Platoon

Captain A. Brown
Colour Sergeant Goddard

Anti-Tank Platoon

Captain M. Crawford
Sergeant Nettleton

Mortar Platoon

Captain C. Adair
WO2 Burton

Having been in the Land Warfare Centre BG role for over a year, Somme has settled into the battle rhythm of this busy day. Although the major BG exercises are programmed well in advance, this year will not be a repeat of last, due to the ongoing necessity for mission rehearsal exercises tailored to theatre. This has added another dimension to our already diverse role.

Following the Christmas break, Somme assisted in the running of ranges in support of the rifle companies IFFC package. CSM Hallsworth and I found ourselves as safety supervisors on a section attack range. For a couple of Support Company 'old boys' we were very impressed with the increased firepower that a rifle section has. The introduction of the Light Machine Gun

has greatly improved suppressive firepower and the Underslung Grenade Launcher has added a new dimension giving the section the ability to accurately place high explosives at distance. As soon as the IFFC finished the much needed support weapons cadre period started.

Finally I am pleased to announce the amalgamation of the Drums and Sniper platoon. We welcome Drum Major Sykes and the Corps of Drums from Burma. I know he and Sniper Instructor Colour Sergeant

Walkinshaw are keen to embrace this new role. All members of the platoon will be trained as a minimum as sharpshooters with the specialist drummers and snipers progressing from within the platoon. It goes without saying that not all snipers will become drummers and not all drummers will become snipers, but they will all be trained as sharpshooters.

Major Scott Richardson
OC Somme

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

The Reconnaissance Platoon began its first light role reconnaissance cadre for two years with a Combat Fitness Test and Sergeant Garbutt was quietly pleased with the standard of potential Recce soldiers which the rifle companies had provided. Two weeks in and the new Recce Platoon Commander Captain Chris Armitage joined the platoon and the cadre after successfully completing the Recce Platoon Commanders Course.

The course encompassed a variety of lessons and teaching objectives ranging from six-man contact drills, overview of armour tactics, composition of GENFOR (the generic force used as enemy for training purposes);

to more specialist lessons such as close target reces (CTR) on objectives, and observation posts; such as subsurface, building, and bush versions. The cadre also ran a live firing package.

The standard of soldiering developed well throughout the cadre and impressed the cadre instructors, culminating in a four-day final confirmatory exercise on Salisbury Plain, where Lance Corporal Brennan showed some of his sniper skills by digging in a very well concealed OP. As such the majority of the cadre passed the course and the future of the Reconnaissance Platoon looks set.

Captain Chris Armitage, OC Recce



Recce Cadre.

MORTAR PLATOON

As we approached Christmas it was time to say a fond farewell to our previous Platoon Commander, Captain Adair, and throw a welcoming party for our new boss, Captain Cataldo, who has quickly immersed himself into all things mortars. WO2 Burton and Sergeant Rowlands were overheard saying "He'll do". High praise indeed! WO2 Burton has since deployed to Iraq to instruct in the Iraqi Military College, we wish him all the best and look forward to his return.

In the New Year most of the Platoon was involved in running the Infantry Field Firing Camp which concluded in a series of live company attacks in which

the MFC's participated. Immediately after the IFFC the Mortar Cadre began. Contrary to common belief, it is not just a question of, '...rounds in the air, where do you want them!' The course was organized by Corporal Hopkinson and the squad instructors were myself and Corporal Baker. It was a very demanding and mentally challenging course of which eight of the fifteen candidates reached the required standard. Private Pickering came top of the course and was awarded the Errol Price Trophy by the Commanding Officer.

Corporal Hunnam, Mortar Platoon

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Like the rest of the company, Anti-Tank Platoon were involved in the IFFC straight after Christmas before starting their own Javelin Cadre. Concurrently to all this, the Warriors were being prepared for a gunnery package of live firing at Lulworth.

The Javelin Cadre was a fantastic opportunity to introduce this loc-on, fire and forget anti-armour weapon system to the Platoon's new soldiers and it made quite an impression on them. It is a quantum leap forward in capability over the dated wire-guided Milan system. The cadre provided a chance to introduce some new blood into the Platoon as the entire existing Platoon had to compete for a place against the rifle company candidates. At the end of the Cadre eleven soldiers from the rifle companies were accepted into the Platoon, a net gain of seven.

The Platoon is now looking forward to Easter Leave but has a busy period including an Exercise Lion Strike and Desert Dragon on which we play the enemy and civilian population for 1 Mechanised Brigade's final exercise before deployment to Iraq.

Corporal Mellows leaves the Platoon after a career that was forged in the Anti -Tank world. His efforts this year have been outstanding and he will be a major loss to the Platoon. Captain Crawford leaves the Platoon to be the Intelligence Officer and Lieutenant Denien is to be the next Platoon Commander after he completes the current Javelin Platoon Commanders Course.

Captain MB Crawford
OC Anti-Tanks



Javelin Cadre.

HOOK COMPANY

OC	-	Major F. Bibby	RSO	-	Captain L. Pearce
CSM	-	WO2 CSM Wood	RSWO	-	WO2 Burns
CQMS	-	Colour Sergeant Benson	RAO	-	M. P. Perera AGC
QM	-	Major A. G. Pigg MBE	OC LAD	-	P. R. Sweetland REME
QM(T)	-	Captain P. McNeil LANCS			
RQMS	-	WO2 Moroney			
RQMS(T)	-	WO2 Carter			

Since the last edition of the Iron Duke Hook Company has continued to busily support the BG in many different ways. In addition to the usual exercise programme the Company provided an important supporting role to the CAFD/CAMD. There was also a role for Hook and especially the CIS Platoon in facilitating the Bowman SRT. Finally, after Christmas, the Company ran the IFFC.

Along with the arrival of a new CSM, WO2 Wood, comes the introduction of Hook Company's 'Department of Steel' competition in the form of a trophy to be competed for over the year by all

departments in the Company. Sporting and general physical events are arranged regularly with a running league table put in place with the aim of establishing a winner by August leave and annually thereafter. This attempt to encourage sport, competition and exercise into the weekly routine has gone down well, with maximum participation and the CIS Platoon leading the way to the coveted trophy.

The future holds more of the same for Hook though there is much to look forward to with the chance for soldiers to go adventurous training or on Battlefield Study trips to Arnhem and Normandy in May.

CIS PLATOON AND THE BOWMAN SYSTEMS RELEASE TRIAL

Bowman Combat Infrastructure Platform is the software that Bowman runs on. You could liken it to the Windows system run on your computer. The Army is currently using BCIP 4F, General Dynamics Ltd (GD) have developed BCIP 5.0. The process for vetting this version is a lengthy one which will culminate in an Operational Field Trial (OFT) in November 2007. As part of the progression towards the OFT, BCIP 5.0 had to pass a Systems Release Trial (SRT) for which 3 Yorks were the guinea pigs.

The SRT took the equipment out of the laboratory, away from the technical specialists, and gave it to two companies of Yorkshiremen to use. However, its use was heavily scripted to create results that could be scrutinised by the development teams. The SRT was a five week long commitment in an already hectic period in the commitment diary. Weeks one and two were dedicated to installing the new software and training the users for the trial. The field trail was conducted on

weeks three and four with week five concentrating on the platform reversion to BCIP4F.

The field trial was run from Westdown Camp, its epicentre being the cinema; which was crawling with GD staff, Royal Signallers and numerous boffins. Much of the trial involved higher level tests, where the vehicles were purely being used as nodes in a network. To the users this was inactive time, and to their credit the mundane nature of the trial didn't stop their professional approach. It must be noted that when other units have been involved in similar trials they have refused to soldier due to the trials' tedious nature.

BCIP 5.0 passed the trial with some caveats, but what was the general consensus of those that used it? The functionality that it provides is impressive, but is generally appropriate for Brigade level formations and above. However, those things that we could use will help further increase the tempo of battle.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The commitments diary does not offer any foreseeable let-up to the tasks to be met, with every one requiring some form of G4 support. However life on the outside of these commitments goes on and the near future will see the Quartermaster's equivalent of a 'Cabinet re-shuffle' where a few personalities will be changing or handing over their appointments in order for personal career progression to take place. Shortly we will be saying farewell to our clothing SNCO, Sergeant Foster, who at present is attending the All Arms CQMS Course at Deepcut. This is in preparation of his pending two year posting to Strensall as the CQMS of the Army Youth Team.

A gap created is a gap to be filled and this falls in to the capable hands of Sergeant Dangerfield who will forfeit the Accommodation Stores and take over the mantle as the Clothing Store SNCO. He will be ably assisted by Corporal Malcolm who will finally escape the realm of the CQMS Stores. We also see the arrival of Sergeant Sutcliffe who will fill the Accommodation

SNCO post bringing with him a wealth of mess management experience, a vital asset on future BG deployments.

On the technical side of life we have recently bid farewell to Major John Frear, who, for his dedicated professionalism, knowledge and infectious sense of humour, will be sorely missed. In tandem to the departure we warmly welcome the arrival of the new QM (T) Captain Phil McNeil, who joins us from his last post at North Luffenham where he was QM (T) of 3 Lancers.

The Pioneers continue to be in high demand with requests arriving from all over the BG. However, no task is too tough for the likes of Privates Bolam and Inglis who work tirelessly to meet the level of demands experienced of late. As the new training season starts again in earnest we are bracing ourselves for what will be a demanding few months.

WO2 S Moroney
RQMS (M)

CATERING PLATOON

October 2006 brought the kind of challenge and diversity we have learnt to expect as the Catering Platoon of the 3 Yorks LWC BG. The annual firepower demonstration is an amazing event showcasing the finest weaponry the Army has to offer and in a similar vein we were asked to supply no less spectacular

burgers to feed the massed spectators. Over a three day period we cooked over 5,000 burgers and hotdogs as well as providing fork buffet lunches for the VIP guests. The whole event was a success and provided a great profile for the department.

MGN Wilson, WO2 (SQMS)

MILITARY TRANSPORT

Much has changed within the MT since the last journal notes were published. Captain Caine is no longer the MTO having taken up the post of RCMO

fulltime and WO2 Wood has moved from MTWO to Hook CSM. The platoon now awaits the arrival of the present RSM to become the new MTO this spring.

The platoon has established a Driver Training Wing that churns out a seemingly endless amount of Driver Theory Tests and service driving cadres under the watchful eyes of Corporals Smith, Wrigley and McAllister with very impressive results. Along with fulfilling our commitments here at the Land Warfare Centre we are also still actively contributing to Operation Telic with Private Bond just about to

return from a six month tour and Private Lythgoe about to depart on one.

All in all life goes on as before. The new training season is about to begin where the MT commitment will be just as demanding as it was last year. Coupled with the added challenge of getting our own personnel away on courses life certainly cannot be classed as dull.

UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

It has been another busy period for the small team in the welfare office. Housing remains a significant problem and the winter weather has only helped us to find leaky roofs. But the number of complaints about repairs is down and the standard of quarters on handover is much improved. The usual mix of marriages, births and family crises have kept us busy throughout the winter but we've still found time to arrange a few events.

For sometime many of the wives had been pleading for an exercise of their own. Captain Birkett proceeded to take the brave (or foolish) step of letting this happen. A list of volunteers was submitted, mobilisation papers were issued, husbands became babysitters, and the wives went to war on Exercise Virgins Folly. The temperature plummeted over the weekend and the ladies had to use all the skills they had learnt in the day to survive, moral didn't suffer though and was lifted further by the delivery of fish and chips. The next morning brought with it bayonet training - a skill that hopefully won't be used when they return home. All participants enjoyed themselves and have asked for another exercise, but next time they want it longer, harder and sunnier.



Mrs Shelley Oxley, Mrs Claire Williams and Mrs Amber Whitehouse 'in routine'.

With the welfare offices guidance, some of the teenagers on the estate have formed a group known as "Teenage Kicks", their mission is to improve the estate and help out where they can, in return they raise funds to do an activity that they will enjoy. So far Teenage Kicks has cleaned away the estate's rubbish, decorated and entertained at the Halloween and Christmas kids' parties. With the money they've earned they've visited a theme park and had a night out at the cinema.

Unfortunately many of the founding members are moving on but a new generation of teens are moving in to become "Teenage Kicks 2" and will hopefully carry on the good work.

The Christmas period brought with it another wives' event, the infamous Christmas party. A lovingly re-decorated battalion restaurant was the venue and the committee used its connections to offer some great games, prizes and entertainment. Specialist bar staff were on hand to keep the ladies refreshed: Captain Birkett, and Sergeants Kelly and Sutcliffe; and a good night was had by all. Looking towards 2007, we already have a few events lined up, such as an Easter egg hunt for the youngsters, Teenage Kicks 2 and the next wives' exercise.



Mrs Alison Inglis, Mrs Becky Levitt, Mrs Julie Hollis and Mrs Stephanie Howarth prepare for the assault!

ROYAL ENGINEERS TROOP

It has been a very rewarding year for the Royal Engineers Close Support Troop. Like A Squadron IRTR we too were very interested to see what the new infantry battalion would be like. The Troop was established in 1993 to support what was then the Warminster Demonstration Battalion and since then the Troop has seen the Infantry Battalions come and go. When the Dukes arrived they at once were extremely keen to engender a BG ethos and made the whole Troop feel very welcome.

The Troop provides the BG most of the capabilities that a full RE Close Support Squadron would provide, but with an establishment of only 42. Yes that does mean at present, we are still 'the tinkers' coaxing the aging fleet of Chieftain AVLB's and AVRE's into life; but not for long. We will soon have brand new AFVs in the form of Titan and Trojan with their vastly improved capabilities. We should see them in November just in time for the wet weather restrictions to be imposed and the rotation of the role to 2 Welsh!

The Troop not only supports the BG on Salisbury Plain but also has to maintain the Combat Engineering skills of its soldiers. In the last year we have had a very

successful demolitions day in Casterley demolitions pit. A week in June was spent in sunny Weymouth practising Aerial Ropeway, Bridging, Watermanship and a bit of low level adventurous training. In August the Troop including Private Takape from Alma Company went on a walking expedition to the Picos De Europa in Northern Spain.

The Troop has taken a full part in BG life and in the past year has been represented in many Dukes sporting teams. Lance Corporal Farquhar has been a continual presence in the extremely successful football team and up to seven members of the Troop have played in the Hindoostan Rugby team. The inclusion of 124kg Sapper Crawford in the Regimental Boxing Evening should result in the most keenly awaited and supported fight of the night. The Troop has also competed in the Corps Cross Country Championships.

The year has been a very rewarding one for the Troop as part of the BG. Over the coming years as the Troop will be a lodger in Battlesbury Barracks and hope to continue the strong working and social relationship with the Dukes.

Captain Ian Pilbeam, Troop Commander



Captain Pilbeam and his RE 'survey' party in the Picos De Europa, Spain.

OFFICERS' MESS

The day to day running of the Mess was taken over by Sodexo Defence Services, so for the first time we no longer have a military mess manager, nor, after a short bedding in period, any military mess staff. Although the idea of a contract run mess was initially met with some scepticism, early indications are that it is working very well. The mess committee still has an important role to play with direction and auditing, whilst the day-to-day administration is left in the hands of professional staff.

On the social front the mess has been busy, albeit within the limitations of almost constant exercises. In September we sat down to a black tie dinner and casino evening. Lieutenant Colonel Lewis's dining out in October was the first event run jointly between the military and Sodexo staff and by Ladies Night in December Sodexo were on their own. In January the officers of A Squadron 1st Royal Tank Regiment

organised an outstanding Burns Night. The officers of the 3rd Battalion re-kindled the Scottish ancestry of 76th of Foot and much whisky flowed making the Scottish dancing a more spirited affair. In February the mess played host to the Great Britain Polocrosse Team as part of a team-building event prior to their participation in the World Cup in Australia.

Forthcoming events include an Airline Party, Fathers' Dinner Night, a summer party and a Battle of the Hook Dinner Night of particular significance to the BG as the Hook is a shared battle honour with the Royal Tank Regiment.

The annual end of the year clash between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes saw the latter yet again victorious in the football (by some considerable margin). Honours were even in the skits with WO2 Schofield winning the Andy Capp and Captain Lee Pearce winning the Rupert.

P.M.C.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The weeks running up to Christmas leave were somewhat hectic with Mess members out on the area covering many exercises yet we still managed to run a whirlwind of Mess parties and the odd impromptu gathering. First it was the 'Robbie Williams' theme night, followed by an outstanding turn out for the Christmas Ball which left all Mess members in high spirits and ready for the annual 'Rupert and Andy Cap' awards between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, and in which I had the honour of winning the Andy Cap award! After a long day, a late night and, in some cases, an early morning of drinking, it was time for leave.

With 48 Mess members now living in, we are able to hold a theme night at least once a month. These have proved very popular and have produced an incredible array of costumes on show. This number of livers-in also provides an unending stream of quick witted banter at just about every meal time.

The winter's round of promotion board results have provided another set of opportunities to celebrate in the Mess. Huge congratulations must first go to the RSM WO1 N. S. Wilson on his selection for late entry commission; congratulations also to WO2s Paul Smith

and Grant Stevenson on their being selected for promotion to WO1. Staff Sergeant Tuck RE and Colour Sergeants Burns, Simms and Yeadon also get our congratulations on their promotion to WO2.

On a much sadder note the Mess said farewell to a number of its members, WO1 (GSM) McCabe, WO2 D. Cole, Colour Sergeants Goodall and Smith who have now left the Army after completing 22 years or more service. We also pass on our wishes and good fortunes to Sergeant P. O'Donnell who has moved on to what will undoubtedly be a challenging and exciting few years.

With a new Mess committee now in place we plan to hold a number of functions. The first will bring back a few memories, as we will be holding 'Fathers and Brothers' night. This should be an outstanding weekend with the first parade being in the bar Friday night for a happy hour followed by a short sharp wake up call from the RSM on the drill square on Saturday morning. A Regimental Dinner on Saturday evening will send everyone home with memories that will match their hangovers.

WO2 Schofield, PEC

DUKES' RUGBY

Rugby is core to the Dukes. This season has seen a huge step in conveying that to the rest of the Regiment and the wider, rugby playing Army. There are currently more than sixty named rugby players in the Battalion who have served us well in producing two competitive sides that have played good quality rugby and, as importantly, enjoyed themselves in the process.

The 1st Team have used this season to rebuild. The management has fought hard to provide regular, competitive fixtures for the team to develop before playing the critical Army Cup games. Sadly the first of these games came too early in the season and the team made the journey to 23 Pioneer Regiment unfit and unprepared, losing disappointingly 10 - 5. At the time we did not know how important this lame defeat would be though we set the goal of winning the remaining two cup fixtures against the recent Army Cup Champions 1 RGBWLI and 1 Scots.

The team had developed well by the time the RGBWLI came to Warminster. The Dukes' forwards were dominant throughout forcing a dramatic 5 - 3 victory to leave us with only last year's champions to beat in order to progress to the semi-final.

The 1 Scots' game was met with eager anticipation on a rain-soaked pitch that would suit our formidable forwards. The Battalion, out in force on the touch line, witnessed a titanic struggle with the Dukes leading throughout the game before the referee cruelly awarded the visitors a penalty try five minutes from the end to hand them the game 15 - 16 and dash our hopes of progressing to the next round.

There are many players worthy of praise so far this season but most impressive has been the power house second row partnership of Sergeant Peacock and

Captain Pearce who have been ever present and indomitable. Special mention must also go to Private Ramwell who has matured this season into a fullback with much promise.

To date the Hindoostan team has played five fixtures with numerous others to be played before the end of the season. An impressive win against a Defence Academy side has been the highlight of the playing season. Perhaps the highlight of the social season was seeing WO2 Hallsworth wearing the (not the) Man of the Match pink wellington boots in the bar after the game against Bristol UOTC. The Hindoostan team has been useful in developing and in some cases introducing soldiers to rugby. This is vital if the Battalion is to remain at the very top of the Army rugby fraternity in the years to come. The show case game for the Hindoostan will come on 29 April at Aldershot stadium where, as part of the celebrations for the Centenary year for the Army Rugby Union there will be a re-enactment of the 1907 Army Cup final to be played between the Dukes and an Engineer Regiment. Long shorts and doggy moustaches are on order.

There have been significant advances in Dukes' rugby so far this season, not least the opening of the hugely popular Sports Bar which houses much of our memorabilia. The advent of a Sergeant Major of rugby has been key to strengthening the club and WO2 Flitcroft must be congratulated on his tireless work in ensuring that the club works smoothly and with the style that such a famous establishment should exude. He moves on now but on behalf of all the players and those involved in Dukes' rugby I would like to thank him and wish him the best of luck in his future posting to the 1st Battalion.

There is plenty more to look forward to this season with many games for both teams, a 7s season, a trip to Cyprus to participate in the Akrotiri 10s, the start

of our defence of the Army Rugby League Cup but, disappointingly, not the much anticipated clash with the 2nd Battalion.

Major F. Bibby, OC Rugby

DUKES' FOOTBALL

This has been a great season so far for Dukes' football. Having moved from Germany some fourteen months ago we were unable to compete to any real standard, due largely to the Arms Plot falling in the middle of the season and the resultant reticence of the governing bodies to allow us to enter a league as a result of the mid-season move. This said we did some really hard preparatory work last season which is now bearing fruit. In 2005 I explained to the squad my three year plan - they obviously didn't listen as they are currently one year ahead of it!

So why all the excitement? What is the difference this season? First, we have players who enjoy what they are doing, who are willing to learn and who encourage others to get involved. Second, we have a loyal following of supporters, even if some did just wander across from the rugby field to watch a ball roll in a straight line. Third, we have the support of the BG hierarchy in releasing players to train and play. I fear this may sound like bragging, but a comparison of last season to this one should make the point:

2005-06

PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	GOALS FOR / AGAINST
10	5	2	3	46 21

2006-07 (so far)

21	20	0	1	70 16
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After these notes were submitted, the Dukes XI beat ITC Catterick on 28 March in a tight match that was 1-1 at full time, 2-2 after extra time, and won the Infantry Cup on penalties. Well done!

We are in pole position in 5 Division Premier League by some fifteen points, we are in the semi-final of the Major Units Cup and in the Semi-Final of the Infantry Cup. One of our best wins during this campaign has been beating Warminster Town FC, a professional side of players who are paid to play in the national league. Funnily enough the local newspaper did not mention the 1-0 score in their write up! We have beaten a few former Army Cup Champions and two of this year's quarterfinalists, in addition to our friendly against the 2nd Battalion, 6-2 to us if you were wondering!

The team has a nucleus of infantry players: the long-standing infantry goal keeper Corporal Collington has had an outstanding season so far, playing in the net for the infantry but centre half for us. Other infantry players are Corporal Jones, Corporal Gill, Privates Shinn and Reynolds. Also of note is WO2 Dave Schofield who may be too old for the infantry squad but based on his performance with the Dukes he would make the team if I were coach!

Our main aim this season remains the Infantry Cup, we contest the semi-final on 16 March '07 so by the next edition that cup should be in BGHQ. Next term we shift focus to the Army Challenge Cup, the holy grail of army football. It is hard work for any single infantry battalion to make headway against the depth of players found in large trickle posting corps teams but I am truly optimistic about our chances next season.

WO1 RSM N. S. Wilson, OC Football

OPERATIONAL MENTORING IN AFGHANISTAN

In 2006 the Afghan Government invited British Forces to deploy to the south western province of Helmand with a mandate to provide stability for reconstruction. In the opinion of the then Secretary of State, this was perhaps supposed to be achieved 'without a shot being fired'. Scrambled together amongst the mobilisation of the fighting force was the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT), designed to work alongside the Afghan National Army (ANA) in the coalition's attempts at Security Sector Reform (SSR).

After a pre-deployment training package, a spot of leave, a haircut and a few impulse buys, I found myself in command of a seven-man OMLT at Brize Norton. Once in theatre we found ourselves amidst a flurry of activity in the hastily built Camp Bastion. As plans were rolled out, changed, then rolled out again, two competing concerns became apparent. The emphasis was to facilitate the movement of hundreds of newly-trained ANA soldiers to their new bases in Helmand where they would work alongside their OMLT. However, there were real concerns about deploying

OMLT alongside the AMA in isolated and dangerous locations, given their limited size and capability.

After much uncertainty my team, No.3 Company, was told to prepare for deployment. The next few weeks saw some real developments. It was decided to occupy politically crucial outstations in the north of the province. My team set about conducting some valuable training and within ten days we had covered the basics of satellite radio communications, advanced first aid, weapons drills and media training. During the media training package I was reassured by one burly NCO of mine who, when confused by the simplicity of the question as to what he would do if attacked, simply furrowed his brow and stated 'win the fire fight'!

After a protracted session of every soldier's favourite game - 'on the bus, off the bus', my team was split. Lance Sergeant Little and I, together with our hastily prepared Afghan soldiers, squeezed onto a Chinook and lifted off for the small town of Nowzad, coalition population - nil. We were attached to a large platoon from B Company 3 Para that had been reinforced by sections of their support weapons platoons.



Capt Toby Smart and members of the Op Mentor and Liaison team.

The insertion is something I will always remember. The journey across desert tracks and ominous red mountains suddenly took a more urgent tone after news that the landing zone had not been secured as planned was passed back from the loadmaster. Dropping to low altitude for the approach, and with the clichéd tones of Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* in my head, we touched down and in a whirlwind of sand and noise to be met by the welcoming sight 3 Para Patrols Platoon in all-round defence. After three hours of negotiation we were allowed to patrol into the town. Tiny children cycled on bicycles too big for them or scurried along beside us chattering away and showing off the only two English words they knew. Our base was the Nowzad police station compound; our presence an important expression of Kabul's governance of its wilder regions. If Nowzad was taken by the Taleban then the Governor of Helmand, and ultimately President Karzai, would have lost another symbol of control in a conflict as much about image as actual control.

Our compound was approximately 100 metres square, with only one entrance point that led onto the main bazaar and was dominated by a central keep over two storeys that resembled a fort from a previous age. We quickly set about our routine in defence that would punctuate our time there. My squad of Afghan soldiers were given a bare but comfortable room, though they slept outside due to the heat. Defence stores were put to use and sandbags grew up overnight making good tired battlements that had stood crumbling in the years of sun. On the first morning after our arrival, with all coalition hands to shovel and pick, the town awoke to see proper British sangars for the first time. Stag rosters were written, actions-on explained and helmet, weapon and body armour worn at all times when moving around.

Fascinated by the industry of unfamiliar men, the local Afghan police sat and took tea in the shade. By western standard the compound was unrecognisable as a police station, and similarly the policemen. After coaxing them back into their uniforms we persuaded them to take a more active role in the defence on their own compound. Nowzad's finest then darted about the town on motorbike patrols in the safer areas with Kalashnikovs slung across their backs with improvised slings.

After the initial defence was completed we began the continuation training of the ANA soldiers. The OMLT role was to mentor - a broad role. In the early days we found ourselves very much in command,

but to their credit procedures, routines and standards that we explained and established were then copied and eventually enforced by two young ANA sergeants. After ten days we were reinforced by two more of my original team and more ANA for a deliberate operation on a suspect compound on the other side of the town. That team stayed and we became four OMLT, twenty ANA soldiers and Soha-Sohail, our marvellous interpreter. Alongside the primary British force, that was originally 3 Para then Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR), we helped run the routine military operations in Nowzad, manning the front gate, putting the 'Afghan face' on British operations, and trying to keep moral as high as possible in a difficult situation.

Life developed into a pattern. We started each new day with prayers and a breakfast of tea and flat bread. Mornings were spent tidying up our areas and planning the day ahead. Lunch was taken quite seriously, and when supplies of the better rations dwindled morale took a dip. In the afternoon all those who could rested, smoked and played cards before dinner was prepared,



Capt Toby Smart in an unknown form of dress with members of the Afghan National Army.

usually consisting of rice and vegetables. Wages packets were quickly gambled away and replaced by arguments. After a gambling ban we taught them to play for press-up forfeits, which they enjoyed, especially when I lost! Each face became a well-known character and after daily sessions with the interpreter I learnt some pigeon Dari and could banter or give brief instructions. And then, as with all soldiers, their thoughts turned to home once the relief became a tangible reality. After almost two months in Nowzad the OMLT also looked forward to some time back in the safety and comfort of a coalition camp. Sadly, two weeks after my departure the town's relative quiet was shattered by a number of serious attacks on the compound, the defence against which the RGR have received much well deserved praise.

The Afghans are a fascinating people, cheated many times by history they retain genuine warmth and humour along with a reverence for wisdom rather than material achievement. I shall certainly not forget my time with them. Sadly, during our time in Nowzad we remained well and truly fixed. From 21 May until our extraction on 8 July we were unable to mount a single patrol in Nowzad less those designed to secure our base or our line of communication. The whole force was about seventy strong, effective air cover was available but only after a significant wait and the town itself could soak up hundreds of soldiers if the coalition was forced to mount a deliberate operation in it. One month later an assessment of the Taleban in Nowzad suggested a strength of around 500.

Captain T. Smart

EXERCISE COPENHAGEN CANTER

In January Corunna Company was tasked with organising a team building event for the Great Britain Polocrosse Team. As none of us had ever heard of Polocrosse the first challenge was to find out what it was. After a brief search of the internet we discovered that Polocrosse, as its name suggests, is 'a bit like Lacrosse on a horse.' We discussed the format for the event with both the team manager and the coach and came up with a mixture of physical exertion, mental challenges and general fun.

The squad, comprising of five men, five women and a management team of two arrived on the Saturday morning. They were lulled into a false sense of security with coffee and cakes in the officers' mess before being bussed to Corunna Company stores. The team was met at the stores by the Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Stones, who introduced them to the finer points of drill. After twenty minutes the team felt as if they were extras from Bad Lads' Army. They were then marched to the gymnasium for a warm up circuit, which the Polocrosse team attacked with enthusiasm, and a couple of the players proved themselves to be extremely fit. Eventually the physical challenges gave way to more cerebral activities.

After being split into two groups the team was subjected to a series of command tasks devised by the gym staff. Both groups managed to complete two of the tasks in the allotted time but were beaten by the remaining four.

The team's unity of effort was then challenged with a gun run. The gymnasium holds two replica artillery pieces that break down into a number of component pieces. These pieces of one of the guns were then scattered across camp. The team was given a map and told to assemble the gun. Once assembled the gun was then dragged at full speed back to the gym. The squad

worked extremely hard and returned the gun to the gym in a commendable time. The day ended with the team being hosted at a dinner in the Officers' Mess

The second day was more educational than challenging, although WO2 Stones could not resist a short drill period to ascertain what, if anything, the team had remembered from their instruction the previous day. The team was shown around the Corunna garages and given a feel for life as an armoured infantry soldier.



Command tasks in the gym.

The finale for the weekend was a session on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer where the team had the opportunity to fire the Javelin and small arms simulators.

Exercise Copenhagen Canter was a great success. It achieved its principle aim of providing a team-building event for a national sports team. It also exposed the team to the Army. Most, if not all of the team, had no previous dealings with the military and all left with a very positive view. Although we are unlikely to find any recruits from within the Great Britain Polocrosse Team itself, there may yet be tangible results from the positive publicity.

BATTLE GROUP PLANNING COURSE IN BAHRAIN

February in Warminster harbours little in the way of good weather. Whilst this in itself would not normally provide reason enough to depart for the Arabian Gulf for winter sun, throw in a little 'Combat Estimate' instruction for the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and suddenly we were on our way to Manama, the Bahraini capital.

In January the BG became aware of the opportunity to support the Combined Arms Tactics Division (CATD) in running a Battle Group Planning Course (BPC) in Bahrain. The BPC is a two-week course run for Battle Group Staff Officers in the UK and the BDF had requested a course be run in Bahrain. CATD were unable to provide all the instructors required and so help from the Dukes was sought and duly provided. The Operations Officer and OC Somme (Support) Company were the two lucky individuals selected to support the trip and brush up on their own planning skills.

The Bahraini Defence Forces met all course expenses so things started off well with Business Class seats for the seven-hour flight. They continued in the same vein as we were met by Lieutenant Hamed of the 1st Battalion BDF at the airport and given a hire car for the duration of our stay. After a night to settle in our first day was spent checking that everything was in place for the course to begin the next day and with meeting a number of those Bahrainis who had helped achieve that. Considerable effort had been put in to bring the 1st Battalion's Training Wing up to standard for the course. The Battalion had been tasked with hosting the course and their hospitality was to prove first rate throughout our stay.



Lieutenant Colonel Tariq Al-Jowder gets his point across.

The course was based around the British model with a Combat Estimate Workshop followed by two separate scenarios for the students to work through. Initial progress was slow as translation from English into Arabic had not been completed when the course began. Despite this hindrance the students approached the syndicate discussions in a way that would put many

British BPC students to shame. They were positive from the start and the majority spoke English to a reasonable standard. Indeed, some had previously attended British or American staff training and spoke near perfect English including more specialist military expressions. The estimate workshop itself involved setting students a tactical problem to work through in much the same way a Battalion Headquarters staff would. In this scenario, however, time pressure is removed and the process is stopped upon completion of each stage to review work completed and the product created. Each step (question) was preceded by a short power-point presentation; given centrally or to sub-syndicates. This set out to students where their focus should be at each stage and what staff-work they should be producing. Heated debate amongst the students was often the order of the day though they were less keen when it actually came to producing anything concrete from which to brief their ideas and findings.

This first stage of the course gave students and instructors alike the opportunity to assess what they already knew and gauge their relationships with each other. This was more important than it might appear due to the composition of the course: whilst the course is designed for Battalion Staff Officers such as Operations and Intelligence Officers, Battle Group Engineers and Adjutants the BDF had loaded the course rather differently. The Bahrainis take overseas courses or instruction very seriously and as such were keen to place those whose careers might best benefit from the tuition on the course rather than those who were most likely to serve within a Battle Group Headquarters.

The effect of this was that the two syndicates included divers, pilots, policemen and Special Forces officers amongst others.

Upon completing the Combat Estimate Workshop which took students right through the estimate process and the production of a plan, including the war-game, students and staff alike had a well earned weekend break, which involved a day at Bahrain Yacht Club.

Week two consisted of two more planning processes, though additional time pressure was added each time and fewer interruptions were made for presentations. More was asked of the students on each occasion in terms of the staff work they had to produce and in the complexity of the problem with which they were

presented. Indeed the final problem involved a complex mixture of traditional military objectives along with numerous post-conflict issues to address. This provided one of the more interesting moments of the course as the scenario included friendly Christians in the north and hostile Muslims in the south! Smooth talking resolved any potential diplomatic incident and unperturbed by

this 'western' setting the Bahraini's approached this problem with as much gusto as the previous scenarios. Though some of the planning in this case was initially a little heavy handed, delivering some serious rough justice on the villages, students soon got a feel for the peace-support environment and adapted their plans accordingly. The instruction phase of the course then finished with delivery of orders for this problem to an imagined Battalion Orders Group.

The Bahraini's were very hospitable throughout the trip and particularly at the closing address where all

students had changed into their Service or No 2 Dress and brought guests from across the BDF, including the Director of Special Forces, for presentations, speeches and a fantastic meal in the Officers' Mess. All students were presented with certificates and top student prizes were announced. The sincerity and ability of most Bahraini students was made quite clear throughout the course making the Bahrainian BPC a very worthwhile task for both students and instructors alike.

Captain C. D. Adair, Operations Officer

EXERCISE SPARTAN HIKE

This year I was tasked to take a four man squad to Exercise Spartan Hike, the UK Land Command Alpine Skiing Championship. The general premise of the exercise is to race in four alpine skiing disciplines, Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G and Downhill. These range from the extremely technically difficult and physically demanding, with turning gates as little as three metres apart, to the thundering speeds of up to 85 mph and the heart in your mouth as you make jumps of over thirty feet long.

There were a number of immediate problems that sprang to light. The first is that downhill skiing is classed as sport and doesn't attract the funding that some other events do. Also there is a mandated two week training period that must be undertaken, pushing up the cost still further. This led to a recruitment issue. A rash of initial interest became immediate disinterest as the candidates heard that not only would they have to pay but the amount of cash required would be quite considerable. After much cajoling we ended up with four volunteers that weren't posted, accident damaged or leaving the army before the races began. These were myself, Cfn Taylor, and Privates Stewart and Agar.

Our two weeks' training took place at the REME race training camp at Neustift-im-Stubaital. We decided that driving would be the best option and set off on the fourteen hour journey to Austria. The MT did a fantastic job and gave us a Gucci Hyundai Tucson 4x4. This made the journey a little more fun and a whole lot shorter than the standard issue Lex Defence LDV Minibus. We only had one minor drama when Cfn Taylor drove us into the middle of Brussels. It took us about an hour to extricate ourselves from the city centre and when we did we were still heading in the wrong direction. At least we got a look at all the sights on our trip through Belgium's capital.

The most exciting thing about the trip after that was the two hours sleep in a McDonalds Car Park. Once we got Austria we were a bit worried that the tops of the mountains were brown instead of the nice white snowy colour we were expecting. Luckily for us the Stubai glacier is really, really high. Topping out at 3600m there was plenty of snow for us to practice our race training or, in some cases, learning how to ski for the first time. We soon saw the shape of things to come. Private Stewart turned out to be a natural skier, soon outstripping the rest of his group and getting on the instructor's case to get promoted whereas I kept falling on the jumps. All of the team improved massively and all of us were flying around the slopes at dangerously fast speeds in no time. By the end of the week we were weaving in and out of the slalom and GS poles with relative ease. We had a mini race between all of the groups and Private Stewart won the first of his many prizes: a pair of socks!



Cfn Taylor, Private Stewart and Private Agar on Exercise Spartan Hike.

After Christmas leave we were ready for the race itself. The PRI had supplied us with horrible looking but effective race suits in the form a Spiderman outfit. Skin tight with padding in all the right places, it nearly made us look like professional racers! The difference in speed between a bulky jacket and a sleek racing suit is incredible and is a must if you want to achieve a respectable time, particularly in the downhill and super G events.

The first discipline was the giant slalom. In this event the gates are about ten metres apart, which sounds like a fair distance until you realise that speeds of 30 mph are achievable and making these turns is quite difficult if you want to maintain your speed and, hopefully, win. The race is run in two parts, and the times for each leg are added together to give you twice the chance of failure. This means the "go hell for leather and hope for the best" tactic rarely works as Private Stewart found out as he tasted snow a number of times. The giant slalom turned out to be my best event and Cfn Taylor also did very well and managed to earn a silver medal in the novice category.

After three days of the tough technical skiing in GS we moved on to the super G. This event is like the giant slalom on steroids, a single run with gates spaced about 50m apart and speeds topping out by the top seeds at about 50 mph. There were some serious compressions on this particular course, they squeeze your legs up so that your knees are about level with your ears and your behind scraping on the snow. Private Stewart excelled at this event, with far more courage than sense he stormed through the slope hot on the tail of the top seeded racers. His excellent performance meant that he easily won the novice gold medal and only missed out on the junior (under 21) gold by a few tenths of second. This is incredible, as some of the other junior competitors have been skiing for years, with months of training and several competition seasons behind them. Private Stewart really began to enjoy himself.

The next event is the downhill. The downhill is the daddy of all events. Basically you point your skis down the hill, tuck and hope for the best. There are gates, but they are about a hundred metres apart and cover most of the piste. They are there just as a guide to where the piste goes as you go that fast you can't really see. Some of the downhill events result in speeds of over 85 mph but our particular event wasn't that fast, probably topping out at around 55 mph, but it did have two large jumps on it. The first of these was a relatively straightforward straight-line drop off, the other was a rather large ramp placed on the apex of a bend. The first drop off was the bane of the bottom of the field, as they couldn't handle the landing after the thirty feet of airtime. This jump managed to hospitalise three people, with injuries varying from deep gashes to broken legs.

The last event is at completely the other end of the spectrum, the slalom. This event proved to be too technical for Private Stewart who was disqualified for missing a gate, but Cfn Taylor took up the mantle and came stomping home to earn us another silver medal. Although this was the end of the racing, more medals were yet to come in the Alpine combination, which is an aggregate result of all scores for the four disciplines. This earned Cfn Taylor a Bronze medal in the novice category, and Private Stewart a Gold, as well as a Silver in the Junior category and the opportunity to represent the Dukes as an individual at the Army Championships.

This was not quite the end of the story as we had a free days skiing just before we came home. There was fresh snow on the ground and the skiing was excellent. I was feeling great and decided to push the skis on the jumps. This turned out to be a massive mistake as I managed to come crashing down on my head. The upshot of this was that I broke my collarbone and had to spend the next six weeks in a sling. As far as I am aware Private Stewart still hasn't stopped laughing!

Lieutenant Britton, 2IC LAD

DIVING

The clocks went back, the nights drew in and the first frost settled ... So it was that Captain Gillett, 2IC A Squadron 1 RTR, and I abandoned the Dukes BG to its valiant manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain and joined ranks with the Land Warfare Centre-sponsored Exercise Trident Dragon, a three-week sub-aqua diving expedition to the Great Barrier Reef.

It would be expedient to claim that this good fortune was a well-deserved recognition of all the selfless, unrivalled hard work that we both regularly produce. However, it would also be dishonest, as both of us have mainly the goodwill and generosity of our OC's to thank, very much a 'right place, right time' state of affairs. Thus, with torrents of abuse from all messes still ringing in our ears, we met the 16 strong party consisting of a fairly even split of Officers and ORs, TA and Regular, with a variety of capbadges represented.

Much to the disbelief of our brother officers the aim of this adventurous training expedition was not just to assist in further qualifying divers and to introduce them

to wreck diving, night diving and dive leading, but was also scientific. Originally the intention of this band of intrepid Einsteins was to assist the Australian government and marine agencies in basic research on the effects Crown of Thorn Starfish (COTS) are having on the local eco system. However, once in country and following advice from our attached Aussie marine biologist Errol, this was adapted to studying the behavioural patterns of stingrays across 24-hour periods. With Steve Irwin's recent high profile death this was an interesting process, looking into a species that has been largely unstudied.

Of course, it wasn't all hard work. Another benefit of the trip was to give us a brief insight into the Australian Army, as for the period we spent on land we were accommodated and fed at Laverack Barracks, Townsville which housed an entire brigade. Australian hospitality is well renowned, and we experienced the best Townsville had to offer, both civilian and military, at every available opportunity. Indeed, acclimatising

and embracing the cultural highlights of the city centre were so exhausting that for the first two weeks it was always a relief to get back to the *Sea-Esta*, our live-aboard vessel, and head back out to the reef.

The diving highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the numerous visits we paid to the wreck of the SS Yongala. Mysteriously sunk in 1911, this luxuriously appointed passenger and freight ship was not identified until 1958, having lain untouched for almost fifty years. As a result, it has developed colonies of hugely rich and varied aquatic life, all so oversized they appear to be on steroids. We were lucky enough to see a three metre bull shark on our first descent to the wreck, and on every successive visit sea snakes, giant turtles, a variety of stingrays, enormous groupers, cowfish and many more were spotted. Marine life on the Barrier Reef (actually a vast series of small interlinked reefs) is world famous, and every character from Finding Nemo was seen regularly, along with black and white tipped reef sharks, guitar sharks and one fleeting leopard shark.

By the end of the ten days intensive diving we had all completed in the region of twenty-five dives, which takes its toll with nitrogen levels in the blood necessitating ever longer gaps between descents to increasingly shallow depths. Hence, for the last few days of the trip some R&R was certainly well earned, and the group went their separate ways, some visiting Sydney, others Cairns and Steve and I sampling the pleasures of the Whitsunday Islands.

The trip ended a day before the first Ashes test, which turned out to be a good thing, and can only be described as an enormous, unqualified success. Steve and I both left Australia as experienced BSAC Sports Divers, with some fantastic experiences and memories. It was undoubtedly a once-in-a-career trip and huge thanks



Captain Gillet and Lieutenant Douglas exploring the SS Yongala.

must be extended to Major Pete Woods RA, SO2 Arty in CATD, who organised this expedition, as well as the Dukes chain of command for releasing us from Exercise Wessex Warrior!

For further information and more photos, visit the website <http://www.triton-dragon.co.uk>.

Lieutenant R. N. Douglas
Burma Company

D Coy 4th Bn The Yorkshire Regiment

By the time that this article comes to be published I will have relinquished command of D Company at Barnsley to move on to the post of OC Infantry Wing at Leeds University Officers' Training Corps. Major Andy Cooper will have taken over command at Barnsley and I would, therefore, take this opportunity to wish him and the company all the very best for the future.

I have very much enjoyed the time that I have been in command and indeed it is fair to say that the last three years have been very busy. The fact that throughout most of this period a significant proportion of the company has deployed on operations, has resulted in shortages of key personnel on the home front at times, but it is, I believe, a credit to each and every member of the company that we have managed to deploy so many people and maintain the level of recruiting and standards of training that the company has delivered.

As I hand over the company the reality of just how involved in operations the TA now is has been starkly apparent in the recent casualties the company has suffered.



Major Mike Watson, OC D Company.



D Company marching through Barnsley, Remembrance Sunday 2006.

Private Fabian was injured and had to return to the UK following a mortar attack and then only two weeks later Private Herbert was very seriously injured in an IED attack whilst serving with the 1st Battalion. I and every member of the company wish both of them the very best for their recovery and in particular Private Herbert during his rehabilitation at Hedley Court.

On the home front the company has remained busy with the usual round of training in the build up to the year end including the Civil Contingency Reaction Force weekend at Winney Hill, Remembrance and of course the traditional Christmas weekend at York.

The new year began with a challenging field based weekend in the woods of Dalby Forrest which was just what was needed to blow the cobwebs out after the Christmas break. Subject to the funds being available to pay for training then the company has another good year to look forward to with the possibility of camp in America being available for some soldiers.

Following a promotions board held earlier in the year the promotions have recently been confirmed of Privates Wood and Irwin to Lance Corporal and

congratulations are offered to both. Also I am pleased to report that eighteen months after he first paraded at Barnsley the administrative process has been completed which has enabled Mr Goodspeed to be commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant, based upon his being a commissioned officer in the Canadian reserves. Again congratulations are very much due.

In saying farewell to the company I must acknowledge the support I and the company have received from the permanent staff. Thanks go to WO2 O' Neil and Colour Sergeant Blake for their work in supporting the training. Thanks to Colour Sergeant Richards and Sergeant Hattersley who have ensured that everything runs smoothly on the G4 side and thanks to Captain David Morris and Emma for their work in keeping the admin office running smoothly. Thanks also to Colonel Fox for his support for the company throughout the time I have had command.

I would finally conclude by wishing everyone at D Company in Barnsley all the best for the future.

Major M. R. Watson



D Company dressed for adventurous training.

H.M.S. IRON DUKE

DEPLOYED WEST AND HOMEWARD BOUND

Following on from our first instalment (No. 261, Autumn 2006) of our Atlantic Patrol Task (North) Deployment, the final four months were just as enjoyable, and as busy, as the first three!

After a short visit to the French Territory of Martinique we spent a small amount of time conducting Counter Drugs Operations before transiting to Barbados for an extended visit. The longer period alongside enabled some essential maintenance to take place as well as allowing some families to fly out to the island to see loved ones. Unfortunately our time was cut short after we were placed on stand-by to provide disaster relief for the Cayman Islands, a UK dependency in the western Caribbean. From Barbados we proceeded at high speed in the wake of Hurricane Ernesto, the predicted track of which passed over the Caymans. Whilst this did cause us to sail early, and at short notice, the hurricane eventually passed clear of Cayman and our assistance was not required.



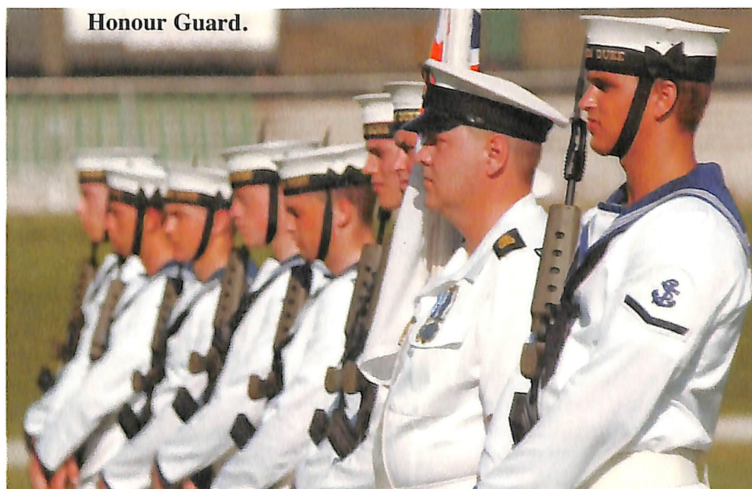
We proceeded to San Juan, Puerto Rico to embark a US Coast Guard detachment, the previous group having departed in Barbados. The Ship's Company enjoyed this unscheduled and brief stop, particularly the large shopping mall and the Exchange at the US naval base. After a short period at sea we pulled into our next port visit of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, home of Pusser's Rum. During our visit we were made to feel extremely welcome and many of the Ship's Company managed to pick up some familiar items at the 'Best Of British' store. Once again members of the Ship's Company were able to take part in the increasingly popular activity of Scuba Diving, and both our football and rugby teams were in action against local sides. We were close winners, with a 3-2 score in our favour for the football, the rugby team was unfortunately defeated, but all players displayed 100% effort. The scores were soon forgotten though as the teams enjoyed post match refreshments and a pig roast, both provided by the home teams.

Forced out of port early by the approach of Hurricane Florence, our new tasking took us away from the Caribbean as we steamed North towards Bermuda, once again making the necessary preparations onboard to be able to provide disaster relief. The hurricane passed close to Bermuda but luckily the infrastructure was able to withstand the strong winds and local emergency services were more than capable of providing assistance to those who required it. Once stood down we resumed our duties on Counter Drugs Operations before making passage to our next port of call in Basseterre, St Kitts.

During our visit members of the Ship's Company had the honour to take part in the island's national parade, which started a day of celebration throughout the island in recognition of their 23rd anniversary of Independence. For the occasion Iron Duke provided a nineteen-man ceremonial guard and a four-man colour party. Having spent the previous day training in the blistering heat, the guard, led by Lieutenant Graham Inglis and the Ceremonial White Ensign carried by Petty Officer Andrew Vinnecombe, were inspected alongside members of the St Kitts and Nevis Defence Force.

The parade was attended by the Governor General, the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, and the Chief of Defence Force as well as members of the general public. Under

the intense morning sun, the members of the guard performed admirably and even received the largest cheer of the morning when they marched past the main grandstand. This was followed closely by the Ship's own Lynx helicopter which conducted a fly past in spectacular fashion, to the pleasure of the crowd.



In 1960 Cyprus formally achieved her independence after Britain, Greece and Turkey had signed the London & Zurich agreements, laying down essential provisions of the future Constitution. But this proposed Constitution failed because the two sides could not agree, and in 1963 fighting broke out between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. British Troops moved in from the Sovereign Bases (SBAs) to restore order.

In March 1964 the UN General Assembly agreed a Peacekeeping Force, and by June 1964 UNFICYP was set up to provide an impartial military presence with the aim of establishing a stable military situation in which a political solution might be found.

It was under this new 'Blue Beret' mission that the 1st Battalion returned to the island for a second time in 1967.

The Battalion was to return again, in 1975, this time not only as a part of the same UN force, but also in support of military activities within the SBAs. As would be expected, the legacy of the Turkish invasion was still very much apparent, and there remained considerable tension and suffering on the part of those so recently displaced and affected by the Turkish invasion.

Alma and Corunna Companies were chosen to carry out the duties under the UN flag, with the rest of 1 DWR in Episkopi. The detached companies were under command of 1 RTR Group, led by Lieutenant Colonel, later General, Tony Walker, whose title was Commander Limzone.

Corunna Company, commanded by Major Alan Westcob, was deployed in the extreme north west of the island, at Polis, and Alma Company, commanded by Major Tim Nicholson was based in Polymedia Camp, outside Limasoll. A Squadron 1 RTR was based in Paphos, and between them these three units had the responsibility for the west of the island, or Limzone.



Os C Alma and Corunna; keeping cool.

While the political discussions proceeded at the highest level, all UN forces deployed throughout the island had the same peacekeeping task that the 1st Battalion had undertaken some eight years previously. This was no more so than in Limzone, where the populations were most mixed. The war had resulted in massive numbers of Greek Cypriots being displaced - for instance, the large coastal town of Famagusta, from which the Greek Cypriots had been forced to flee, was totally empty - and there were refugee camps and areas of sheltered housing which had had to be set up for these displaced persons.



From left: Comd AustCivPol, Rauf Denktash, Gen Prem Chand Comd UNFICYP, Glafcos Clerides, CO 1 RTR Gp, Lt Col Tony Walker.

Of note is that virtually all of the remaining Turkish Cypriot population in the south of the island made a living from farming, and so were very much based in rural areas that were sometimes difficult to access. They inhabited numerous small villages throughout the south of the island, and most were in the 1 RTR Group area.

1 RTR Group Company/Squadron locations were generally made up of section size contingents deployed in the hills and within these villages, often making up a form of 'gate sentry' at the entrance. In doing so they brought a degree of protection, stability and confidence to what was a very fragile peace.

At this time Messrs Denktash and Clerides respectively were the elected leaders of the Turkish and Greek sides (and were to remain so until very recently, when Clerides died). An agreement signed in Vienna permitted a limited number of displaced Greek Cypriots to return to the north, but in line with Mr. Denktash's uncompromising stance over his demand for a bi-regional state, he called for all remaining Turks to be re-settled in the north.

This task befell 1 RTR Group, and the size of the operation cannot be underestimated. The requirement was to remove some 8,000 - 9,000 Turkish Cypriots from their homes throughout Limzone and transport them to Nicosia Airport. Here the people and their belongings would be cross loaded onto Turkish vehicles and moved to the Turkish north of the island in order to start a new life.



Villagers pile up their belongings at the roadside for collection.



Loading the lorries.



Ready to move.

The tremendous task of moving this number of people from over 65 different towns and villages called for meticulous planning, but it was accomplished. Starting on 09 August, 6 villages in Larnaca district were moved for a total of 237 persons. Included in this

first move were the 34 remaining inhabitants of Kophinou village, a settlement well known to those Dukes serving during the 1967 UN tour.

On 10 August 505 persons were moved from Paphos town. On 11 August five more villages were cleared for a total of 88. On 12 August 433. On 14 August 441. And so it went on, without a break, until a few final individuals were collected on 10 September, with the last major collection having been made from Paphos District on 6 September for a total of 553.

Included in these statistics are a number of 'unsurrendered' Turkish villages, so called because access to them was strictly controlled by the Turkish fighters within them. It had been considered that there might be a problem in carrying out such evacuations, but this did not prove to be the case.

The Dukes soldiers living in these villages had built a strong rapport with the leaders, and the UN forces were trusted to ensure a safe passage for the villagers through the Greek National Guard dug-in positions that surrounded them.

It was a distasteful job. Moving families from homes that they had spent their lives in, and from villages that their descendants had occupied for 400 years and more, called for the greatest sympathy and understanding. There appeared to be very few of those moved that looked forward to a new life - whatever that was to be - in the north of the island. They were permitted little more than just a suitcase for the journey, and certainly no livestock with which to take with them to start afresh. In some cases the very old and frail could not move and had to be transported northwards by ambulance. Finally, there were a handful of the elderly who insisted on remaining; they faced a very uncertain future.

Few failed to be moved by the sight of these poor, bewildered people who were nothing more than pawns in a political game. Sometimes the convoys, coming down from the hills to join the main route, passed through Greek Cypriot villages, and the inhabitants stood silently by the roadside, some of the women with tears in their eyes, watching with compassion and no outward show of delight to see them gone. Powerful men, far away, signed pieces of paper, and it was done.



Car and passenger convoy.

The work required the convoys of chartered civilian trucks to be parked up in and around the villages before daybreak, supported by the soldiers from whatever company/squadron group the area belonged to. Trucks were then drawn up in line and the loading commenced. Most difficult was persuading those that wished to take prohibited items from doing so.

Once loaded the long convoys, often numbering well over 100 vehicles, would depart for the capital Nicosia under escort of both soldiers and the Australian Civil Police Contingent, AUSTCIVPOL, which supported the 1 RTR Group very closely throughout the tour. It was important for security reasons that the convoys remained together and 'closed up'. The result was that the trip to Nicosia airport took several hours, the average speed of the convoys being no more than 20 mph.

It was tiring work, but the task was accomplished as required and on time. As an aside, it must be said that the likelihood of the International Community agreeing to such a radical solution in this 21st century is remote to say the least. By dividing the island on ethnic lines, Greek and Turkish attitudes and positions simply became more entrenched, and the urgency for any political solution was made much more difficult and, in effect, largely removed.

But soldiers respond to the will of their political masters, and the two Dukes companies that made up a major part of 1 RTR Group earned themselves, along with all others, respect and admiration for their patience, tolerance and compassion in carrying out a very difficult job.

In describing the work carried out under Operation Mayflower, CO 1 RTR Group made note that "It has been a difficult and unenjoyable task. But the soldiers have taken it in their

stride. They have done it well and they have done it, in the words of the United Nations Medal 'In the Service of Peace'.

The tour was not without its softer moments. Alma and Corunna Companies combined their top shots to win the UNFICYP Falling Plate competition, against teams of Canadians, Austrians, Swedes and amalgams of the sort of curious bits and bobs units that accumulate around multi-national formations. A certain amount of time was spent on the beach, and exploring in the hills.

Coming up to the present day, the Editor spent 12 days in Bellapais, just outside Kyrenia in Northern Cyprus, in September 2006. There is now fairly free movement between North and South, although land ownership questions, relating directly back to the '75 clearances (in which, of course, Greek Cypriots were similarly displaced from their homes in the North) were bubbling.

Alas for the stretches of wild mountain sides, the peaceful, wandering flocks of bell hung sheep and goats in the care of small boys, tiny ramshackle dry stone villages and black clad little old men and women on their donkeys. Centuries of warfare left little mark on Cyprus' natural beauty, and the slow rhythm of its people's rural lives. The developers, North now as well as South, have not left much of "old" Cyprus, and if uncontrolled will leave none of it. But the sun still shines.

I will be glad to receive, and publish if I can, your memories of soldering in Cyprus on any of the Dukes' tours.



UNFICYP Falling Plate Champions, Major Nicholson, Sergeant Heron, Corporal Smith and Lance Corporal Downs.

EXERCISE SNOW BOOT

Captain Simon Morgan, the "Convenor" of the London Officers' Group recalls a chilly moment in his early career with the Dukes.

Whatever happened to Exercises? Nobody seems to go on Exercise any more. Presumably it is because everyone in the Army is too busy either being deployed or training to be deployed. How different from the latter years of the twentieth century when the British Army did absolutely nothing except go on Exercises.

These days even the bedding storeman is probably on his second row of campaign medals but from about 1970 to the Berlin Wall falling down the only way a soldier could get any meaningful combat experience was to get himself involved in a war in a part of the World so obscure that nobody in either Moscow or Washington knew about it. Places like the Oman, Port Stanley or Londonderry.

In those days to try and replicate combat conditions we all went on Exercise. Ah, those Exercise names. Even now at their mention I go misty eyed: Crusader 80, Keystone 82, Spearpoint 84, Boldguard 86. Titles that recall great armoured columns thundering through sun-kissed German beet fields cheered on by adoring farmers waving their Exercise Damage Chits. Those wonderful place names: the Water Sandwich, the Sibbesse Gap, the Mitteland Canal, mention them and even now I am transported back remembering that heady, intoxicating whiff of diesel fumes and Bratwursts.

However for those of us who were in the 1st Battalion in early 1979 one Exercise name is different. It is rarely, if ever, talked about and if so only in hushed tones. No eyes go misty at the mention of this name, oh no, instead try bulging eyed hysteria. No gentle sighs of nostalgia for this one; more like screams of late onset PTSD as subliminal images, long buried in the darkest depths of the subconscious, are dragged shrieking and gibbering back into the light of day. Like Armageddon it has come to be a by-word for the pitilessness of war and man's inhumanity to man. What is this name? Exercise Snow Boot.

About the only remotely funny thing to emerge from Hitler's Third Reich (apart from the words to Colonel Bogey) is Hermann Goering's statement that whenever he heard someone mention the word 'culture' he immediately reached for his Luger. I know exactly what he meant. I have the same feeling whenever I hear someone, especially a person of high rank, announcing that they have just had a good idea. This idea is invariably the midwife to a homicidally dangerous military stunt and sure enough Exercise Snow Boot began as a good idea spawned by GOC 4th Armoured Division.

He had rather moodily observed that, despite the ominous presence of 3 Shock Army just over the Inner German Border, all his troops seemed to have adopted a highly formulaic 18th century campaigning regime. They only ventured out to train in Spring and early

Summer until they ran out of tracks, track mileage and REME Fitters. By then it would be August and with the arrival of the children back from English boarding schools and everyone would flit, like swallows, to the South of France.

Autumn was for TEWTs; great coach loads of officers wearing green wellingtons and grasping Cromachs or thumb sticks in one hand and huge map cases in the other would invade the German countryside to stride purposefully about shouting "Seen" at the top of their voices followed by a motley collection of dogs. Then came Winter. Winter was definitely not for training, well not military training anyway. It was to be spent lounging around the Bavarian ski slopes drinking gluwain and perfecting one's parallel turns until moving to Tignes for the Army Downhill Championships. The prevailing view was that Ivan would not dare to invade in Winter, too busy in the turnip fields.

But GOC 4 Division had heard somewhere that Ivan actually handled Winter rather well and that there was a surfeit of turnips at the moment. So how would those cosseted popinjays in his Division fare if they did invade in Winter? To find the answer to this he had a what he thought was a good idea. All 4 Division units were to conduct a dismounted cold weather warfare exercise during the Winter of 1978/1979. Exercise Snow Boot was born.

I first heard about this grim news from the 1st Battalion Adjutant who kindly wrote to me outlining the special treats in store when I joined the Battalion in February 1979 from Sandhurst. It seemed to me, raw and naive from the Rupert Factory, a fantastic opportunity. It took a more thoughtful friend to sow the first doubts.

"I thought the Dukes were a Mechanical Battalion?" he asked. I told him that was right.

"Then why Snow Boot?" He inquired. "Surely Snow Track would be more appropriate? Or even Snow Wheel but Snow Boot, that sounds a bit like hard work." I had to admit he had a point.

Another worrying development was the weather in the early part of 1979. Many of you will either have been too young or too sensible to have needed to worry about it but the Winter of 1978 and 1979 was a micro Ice Age. The epicentre of this sudden glaciation was in the middle of Germany, in the Harz Mountains to be precise, and where was Exercise Snow Boot to take place? In the Solling Forest (soon re-christened the Sodding Forest), and where was that? Yup, the Harz Mountains.

I will not attempt to explain the truly Byzantine structure of the Exercise. Suffice to say that it involved dropping platoons of Dukes in remote areas of the Forest that by then were accessible only by helicopter or dog sledge. Before we deployed we had asked if any special Winter Warfare equipment would be provided. To our surprise and genuine excitement we were told that there were some specialist stores available and these had been indented for and would be arriving soon.

We had all seen those recruiting posters. Snow bronzed and grim visaged Arctic troops swishing like the Heroes of Telemark across the icy Tundra on state of the art ski equipment and pristine Arctic ammo. This was what we wanted. Then the stores arrived.

To say that they were a disappointment would be a lie. To say that they were the source of hysterical and incredulous laughter would be nearer the mark. There was a cammo suit alright, but it came in one size only, huge, and looked as if it had been cut and stitched in the dark from the remains of a condemned bell tent. Most were so filthy they were hardly white at all.

But it was the second 'specialist' item that really started us wondering which Army we were serving in, the British or Fred Karno's. It was a string vest; yes, you read right; a string vest. Like the cammo suit it came in one size but in contrast to the suit the size was micro. It had been crotched (*I tentatively offer "crocheted" here, but am not entirely clear on the meaning you wish to convey - Ed*) out of the sort of string that horny handed sailors get horny handed on. We puzzled over their use; they were completely unwearable by anybody of normal size so we eventually assumed they must have been made for a battalion of dwarfs. When and under what circumstances such a battalion was raised and what happened to them was unknown to us but at least we knew where their vests were.

So that was it. We were to be dropped in the middle of a snowy waste colder than Pluto with only our feet for transport and just a dirty canvas suit and the rest of our issue kit which had all the insulating qualities of wet bog paper to keep us from freezing to death. Dropped was the operative word. When the helicopter alighted on my particular piece of snowy waste I assumed that because its wheels were resting on the powdery surface it was hard enough to stand on. Wrong! When I leaped out of the side door aiming to sprint off to the shelter of the trees I sprinted nowhere. Instead I disappeared into a six foot drift, we all did. It took us about an hour to literally dig our way the two hundred yards to where we were going to set up our patrol base.

However, Arctic as the conditions were, they had one final little trick to pull on us. On the first night, just after we had dug our shell scrapes in the thick snow it started to rain. The temperature rose and a mini thaw began. Then at about three in the morning the temperature plummeted, the mercury bursting through the bottom of the bulb. It became so cold that it made the dark side of the moon seem like Cancun. The truly awesome implications of this only became clear when daylight eventually broke and I tried to move.

At first I thought that I had suffered some sort of seizure. Try as I might to move my limbs seemed pinioned. Then there was a cracking snapping sound and I managed to raise an arm. More creaks and groans and I managed to sit up. I looked down. With a shock I realised that my cammo suit had frozen completely solid. The heavy canvas, saturated by last night's rain, had turned into marble.

Then I picked up my webbing. It was also frozen rigid. I struggled into it and then tried to fasten the belt clip. With a sound like a pistol shot the two ends broke

off as if they were dry twigs. Whilst I was contemplating the two ends in my hands the Platoon Sergeant appeared.

"Sir, you'd better go and check on the sentry." He pointed to where the sentry was posted at the patrol base entrance. I could see a figure lurking in the trees

"Who is it?" I asked.

"Private B***." He replied. I walked over and noted that B*** had his back to me, the hood on his cammo suit over his head and was leaning against a fir trunk. I called to him but he did not move. Somewhat irritated I walked round to confront him face to face. I had a nasty shock. There was no face, in fact there was not anything. The hood stared back at me completely empty. Although it and the rest of the suit was filled as if with a body but there was no body inside. Somehow he had extricated himself from it and being frozen solid it had retained his shape. I looked at the Platoon Sergeant.

"Er where is he?" He shrugged. Somebody else volunteered an opinion.

"He won't get far."

"Why?" I demanded.

"Because he is wearing about seven pairs of socks and can hardly walk."

Before I could take this any further there was a commotion at Private N*****'s basha. We rushed over to join a group staring down in consternation into his shell scrape. We looked down too. It was another nasty shock.

With the rain and the thaw last night N*****'s shell scrape in which he was lying in his sleeping bag had filled with water. When the temperature dropped, the water had frozen into ice with N***** now imprisoned in it. He stared up at us like some hapless Ice Age relic entombed in a glacier. It took half an hour for us to hack him out with an entrenching tool.

This was serious. One of my soldiers had apparently vanished whilst another had become a living ice sculpture. Whilst I was contemplating the implications of all this I could hear the radio traffic. The Exercise was using an all informed net. Somebody from a Burma Company platoon came on and requested a CASEVAC for a case of hypothermia. Once that had been dealt with what then followed was extraordinary. Clearly this was what everybody had been waiting for, someone to be first, because from then on there was a steady procession of CASEVAC requests. It soon became clear that whatever the object of the Exercise was it had now changed to a desperate struggle for survival.

I reported B***'s disappearance and was told that he had fetched up at Battalion Headquarters. Since this was not far away I was to go and pick him up straightaway. I told the rest of platoon HQ to get ready. We had to wait whilst the runner thawed out his boots over a hexi burner so that he could put them on and then we set off, wading through the drifted snow that had now become even more impenetrable.

Battalion Headquarters had brought its APCs. This was just as well as the doctor, faced with the sudden influx of mass casualties, had to quickly improvise a

treatment centre. With admirable practicality he rigged up a sort of instant cold therapy. Two twelve by twelve tents were put together and by cunning use of ponchos and cam nets to form a duct, hot air from the vehicle louvres was piped into them.

As the steady procession of frozen Dukes arrived they were told to strip down to their draws Dracula and were then marched around the inside of the tent by the Provost Sergeant whilst their sodden clothes were hung up to dry on hastily created lines that were strung in the tent roof. These soon started to steam in the intense heat that quickly built up inside.

By the time I arrived there were already about twenty hapless souls trudging round and round in the hot steamy interior. It was a surreal image; like a scene from *Midnight Express*. The steady plodding beat of boots on the floor, the Provost Sergeant calling the time, and the long procession of bodies in their green Army issue non comms emerging out of the steamy darkness of the tent interior. Every so often the Provost Sergeant would bark: "About turn!" And they did to plod wearily in the opposite direction.

TWO BROTHERS CORNWALLIS

Charles Curry has nearly completed his book about these remarkable brothers, and in this article gives us a flavour of their achievements and, in the case of the General, of his extensive connections with our Regiment in America and India.

General the 2nd Earl and 1st Marquis Charles Cornwallis, for forty years the Colonel of the '33rd', perhaps is mainly recalled for the event at Yorktown in October 1781. For this he has often been unjustly criticised. He opposed governmental attitude to the colonies, but his loyalty to the Crown compelled him in his duty to serve.

He was the most aggressive British general in America, his tactics bringing him the plaudits of those who served with him. His great support there was his own Regiment, the 33rd, with the redoubtable and brave Lieutenant Colonel Webster in command. The Earl's tactical abilities came from what was, in those days, a sound military training. He was commissioned in December 1756 to the 1st Foot Guards; from then on he traveled to the Turin Military Academy for a course which was more than many young officers undertook. He then took himself to Germany with Prince Ferdinand, but was soon to be with Lord Granby, as his ADC, after Minden.

He became a captain in the 85th Foot and by 1761 as Lieutenant Colonel in the 12th Foot had fought in several engagements as a regimental commander. At 24, when his father died and he succeeded to the Earldom, he had served continually and fought in the Seven Years war, considerably more than many other young officers. In 1765 he was appointed as Colonel of the 33rd Foot.

As well as his American experiences he had a very distinguished record in India and Ireland, where his negotiating skills, attention to details and his upright

I found B**** hobbling along in his seven pairs of socks squeezed into boots that had shrunk in the sudden exposure to heat. He was overjoyed to see me and begged to be allowed back. Freezing to death in the patrol base was much preferable to this grim nightmare.

On our return to the patrol base we gave up the tactical bit, built a huge log fire and tried to keep warm. Morale was raised briefly when a rumour went round that the QM had broken out the rum ration but it never seemed to get to us. We consoled each other with that old exercise favourite:

"They've got to knock it on the head soon. This is just ridiculous." And indeed they did when there were more casualties than participants.

It was a strange rag tag band of bodies that struggled out of the forest to the Battalion RV to be picked up at the end. We looked at each other, hollow eyed with fatigue and cold and began to realise what Napoleon's retreat from Moscow must really have been like.

Oh and the answer to the GOC's question: could a unit operate without proper kit or vehicles in sub zero conditions? No, pity nobody told him that at the outset.

attitude to government and administration won him many admirers. His first period as Governor General of India was marked by key legislation to rid the country of vice and corruption within the East India Company and its work, and to consolidate the British position with the support of his brother, William.



General Charles Cornwallis.

In India, the 76th Regiment, later to become the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, campaigned with the Earl, the new 76th being specially raised for that purpose and taking part in the 3rd Mysore war against Tipoo.

He was made Viceroy of Ireland in 1797 and with Lord Castlereagh steered through the act of Union. They strongly campaigned for Catholic emancipation but did not prevail. Had they done so, the consequent years in Ireland might have been less troublesome. He was the key figure for Britain and signed the Treaty of Amiens. A second period as Governor General in India beckoned. He died in service in India and today his memory is preserved at Ghazipur in a well kept monument

He was not alone in the Cornwallis family for giving service to the country. The whole family tradition from 700 years before then was based on service, and in the previous generation had provided two other brothers, Edward another General, the founder of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Frederick an Archbishop of Canterbury.

Then there was the Marquis's brother, Admiral William, the Commander-in-Chief of the Channel Fleet which prevented Napoleon invading England and provided the basis for Nelson to win at Trafalgar, who had an equally distinguished record of service in the navy from the age of eleven.

His fine tactics in several engagements over many years saw off superior French fleets, and he was responsible with his brother Charles, for the expansion of British interests East of India. To this day his memory is preserved at Fort Cornwallis in Penang, Malaysia.

His sailors loved him and he was affectionately known as 'Billy Blue'. He retired after Trafalgar, where his lifelong friend Nelson was killed, and apart from an award of the GCB some ten years later, he was never publicly given the credit for his contribution to the British victory. More recently, some historians have pointed out his key role in the wars against Napoleon.

Their combined one hundred years of service to Britain was remarkable and my reason for writing this book is quite simple. For long enough I had been surprised how little had been written about the General, this mainly being about Yorktown in America. Likewise in respect of the Admiral, who contributed so much for Nelson to triumph at Trafalgar, but had largely gone unremarked on for his pians.



Admiral William Cornwallis.

The two brothers have perhaps been overshadowed by the glamour of Wellington and Nelson, certainly in the eyes of the general public. In the case of the General he has wrongly been accused of 'losing America', a feat which lay firmly at the feet of the politicians of the day who had long laid the path to independence by their inept ways, and then tinkering with the war.



Cornwallis' "Retreat" - a successful action against the French Navy.

The Admiral had an equally blameless life and as the differing political factions fought amongst themselves after the defeat of Napoleon, he lived his final years in the peaceful Hampshire countryside.

It has been fashionable for British colonial rule to be criticised in recent times, but the dedication and loyalty of these brothers can not be taken from them; and as we see so much disruption in the consequent regimes in so many countries, good colonial rule may not have been such a bad thing after all.

I have found the study of the Cornwallis brothers to be fascinating and hope the book will provide some interest to others. It is not meant to be a comprehensive history, but a record linking the service and lives of the two brothers, with some very interesting diversions regarding their family descendants.

The Regiment has been helpful in providing insight into some of their records, and I am most grateful for

their assistance. Other people, including the present Lord Cornwallis, have been extremely helpful, and I am greatly indebted to them.

R. C. Curry

'Two Brothers Cornwallis' should be published later in 2007. If you are interested in receiving information about cost and availability, please contact:-

R C Curry

**'Byfields', 5 Adel Grange Close, Leeds, LS16 8HX
or email to rcc@curry70.fsnet.co.uk**

As he writes, both Charles Curry and I are grateful to the present Lord Cornwallis, who happens to live in the same village as I do, and who has given us access to family portraits and paintings with which to illustrate this article - Editor.

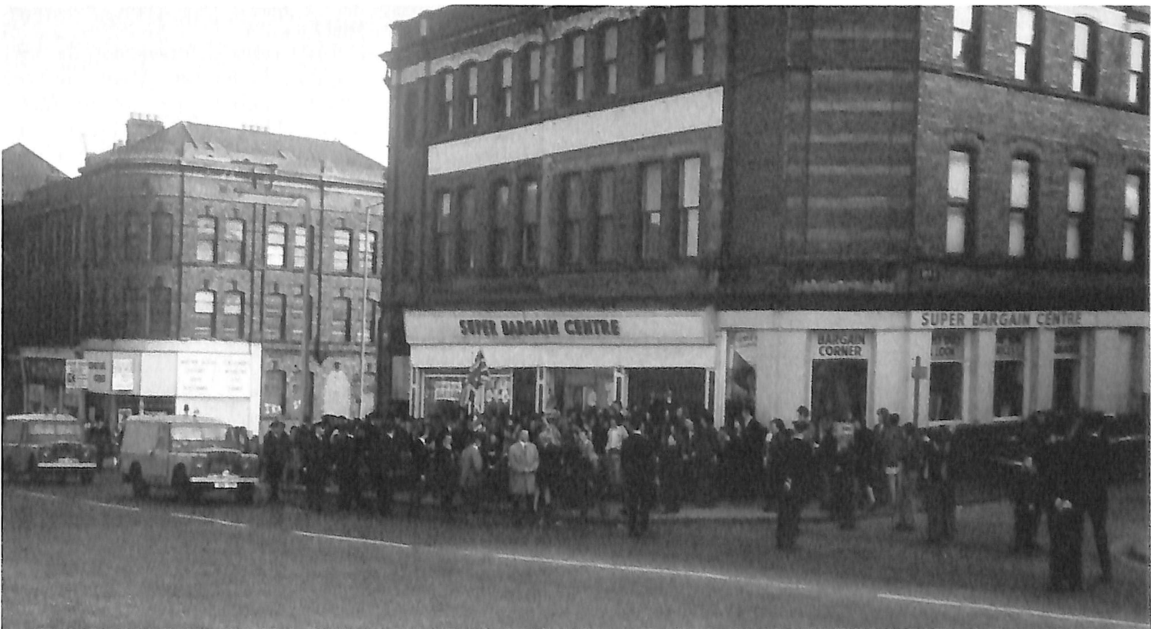
NEW LODGE, BELFAST - 1971

Major Bob Heron remembers the Internment Operation

In 1971, incredibly nearly thirty six years ago, I was a Corporal, Section Commander, attached to 5 Platoon, Burma Company for the forthcoming tour to Belfast. I don't remember too much about the pre tour training, except one particular drill 'Forming Square' (Aden style). Thank God we didn't have to put that into practice on the streets of Belfast!

My early recollections of the tour were taking over from one of the Jock regiments, can't remember which, in Girdwood Park a small UDR barracks in North Belfast and settling in to a three day routine of patrols, standby, guards and duties. When the platoon was on

standby, sections were at various states of readiness, ie QRF, boots on, boots off. Burma Company's patch was the Catholic area of New Lodge, which basically meant New Lodge Road and the immediate surrounding streets. The patrol routine for the sections was four hours on and eight off, which doesn't sound too hard, does it? Well believe me, there are only so many ways and routes you can patrol an area of about a dozen streets for four hours without getting dizzy! Patrols were carried out by sections splitting into half sections known as 'bricks', I wonder who thought that one up?



Protestant crowd forms up in the Shankill for the traditional July marches.

At first, most of the locals were very friendly, even welcoming, and I think our presence made them feel more secure from the Protestant threat from the Tiger Bay area which bordered with the New Lodge. Every patrol had its own targeted tea stops, for gathering intelligence of course, and I suspect gathering girls for the twice weekly disco in Girdwood Park! The good Catholic girls of the New Lodge would queue in their droves to get in! However, by July things had started to change, the marching season started, shootings, bombs and burned out buses and cars became much more frequent. By the end of July they were a nightly occurrence. I remember nights on standby, by then it was mostly 'Boots on', thinking "I hope that explosion was on next doors patch"! The tea stops had certainly dried up, strangely the disco girls hadn't. House and vehicle searches became much more frequent and resentment grew. I recall that before we were allowed to enter a property by force, we had to shout a warning three times to be let in. It amazed me how quickly, with practice, we learned to shout those warnings before it was 'boot to door'!

In the early hours of 9 August 1971 everything changed, with the introduction of 'Internment'.



Crowd forming, throwing bricks and getting too close for comfort.



... after them lads.

To jog my memory of what happened on the days following internment, I thought I would check out the Battalion's Operational Diary which is held in the archives at RHQ. Perhaps I was not surprised to find that the only entry for 9, 10 and 11 August was 'total chaos' and I guess that about summed it up!

That day started with planned early morning arrests and house searches, so the sound of splintering wood and broken glass was heard the length of New Lodge Road as doors were simultaneously kicked in. I don't think this operation was the world's best kept secret, certainly the two targets on my list were long gone and the smirks on the faces of the women in those houses told it all. However, almost immediately there was a violent reaction from the Catholic community of the New Lodge and other Catholic areas of Belfast and Northern Ireland. Not that I got to see any other areas!

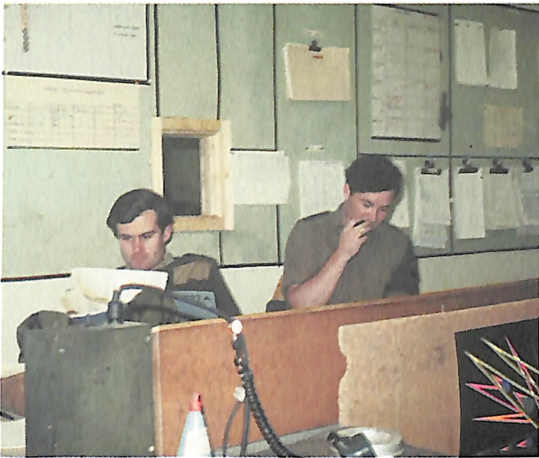
By then all semblance of routine was out of the window, the whole of the company was on New Lodge Road, together I think with Corunna Company and some of Somme Company.

The next three or four days we literally lived on the streets, our time spent charging and smashing down barricades, many of them blazing, manned by hundreds of screaming paddies and pelted by bricks, bottles, fire bombs and anything else they could get their hands on. In addition, there was the occasional sniper, bomb and I think for the first time in the New Lodge, the machine gun. We got very little sleep over those few days, usually when Paddy himself wanted a rest, we literally slept on the pavements with sentries out. It's strange that it's often the funny things that happen in difficult situations that stick in the memory:

My Platoon Commander, the then dashing Lieutenant Mike Sherlock charging into the first riot without his steel helmet - Oh dear!! Still, after several stitches and a violent headache even subalterns get the message!

During lulls between riots, we would be fed on the streets by the CQMS, the late Bob Stewart. On one particular occasion in the early hours, I think, we were informed by radio that the CQMS was not able to leave camp. Anyway, after a good moan we were settling down on our pavement for a bit of kip, when along came an old Salvation Army van, the side shutters went up and two old ladies started serving us tea and soup - wonderful! You can guess how long it took Bob Stewart to live that down!

The remainder of the tour until we left in November was by no means uneventful, the sniper and bomber



Captain Mellor (Adjutant) and Lieutenant Ward (RSO) in the Girdwood Park Battalion Ops Room.

were always a threat and we still had the occasional riot to handle, but nothing I remember as violent as those few days following 9 August.

I think the Regimental records for that tour show that throughout the whole Battalion we suffered only six casualties from the bullet or the bomb, none fatal, although there were many casualties from the brick and the bottle. When I look at those casualty figures I can only be amazed at how lucky we were. I suppose we were helped by the fact that whilst Paddy was angry (often very angry) at that time he was not well trained



Weapons find.

and I think, to our credit, our reactions to the many difficult situations were both swift and robust.

What else do I remember about that tour? Being de-loused of fleas and bed bugs! I think the disco was only cancelled for about one week!

Oh yes, and finally: Receiving that radio message: "Congratulations, you are now the father of a ?lbs ?oz baby girl, mother and daughter are both well!"

Stagg on boys, only three hours to push "You take your brick down New Lodge and turn right and we'll go up the road and turn left, meet up for a fag stop at ..."

THE 'DUKES' MUSEUM

Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax, HX3 6HG

Our Museum was first established at the Depot, Halifax, in 1921. Whilst open to the public by appointment, it was used in the main to educate recruits, including National Servicemen from 1948, about the heritage of their Regiment. With the closing of the Depot in 1959, the collections were moved to Bankfield as one of the museums of Halifax Borough and later Calderdale Councils. A major refurbishment was opened by the Colonel in Chief in 1986.

In October 2005 the Trustees of the Museum with the Council's Museum services opened up a new concept telling the history of the Regiment from 1939 - 'Through Soldiers Eyes', having obtained a lottery bid (fully reported in Iron Duke 259). Following this very successful refurbishment of the recent history of the Regiment, a further bid from the National Lottery Fund for £50,000 was granted this February. With the title 'Forgotten Voices' this will allow the Museum to extend this redesign to cover the Regiment's history from its foundation in 1702 to the end of World War 1 - so completing our story.

This new project will continue the theme with a strong emphasis on the strong connections of over 250 years between the Regiment and the people of Halifax

and the wider West Riding. As in the first phase there will be an emphasis on oral stories and real experiences and lives of soldiers in the Regiment. The 'Forgotten Voices' project will take place in phases to minimise disruption to the Museum and is due to be complete by the end of October 2008.

Trustees

Over the last two years, we have said farewell to Majors Keith Macdonald TD and Richard Ward and Ms Rose Wheeler from Calderdale Council, with gratitude for their support and advice.

We have welcomed Major Ian Fillan TD, and are about to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Tim Isles OBE, Mr Barry Sheridan from Calderdale and Mrs Alice Mahon, the recent longstanding MP for Halifax in their place. Brigadier Dick Mundell OBE is Chairman of the Dukes' Museum Trustees.

The Museum is open on Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 am to 17.00 pm; and Sunday 13.00 to 16.00 pm. There are no charges for entry or car parking.

All enquiries should be directed to Mr John Spencer, Military Curator at the Museum. Tel: 01422 352334.



Display cases with audio earpieces.



Study area.

33rd REGIMENT BAYONET BELT, 1776

When asked to write a short piece on an artefact from the museum which would relate to the everyday soldier's life and the American War of Independence, this item immediately sprang to mind. The Colonel's Company of the 33rd Regiment of Foot, an American 'Living History' unit depicting the Regiment as it appeared during the American War of Independence, generously donated a complete replica uniform to the museum when it was redisplayed in 1986. This buff leather bayonet belt and frog with its black leather scabbard carries a brass belt plate copied from an original in the Charlestown Museum, South Carolina, doubtless a relic of the 33rd's operations in that area in 1776 or 1780. The bayonet itself is an original, though unfortunately not one carried by the Regiment.

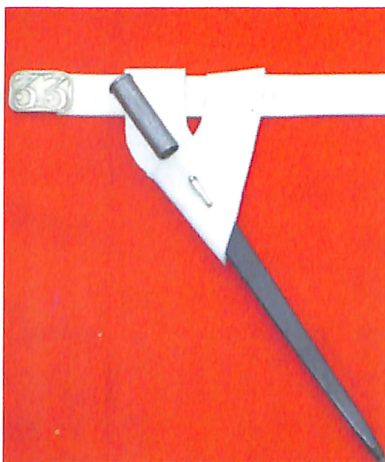
The French developed the bayonet (named after its place of manufacture, Bayonne) during the late 17th Century and created the modern infantryman by combining the defensive and offensive capabilities of the blade and the musket. Huntingdon's Regiment carried the plug bayonet in 1702, but the War of the Spanish Succession proved the superiority of the socket bayonet, which fitted over the muzzle enabling the musket to be fired while it was fixed. This had a triangular 17" blade, fluted on two sides. These 'blood channels' served to lighten the blade and were believed to allow for easier extraction. Its 4" socket had a zig-zag slot which fitted over a stud on the barrel, a device which survives today in the 'bayonet' light bulb fitting.

During the 18th century it was common to refer to a unit's strength as so many 'bayonets', the word being synonymous with 'infantryman', and its importance was described in Major Bennett Cuthbertson's military treatise of 1768: "...a Private man should never

appear abroad, without having his...bayonet fixed firmly in his belt, nothing being more unsoldier-like than seeing him without it...a soldier without his side arms, when walking through a town, is at once reduced to a level with the vilest plebeian, and deprived of that, which gives him an air of consequence, not only in his own opinion, but likewise in that of the common people, who are principally caught by outside shew."

Captain Grose of the 85th, a veteran of the campaigns in America, offered this more light hearted view in his 'Advice to Officers' of 1782: "...this weapon may be said to be the most handy of any a soldier carries. It is an excellent instrument for digging potatoes, onions or turnips. Stuck in the ground, it makes a good candlestick; and it will on occasion serve either to kill a mudlark, or to keep an impertinent boor at a proper distance whilst your comrades are gathering his apples", whilst Captain Dansey of the 33rd used them as tent pegs! But as the Regimental history shows, its successes in America owed a great deal to the bayonet charge.

John Spencer



Belt and bayonet. One of Cornwallis' Private men, with bayonet fixed.

CHINA GILL'S 27 YEARS IN THE DUKES

Many readers enjoy the late China Gill's history of his service, but it will take another 27 years to tell the full tale a few pages at a time! In this extract we skip from where we left China, in Malta in 1933, to 1939 and the declaration of World War II. The Battalion is sent to Southampton, and embarks for Cherbourg, entrains, goes round Paris and heads north to detrain at Wailly.

One or two from each platoon were nominated as 1st line reinforcements, on arrival at Corbriex they were still kept in a separate group and we were billeted together in the attic of a house, also with us was a 2nd Lieutenant Nixon. All the Battalion did in this area was make breast work defences and keep ditches clear. Just outside the village was a pillbox right on the Belgian frontier, I was told to take six men and man the pill box. These included a butcher, two MT, one pioneer, one mortar man, and a clerk. We were to live there until further orders. Meals were delivered regularly, also a pile of coke and a brazier for heating. Our weapons were a rifle and fifty rounds of .303 each. It was a good job the enemy were separated from us by Belgium.

About eight days later we were withdrawn. I suspect the reason was because along the BEF line, similar pill boxes had been manned and three or four deaths had occurred by having the brazier inside and toxic fumes caused the deaths. We had noticed that the coke caused headaches, and made sure there was plenty of ventilation. We then joined our respective platoons. The AA section were in a farmyard half full of bales of hay. We levelled the bales and had a comfortable billet. The inhabitants made us welcome.

As there was no indication that the Germans would attack Belgium, it was decided to put the BEF infantry in the Maginot Line for short periods. The 3rd Infantry Brigade were selected to be the first and the Dukes would be the first unit in the line. The Brigade moved to Metz in early November. The Battalion then moved to the front; Battalion HQ was in a small, evacuated village named Walweisstrop, the Companies forward. The weather was very cold and companies had to dig in. The only offensive action was a listening patrol under Lieutenant Bucknall.

After a visit on 9 December from King George V the Battalion withdraws to Bachy, between Lille and Douai.

May 10th 1940 arrived with news that Germany had invaded the Low Countries. The refusal of the Belgian Government to allow our troops access to their country now ceased. Before I recount the actions that now took place, my memory suddenly became active and I recalled a few events that occurred whilst at Bachy. In January 1940, when snow and ice were in abundance, arrangements were made for the whole Battalion to visit a coal mine about six miles away and hot showers were made available. I think the RAOC Bath Unit also provided each man with a clean shirt, socks and maybe pants!

A trip for the AA Section was made to Dannes on the coast for practice firing at gas filled balloons. Being

only a few miles from Boulogne the Section had an evening out. Although I had now become Coy Clerk, I still remained active with the AA Section. Having a drink in a Boulogne bar with Hector Browne, the glass of beer had a foam top of a couple of inches. Browne ran his finger around his collar and the French barman, in perfect English, said "What's up? Got a collar on it?" He had previously worked in a London pub.

After packing all our stores, about tea time a plane was heard approaching. I rushed out on to the platform just as a German fighter plane roared overhead. It was only about 100 feet high, but as we had packed for the move there was no Bren gun in action. The pilot clearly saw me but took no notice and followed the railway line. We thought he was probably about to drop a bomb on Brigade HQ in a chateau further South. We heard a bomb but we did not get to know where it dropped.

China gets a ten day leave pass back to England, and on return to the Battalion, moves with it into Belgium, to the South West corner of Brussels.

The inhabitants made us very welcome, we settled down for the night but orders were received at 2300 hours to proceed to a new area. The road was blocked with refugees on foot, in carts, with wheelbarrows and a few cars. Forcing our way passed them we reached our objective at dawn. The cooks prepared breakfast, and the CO made a reconnaissance of the area. A few enemy aircraft appeared but took no action.

On 12 May at about 0900 hours the companies moved forward to their defensive positions. B Company was in a forward position across the River Dyle, in a position purported to be the furthest east towards Germany of the BEF. Battalion HQ were in a re-entrant to a wood, Brigade HQ to the rear. The ground was very undulating and earth mounds proved excellent for digging in. A cavity was dug for a Regimental Aid Post, also a place for the CO on his return from his recce. The night was quiet and morale was excellent. Refugees continued to pour through B Company. Two enemy planes machine gunned the forward companies, also the RAP. There were no casualties.

Our supporting artillery came into action shelling German positions, our support was 29 Battery RA. On the evening of 14 May heavy German 77s and 105mm retaliated. Only one casualty resulted. On 15 May enemy action increased, but did not worry the Dukes very much. A fierce battle was going on to the right of the Battalion.

May 16th brought a few more enemy aircraft. D Company was placed under command of the Sherwood Foresters as they had heavy casualties. Then surprisingly orders were received to withdraw at night due to the collapse of Belgian resistance. It was so peaceful at Battalion HQ that myself, Lance Corporal Stutely and a few others visited two abandoned farms behind the front line and returned with a pig and over twenty chickens. They were cooked for our dinner before we moved back.

Due to the quick move the cook sergeant had to abandon his surplus stock he had carefully built up. The 13cwt trucks were brought to the area and were a great help for the move to out new area west of Brussels. The CO stayed in the area as long as possible. Road mines had been laid by the REs but the unit had not been informed. The CO in the first carrier came through

alright but two following had their tracks blown off. I travelled in HQ Company's 15 cwt with office equipment, baggage etc. The rifle companies marched through Brussels, again the inhabitants were cheerful saying "we'll see you again, Tommy". The Germans were less than a mile behind.

...to be continued

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Starbarrow
35 Church Avenue
Farnborough
Hampshire
GU14 7AT
Tel: 01252 514786
jbgandjpg@aol.com
25 February 2007

Now we see from Bob Heron's letter of 6 February 2007, informing us of the arrangements for the annual Regimental Service, that the latter has turned into the "Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band".

Ah me!

Yours sincerely,
John Greenway

Editor, The Iron Duke

Dear Sir,

Judith and I had occasion recently to visit the museum in nearby Farnham, where we found a notice (see photograph) advertising the Band Concerts which were to be played by several bands in Brightwell Pleasure Gardens in 1934, including one on Wednesday 8 August, by the Band of 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

We know from China Gill's account of his service, which has been published over some years in the Iron Duke (see pages 83-85 of edition No 261), that our 1st Battalion was stationed in Aldershot at the time. Sadly, although China has commented on the Band's involvement in all sorts of activities in the area, he did not comment on band concerts. This is a pity, as it would have made this letter much more interesting than it is!

It is even more of a pity, of course, that the Band no longer exists, having merged some years ago into the Normandy and Waterloo Bands of the King's Division.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is essential that subscribers, including serving members of the Regiment moving on individual postings, advise the Business Manager of their change of address without delay.

Name Reg No.

Please note that from

My new address will be

.....

Tel Fax E.mail

Date Signed

Please complete and send to:

The Business Manager, 'Iron Duke' Magazine, Regimental Association, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA

Regimental Association

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 24 June and 22 September 2007.

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

Sheffield: 8.00pm second Tuesday of each month at WOs' & Sergeants' 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, 101 Bradley Road, Bradley, Huddersfield, HD2 1QU.

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

* * * * *

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Readers may recall that the London Branch takes responsibility every year for setting up the Regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance beside Westminster Abbey. Or, to be more accurate, the Secretary of the London Branch and his wife do so, supported by other Branch members.

This takes place on the Thursday before Remembrance Sunday and involves collecting from the Royal British Legion the various crosses which have been ordered in advance and placing them in the appropriate plot. Depending upon the weather conditions, this can mean simply pushing them into the

grass, or, in dry or frosty conditions, having to hammer them in.

In past years, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, made a point of attending annually to open the Field of Remembrance, and, since her death, various members of the Royal Family have attended. This year, on Thursday 9 November 2006, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, did so. We were pleased to chat to Green Howard, PWO and York and Lancaster representatives while waiting for the Duke of Edinburgh to make his rounds. We were also glad to see Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, Brigadier Johnny Walker and Mac Dowdy during the morning.



The Duke speaking to Keith Jagger.

On Remembrance Sunday itself, 12 November, our regular attenders, Fred Richardson, both Jagers and both Greenways, were delighted to be joined by John Lobonov-Rostovski, Matt Hall (who comes regularly - about once every ten years!) and Bob Temple, who had luckily been able to tear himself away from his taxing job of escorting unaccompanied ladies on cruise ships. "It's a tough task", he said, when we had settled into the pub after watching the marching troops depart, "but someone has to do it".

As we left the Field of Remembrance, we were truly delighted to meet Carmel Connelly, who, at 95, had wisely decided not to march to and from Whitehall this year, but was still properly attired in her ex-WRAF kilted uniform and looking very spritely for her years. She decided, also wisely, not to accompany us to the pub, but to rejoin her uniformed colleagues on Horse Guards' Parade. Her late husband, Pat, was (despite living in County Durham) a stalwart member of our London Branch for many years.

All Dukes are welcome to join the London Branch at Westminster Abbey, either on Remembrance Sunday or on the Thursday before, or both, in future years.

LONDON BRANCH

At our meeting at the Union Jack Club on Sunday 21 January 2007, we were glad to welcome Charlie Prescott, from the PWO Regimental Association, as our guest; unfortunately the Green Howards' Branch representative could not attend, as he was detained by his duties as a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London.

When we were discussing whether our separate Regimental Associations might join together, Charlie was able to tell us that it had taken about five years for the originally-separate East and West Yorkshire Regimental Associations to unify fully into one Association. There was general agreement that, over time, unification into the Yorkshire Regiment Association might well seem a sensible way forward for our separate London Branches.

All Dukes are welcome to attend our London Branch meetings at the Union Jack Club, close to Waterloo Station. Dates of meetings are on page 43.

John Greenway

THE DUKES' MOLAR DINING CLUB

A total of nineteen Dukes' officers, commissioned from the ranks, sat down together for dinner in the Officers' Mess, TA Centre, Huddersfield on Friday 27 October 2006.



Left to right: John Lobonov-Rostovski, Bob Temple, Fred Richardson, John Greenway, Keith Jagger and Matt Hall.



The Regimental Plot.

The term 'Molar' used to be the radio appointment title for Quartermaster, RQMS and CQMS.

The photograph opposite shows, left to right, back row: Andy Jackson, Tony Sutcliffe, Terry Butterworth, Shaun Caine, Mel Smith, Bob Tighe, Brian Noble and Peter Robinson. Front row: Paul Mitchell, Andy Pigg, Martin Ness, John Frear, Mally Birkett, Walter Robins, Mick Taylor, Barry Hey, Brian Sykes, Chris Hosty and Bob Heron.

9th BATTALION REUNION LUNCH

Four former members of 9 DWR who became 146 Regiment RAC after converting from Infantry to Tanks during WW2, attended their 59th reunion at the Golden Lion Hotel, Leeds on Tuesday 3 October 2006.

Determined to make it the 60th, this year's reunion lunch will be at the same venue on Tuesday 2 October 2007.

There are still many former members of 9 DWR (146 Regiment RAC) out there, and it would be great to have more attending this year's reunion, so please everyone, try to spread the word. Wives and partners are very welcome to attend.

For information about this reunion you can either ring Tom Moore (the organiser) on 01474 362999 or alternatively, Bob Heron at RHQ on 01422 361671.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / *NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr C. W. Akrigg, 14 The Poplars, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 7PW.

Mr J. S. Bailes, 71A Firlle Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 7QH.

Major J. C. Bailey, 28 Fairthorne Way, Shrivenham, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 8EB.

Mr B. Carbine, 72 Lower Mortimer Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 2HF.

Mr J. C. K. Cumberlege, 4 Baskerville Road, London SW18 3RJ.

Mr J. P. B. Golding, The Old Barn, Riding Head Lane, Luddenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 6PT.

Mr A. J. Lynch, 4 Gillemere Grove, Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester, OL2 8UX.

Mr A. MacDonald, 19 The Meadows, Wibsey, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD6 1LF.

Lieutenant Colonel N. J. Mussett MBE, 16 Gooselands, Rathmell, Settle, North Yorks, BD24 0LT.

Captain M. Ness, 10 Alsop Place, Singleton, New South Wales 2330, Australia.

Mr D. Pennington, 4 Brackenbed Lane, The Clough, Mount Pellon, Halifax, HX2 0ED.

Major (Ret'd) J. H. Purcell, Paradise Barn, Manor Road, Towersey, Oxon, OX9 3QR.

Mr T. C. Sinclair, 43 Alwoodley Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS17 7PU.

Captain T. E. J. Smart, 10 St. Mary's Gardens, London SE11 4UD.

Mr G. Walker, 19 Linton Grove, Shadwell Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS17 8PS.

* Mrs S. Wilson, 48 Marlborough Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU5 3JS.



The Dukes' Molar Dining Club.



9th Battalion Reunion Lunch.

Left to right: Arthur Robinson, Captain Tom Moore, Bob Macintyre, Tom Dickson.

Obituaries

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

Captain Anthony Malcolm Verity

Tony Verity died on 5 November 2006 following a long illness.

Born in 1918, Tony was about to sit his Final Law Exams when he was conscripted into the Army in 1939 at the outbreak of WWII.

He saw service in France before being evacuated via Dunkirk after which he was deployed in England. In 1940 Tony gained a commission and was posted to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. At that time the 8th and 9th Battalions were recruiting and Tony joined the 9th. Due to the need for more armour both the 8th and 9th Battalions were converted; the 8th became 145 Regiment RAC and the 9th became 146 Regiment RAC.

After initial training in armour, Tony joined the 9th Battalion in India in November 1941. Following training in various parts of India, the Battalion saw service in Burma.

In 1945 Tony returned to England to be demobilised and take up his career in Law where he had left it some six years earlier. He passed his exams in Guildford and worked in London before moving north to Lytham St Anne's where his parents were living. He worked in Blackpool for three years, completed his articles and became a solicitor.

In the meantime Tony met an attractive ex ATS girl named Beth who had served in the Royal Artillery on Coastal Defence. They were married and lived in Lytham St Anne's.

In 1949 Tony joined a firm of solicitors in Blackburn and he and Beth moved there with their six month old daughter, Ann. The family soon increased in size with another daughter, Jill, and a son called David.



In 1973 Tony was appointed a District Judge, a position he held until retirement in 1991.

Tony was a very enthusiastic ex-Duke, regularly attending 9th Battalion reunions along with his wife.

He was an officer whose men were glad to be under his command, those who knew him felt privileged to be able to call him 'friend'.

Tony will be sadly missed by his family and all those who knew him.

Sergeant Ronald Ernest Goodyear

Ron died, aged 88, of heart failure on Thursday 9 November 2006.

Following basic training in Halifax, Ron joined the 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and served in Iceland during the early part of WWII. He returned to the UK in 1943 and trained for the Normandy invasion in which he subsequently took part.



After landing in France he was part of a detachment that was blown up by a German bomb. Fortunately Ron was discovered by American troops who were burying the dead. He heard the soldiers and called out to them, they discovered him partially buried and temporarily blinded. He was evacuated to an American hospital in England where his sight was restored.

Once recovered, Ron remained in the UK serving as a signalling instructor in the south of England, Wales and Kingussie Scotland, until demobilisation in 1946.

Ron returned to his job with the National Coal Board where he worked until his retirement. At this time he developed a keen interest in photography and loved visiting Scotland.

He was a member of the Regimental Association for many years and also a member of the ex-servicemen's fellowship from around 1948 onwards. He was always very proud to have been a founder member of 108 St Cuthbert's (Sheffield) Mess, where he subsequently served as branch chairman.

Just a few months prior to his death, Ron was delighted to re-establish contact with a old comrade after reading a letter in the Iron Duke. They had served in Iceland together and liked to reminisce about service in the Dukes. They wrote frequently to the end and one of Ron's last wishes was that a Christmas card be sent, this was duly done by his son.

Ron is survived by his widow, Edna, his wife of 63 years, one son, a daughter-in-law, two granddaughters and two great grandsons.

Corporal Ernest William Kernick (No 46122553)

Corporal Ernest Kernick died at his home at Dersingham, Norfolk, on 25 January 2007 as a result of a fall. He was aged 92. His partner, Mrs Frieda Loynes and Sergeant T. Thompson, who is Provost Sergeant of the 3rd Battalion (Duke of Wellington's), have provided information to enable me to piece together something of his story. Editor.

Ernest Kernick joined the Dukes and trained at Hebden Bridge. He was posted to the 1st Battalion in India on the North West Frontier, where much of the time was spent picketing in the hills to protect construction parties building roads. After three and a half years he was due to leave India, but, at his mother's request but to his fury, his brother 'claimed' him into the Leicestershire Regiment which was just starting another tour in India!

He was later posted to Singapore, unluckily as the Japanese were closing in (*fall of Singapore 15 February 1942*). Under shelling around the harbour he embarked on the "Dragonfly" which was heading for Australia. On 14 February (Valentine's Day) the ship was bombed and went down, and he was one of the few survivors, eventually getting to Sumatra - Frieda says he used to claim that he swam most of the way as the lifeboats had already gone by the time he was in the water.

He was captured and for the remainder of the war was a prisoner of the Japanese, spending time on the infamous Burma Railway. During his service he earned six medals reported as: two North West Frontier, two Pacific Star, the Defence Medal and the 39-45 War Medal.

His funeral was in the village church at Dersingham, and was just as he would have wished, with a regimental flag on the coffin and the Last Post sounded.



Major Brian Webster TD

Brian Webster died on 13 February 2007. He was educated at Leeds Grammar School where he was Captain of Rugby, and his interest in the sport continued through his membership of Huddersfield Rugby Club.

Commissioned into the West Yorkshire Regiment in 1944, Brian served in India and West Africa. In 1948 he joined 5 DWR, an anti-aircraft regiment, and was promoted Captain in 1951, as a troop commander at Mirfield. On disbandment of the anti-aircraft command he joined 382 Medium Regiment RA in Halifax, then returned to Huddersfield in 1957 on promotion to Major and appointment as OC HQ Company. He continued in this role in the 3rd Battalion West Riding Regiment until its disbandment in 1965, then continued in command of the cadre at Huddersfield until his retirement in 1970.

Brian Webster ran the family firm of men's outfitters 'H. Tyres' in Huddersfield and Leeds, was a Freemason for twenty years, a Parish Councillor (twice Chairman) and a member of the British Legion and the Huddersfield Branch of the Old Comrades Association, of which he was President at the time of his death.

RHQ has also been informed of the following recent deaths:

Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Sykes, formerly of the 5th Battalion, died on 9 October 2006. He was 91.

Dennis Saunders, who was Platoon Commander of 7 Platoon, C Company, in Korea 1952/53, died on 18 December 2006. He was 74.

Donald Cecil Hall, died on 3 January 2007, aged 82. He served with a number of units between 1942-68, including 7 DWR from 1944-46, and was Mentioned in Despatches at Normandy.

Alexander George Leggott, who served from 1944-47 including two years in India, died in January 2007, at the age of 80.

William (Bill) Unwin, died in February 2007. Bill was a National Service soldier in HQ Company MT Section and served in Korea.

Major Brian Neal Webster TD, served in the Army from 1944-48, including a brief spell with the 1st Battalion as a subaltern in 1948. He then joined the TA and served until 1969, including 5/7th and West Riding Battalions. Brian died on 13 February 2007 at the age of 81.

Telford Mallinson, was a National Service soldier in the 1st Battalion 1955-57, and was a member of the Dukes' Association London Branch. He died suddenly on 20 February 2007.

Colonel D. W. Wonson CBE, died suddenly on 25 March 2007. He was commissioned into the York and Lancaster Regiment, transferred to 1 DWR in Hong Kong in 1969, then rebadged RMP. An obituary will appear in the next edition.

NOTICES

BIG BANG

Every couple of years through the mid 70s, the MOD joint staffs practised the business of giving nuclear release to C in C BAOR, whose troops were comparatively numerous even if the infantry's firepower in the face of advancing massed tank and motor rifle divisions was the equivalent of throwing clods of earth at a charging elephant.

The action was centred in the Defence Operations Centre, which was cleverly located on an upper floor of the main building to save any adversary the bother of having to find it, or take too much trouble knocking it down. Over a weekend the staff would grind through endless ATWMs (Army Transition to War Measures) - Navy to commandeer ferries, army reservists to be issued with second magazine while stocks last, RAF fast jet pilots to wear special gung ho cravats and so on - in strict sequence of approval and action.

A senior pinstripe was brought in at the end, to play the role of Prime Minister, without whose nod the cluster of thrusting uniforms could not get on with their war. At an absolutely critical moment, when the PM's finger was hovering over one of the numerous buttons that would lead step by step to Armageddon (the purpose of the exercise after all) a very large lady of West Indian origin burst into the Centre, plugged in her industrial size vacuum cleaner, and got on with her noisy task, regardless of the shocked expressions all round her.

A small pinstripe rushed away from the pretend PM's side and rashly seized her by the arm. "Madam" he shouted above the din, "you can't do that now. The PM is considering the nuclear option!" Brushing him aside like a fly and carrying on, the lady replied forcefully "never mind the pee em. If I don't finish this floor by 5 o'clock my supervisor will GO nuclear, no consid'rin' about it".

CALLING ALL EX-INFANTRY JUNIOR LEADERS

The Infantry Junior Leader Battalion (I JLB) was formed at Tuxford, Nottinghamshire, in 1952. Initially it was called the Infantry Boys Battalion. It moved to Plymouth, Oswestry and then Shorncliffe in Kent, and trained over 15,000 junior leaders. It was in existence until the 1985 defence cuts. Its stated aim was to provide the future Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs for the Foot Guards and the Infantry of the Line.

There has been an I JLB Association for some years with over 480 members but it has recently undergone a major re-launch and has a new website and forum www.ijlb.co.uk. It is actively recruiting new members. Should anyone not have access to the internet and wishes to join the Association they should contact:

Dave Midcalf, Membership Secretary
The Maltings, Pound Street, Warminster
BA112 8JR

Tel: 01985 300919, or email: gfwler@blg.co.uk

One of the aims of the Association is to build a memorial in Cae Glas Park in Oswestry, near to where I JLB was stationed. Oswestry Council has given the land and the go-ahead for planning permission. The plan is to include on this memorial a list of all those ex Junior Leaders who died whilst on active service.

OLD REGIMENTAL UNIFORMS

The John Morgan Hire Company buys old uniforms for hiring out to television, theatre and film companies, and with all the reorganisation going on there may be some caps, belts and uniforms which have been consigned to attics and trunks, and might as well be useful.

Clearly this is not an invitation to serving soldiers to exchange the contents of their lockers for a weekend's beer, but you could call **01747 850 353**, or email jdhmorgan@btconnect.com, if you think you have items that may be of interest.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The meeting will take place at **RHQ 4 Yorks at Worsley Barracks, Fulford Road, York, YO1 9SB** on **Saturday 26 May 2007 at 11.00am**. Parking is available at the barracks, which is also easily accessible by train and bus. After the meeting a buffet lunch and (some) liquid refreshment will be available, free of charge.

For security and catering reasons you need to send: your name; your Regimental Number (to distinguish you from any others of the same name); your e.mail address (if you have one); and any items you wish to have included on the agenda, to:

Major Mick Sullivan
RHQ The Yorkshire Regiment, 3 Tower Street
York YO1 9SB

01904 461018 or yorksregaffairs@btconnect.com

The meeting is, of course, for members, and if you wish to become one use the same contact details to make your enquiry



RHQ of The Yorkshire Regiment.

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