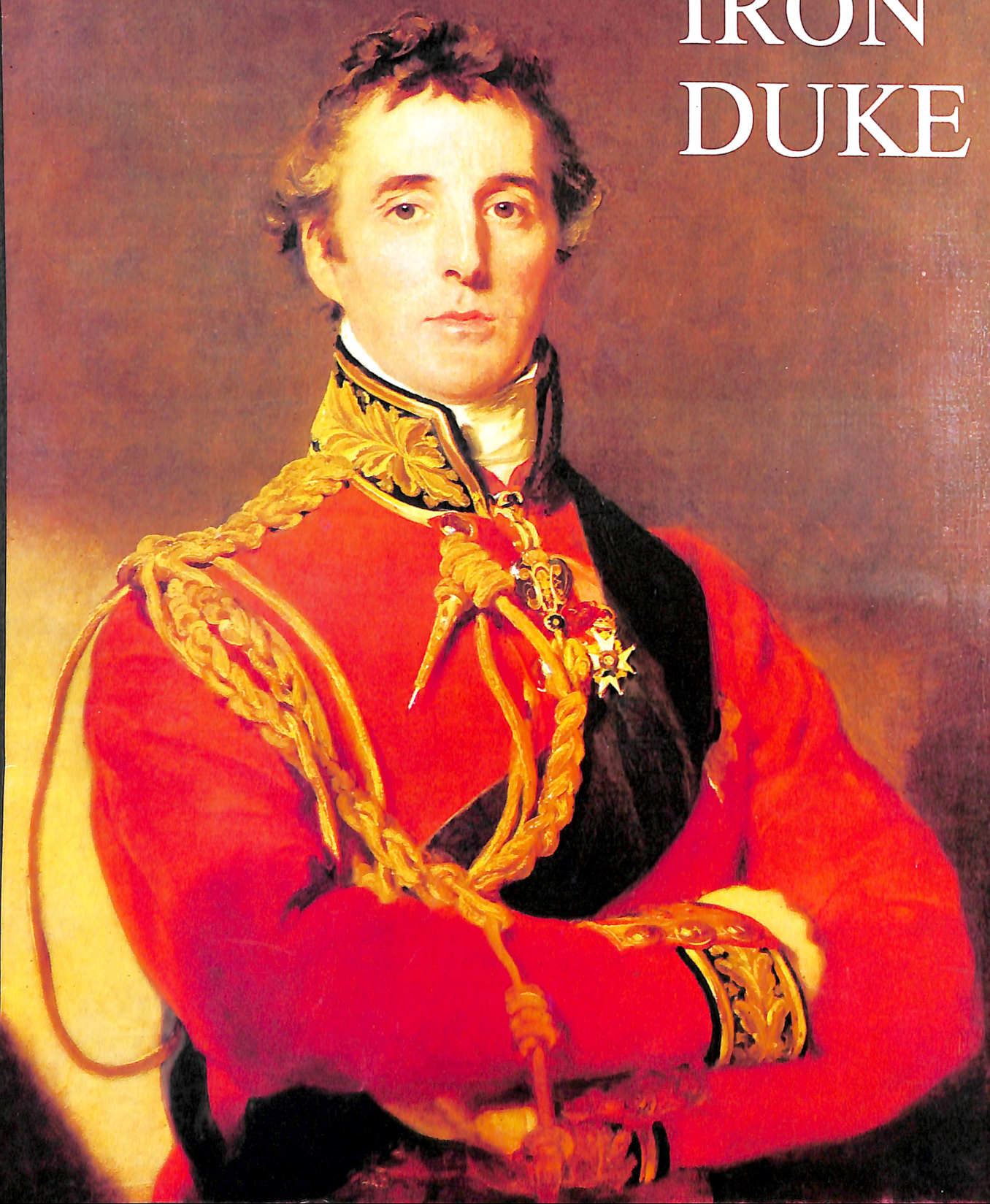


AUTUMN 2007  
No. 263

# 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

Vol. LXXXII

Winter 2007

No. 263

### BUSINESS NOTES

Published twice a year - Spring and Autumn.

Annual Subscription - £10.00 payable in advance to  
the Business Manager on 1 April.

#### 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

**Copy for the 2008 Spring issue should  
reach the Editor by 3 March 2008**

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

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

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

#### Acknowledgement

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

'The Iron Duke' Crown Copyright

### CONTENTS

Dukes Getting Together	51
Yorkshire Regiment Formation Service/Freedom Parade	51
Editorial	52
A Message from the President	53
The Yorkshire Regiment	54
3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	55
D Company 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	80
H.M.S. Iron Duke	81
Giggleswick C.C.F.	83
Cyprus 1957	84
Intelligence Officer 1 DWR, Belfast 1971	84
Balkans Postscript - The Dukes in Kosovo 2001	86
Gallipoli 1915	88
Diary of Private H. C. De Maine, 1st/6th Bn DWR	90
China Gill's 27 Years in the Dukes	91
Unveiling of a War Memorial to 1(UK) Division	93
Battlefield Tour to France, May 2007	94
The 'Dukes' Museum	96
Book Review	96
Letters to the Editor	97
Regimental Association	98
Change of Address/New Subscribers	102
Obituaries	103



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers







## DUKES GETTING TOGETHER

The whole point of an Association is that its members associate, and since the last Iron Duke there has been a lot of that going on. On the facing page are photographs of the Battlefield Tour Party in France, a reunion of old friends, one of whom has been abroad for many years, in London, both events in May; "the lads" in Wetherspoons, Halifax, just after the final whistle in the England Australia match, and the annual Association dinner that same evening (6 October) in Bradford, with the President of the Association bringing us up to date on Regimental Affairs and members of JE (Johnny) Sargeant's section at the Hook in Korea; and Major

General Donald Isles and Mr John Young (Lt and Cpl respectively in 1944) at Monte Cecce in September.

In addition there has been at least one dinner and our branches have continued to meet, and no doubt there have been many other formal and informal get-togethers. There is more about the events mentioned and others in the Regimental Association section towards the back of the magazine. Reporting on these happy occasions is a prime function of your Iron Duke, so please tell the Editor about them, with photograph(s). There's nowt so interesting as people, and especially "old" Dukes.

## YORKSHIRE REGIMENT FORMATION SERVICE AND FREEDOM PARADE

22 September 2007

The Yorkshire Regiment, with representation from all three antecedent Regiments, old comrades and serving, held a formation Service in York Minster, then marched through York's ancient streets to receive the Freedom of the City. HRH The Duke of York, Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, was present.

Our photographs show HRH The Duke of York arriving, the standard bearers being put through their paces by the parade RSM, two of the Dukes standard bearers about to meet the colonel in Chief, and, over the page, the 3 Yorks contingent marching past behind our familiar Colours. Much fuller coverage is in the Yorkshire Regiment Journal, and is on its website. Dukes who attended say that it was an excellent day, and a good start for the new regiment.







## EDITORIAL

### Honouring the Covenant

It is hard to think that any member of our Regimental Association will not have felt anger at some of the things that have been going on - or that the media tell us have been going on - in the Army over the last few years.

Rows about equipment; soldiers in the front line not having weapons, vehicles and personal protection that are fit for purpose. Rows about ammunition; the Parachute Regiment in Helmand Province having to buy some from the Canadians as our own was unreliable. Rows about a lack of helicopters. Rows about medical care, or rather the absence of it, with a wounded soldier flown in to UK from Iraq and into casualty told to take his uniform off as it might upset someone, and servicemen shoved into mixed, civilian wards and handled with indifference to their needs and status. Rows about a niggardly approach to the award of medals or anyway a clasp to show the exceptionally tough nature of service in parts of Afghanistan; rows about a shortage of rations and the cost of parcels from home. Rows about the appalling state of some barracks and married quarters.

That is far, very far indeed, from an exhaustive list. Is it all hot air, a few disgruntled soldiers emailing their grievances home? We can be sure that there must be something in some of it, enough to justify our concern, if not our anger.

CGS stuck his head above the parapet on some of these matters. Good for him. Few of us trust politicians to give a straight answer, so we need our generals to help the public understand what is going on. Frankly, if just half of what we hear is true, then we have every

right to be angry, and we should support those who call our part time S of S for Defence and others to account. It was not encouraging to read in General Sir Mike Jackson's memoirs serialised in the Daily Telegraph that he had been trying to persuade politicians to allocate time and resources to some of these things, but they were too busy with the short term.

The charge being laid is that the Government is not honouring the covenant, a phrase new to some of us, but meaning simply that as service personnel go into harms way in support of national policy, the least they can expect is that they and their families will be properly looked after. In many countries veterans' organisations play an important part in the political process, thus ensuring that their successors in uniform receive decent treatment. It doesn't sound very British, to get political and start making a fuss, but we can at least bear these matters in mind when candidates for political office at any level facing an election show a brief interest in the opinions of their constituents.

### Winter ID

In this issue we again learn just how busy and successful the 3rd Battalion, the Dukes, continue to be. We also have, amongst others, articles about the Dukes in Bosnia; intelligence in Northern Ireland in 1971; China Gill retreats to the beaches of Dunkirk and not a ship in sight; a report on the battlefield tour to the Somme led by the President of our Association; a review of an excellent book on the Napoleonic wars; photographs of a Regimental Wedding; HMS Iron Duke is back in the water after a complete refit; D Coy 4 Yorks' new OC reports on a purposeful and exciting programme for his soldiers, and Association news.

## Hong Kong

What we have far too little of is contributions from readers, so here is a direct challenge. The next issue will report on the Hong Kong tour in the late 60s, and I defy anyone who served there not to have at least one tale to tell. Members of the Battalion spilled out to Malaya for jungle training, South Korea as part of the mainly US Honour Guard, New Zealand for training and Japan for

rugby, not to mention our positions facing Mao Tse Tung's Red Guards across the Sum Chun River, and nights in the Better 'Ole, Dateline and China Fleet Club "down the Wanch". One or two even ended up in China itself, though that was not Plan A. Are any members of that ill fated sailing jolly amongst our present readers? Letters, photos, snippets of memories. Send them in so we can all share them. A quick email is all it takes.



The men that made Mao tremble.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO

We are now over a year since amalgamation and it is perhaps worth reflecting on where we are.

The Yorkshire Regiment is very much up and running and the 3rd Battalion - our 'Dukes' - are in good order but whilst the 'Yorkshire' identity matures they are relying heavily on the heritage and ethos of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Yet at the same time our Association feels rather remote from the action and there is a new Yorkshire Regiment Association developing. What is also clear is that the Battalion are as keen to support us as we are to support them.

Taking the Yorkshire Regiment first; we must do what we can to encourage this young Regiment to develop. We must support their events where possible and the recent Service in the Minster and reception afterwards was certainly well run and I saw lots of Dukes enjoying the occasion. Branches will make their own minds up over how they fold in with the Yorkshire Regiment Association, but I am pleased to see lots of Dukes wearing their bronze badge.

Our contact with the battalion, the 'Dukes', is important and to that end the CO has invited the Association to Warminster in October next year. The date is not yet fixed so watch this space. I am quite sure it will be a good weekend where you will see how little

has really changed. This will mean that next year's Annual Dinner and Dance will be later than usual (possibly in the New Year of 2009). We shall be taking up the theme of the 1st Battalion's tour in Bosnia in 1994 and I hope many from that tour will use the occasion as a re-union.

The Association still provides the opportunity for other things such as battlefield tours; this year's being to the Somme and the next one to Spain in 2009. The Regimental Association has a lot to offer us all and I am quite sure it will flourish provided, that is, that we attend its events. By now you will have realised that the old RHQ, now called the Halifax Office, is manned by just Bob Heron and Janet Gul. We all need to be aware that this is a very small team and that extra calls on their time will be difficult if not impossible.

In summary, we all should pull together for the greater good. The Yorkshire Regiment needs all the support it can get and whether it be the 3rd Battalion (The Dukes) or their Association, we must do what we can and in the process have some fun.

*Evelyn Webb-Carter*





# THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

*Fortune Favours the Brave*

The Regiment produces an excellent emailed newsletter, the latest being July 07. The report below is drawn largely from that, and the website, [www.YorkshireRegiment.mod.uk](http://www.YorkshireRegiment.mod.uk).

The main Regimental activity in the last few months has been the Formation Service and Freedom Parade in York on 22 September, touched on earlier on page 51.

## 1 YORKS (Prince of Wales's Own)

As the Basra Rural South Battle Group (BG), 1 YORKS conducted 48 BG operations including counter-improvised explosive device, counter-indirect fire, counter-smuggling, convoy escort, support to the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and 13 strike operations to detain and search suspected insurgents and property. All this was in addition to the framework activity conducted by A and B Company and 38 Battery, Royal Artillery. C Company was detached to 2 Lances as the strike company in the Force Reserve BG. Our successes included six finds and the internment of five militants. Although we experienced fewer direct attacks than the city BGs and Force Reserve, we responded robustly and appropriately in every case. The rigorous application of effective tactics, techniques and procedures may well have deterred other attacks and, in our determination to avoid setting patterns, we drove around 416,300 miles (670,000 km).

The greatest successes were the handover of Camp Driftwood in Al Faw and Shaiba Logistics Base (SLB) to the Iraqi authorities, important markers in the process of reposturing within Multi-National Division South East (MND(SE)).

We witnessed the capability of the ISF increase steadily during the tour. The Iraqi Army battalion from our area of operations (AO) has been operating successfully in Basra city, and has shown that it can work alongside the Iraqi Police Service (IPS) with minimal support from MNF. All twelve IPS stations in the AO improved and are ready to be transferred to Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC). We operated alongside the Department of Border Enforcement on the borders with Iran and Kuwait and the Facilities Protection Service in the ports. In the newly established Divisional Training Centre we trained fourteen companies and some of these are already operating in the city.

The Battalion is now back in Catterick.

## 2 YORKS (Green Howards)

The New Year brought the news of a possible deployment for B (KH) Company on Operation Telic in the summer, however this was all changed with the news that the Battalion would be deploying as part of 52 Brigade on Operation Herrick 7 in September 2007 to help with the training of the Afghanistan National Army. 2 Yorks will be taking over from The Grenadier Guards with the Operation Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT), a role that has been very much in the news recently with the important effect that it is having on the overall stabilization of what has been a very volatile area in the past. As well as fulfilling the OMLT role, the Battalion will be providing a Force Protection Company in support of The Coldstream Guards.

The Battalion has been working hard over the past few months with all the training that needs to be done prior to deploying to Afghanistan. Throughout all this training the RSM found time to organise a successful Battlefield Tour to Belgium for the Sergeants Mess. On what was both a day of celebration and of sadness, the Battalion chose to use 6 June as a chance to have the memorial service for Private Thompson who was unfortunately killed in a road accident in early 2007. Family and friends were invited down to Chepstow for the service, for which Private McCann paid a very moving tribute to his friend, and then afterwards to watch was a very enjoyable and high scoring game of football followed by a barbecue for everyone in order to remember the life of Private Thompson.

Sport has continued to play an important part of Battalion life in early 2007, with winter sports taking a prominent role. The Battalion ski team under the captaincy of Lieutenant Stone had one of its most successful seasons in recent years, managing to win the Infantry Cup and finish an excellent fourth in the overall Army Competition. For the first time in many years, the Battalion sent personnel to participate in the Army Novice Bobsleigh Championships in Austria.

The Battalion is facing a busy and testing twelve months as it relocates north to Weeton Barracks in Lancashire, before heading to Afghanistan as part of 52 Brigade on Operation Herrick 7.

## 4 YORKS

The period from November 2005 through to November 2006 has seen the transition from the East and West Riding Regiment (E and WRR) to 4 Yorks. Companies formerly based in Middlesbrough and Scarborough from the Tyne Tees Regiment, have joined the Companies based in York, Barnsley, Hull and Huddersfield to complete the new Battalion. Support to regular operations has remained our main effort and we continue to provide soldiers and officers in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. Overseas Training Exercises were conducted through the summer with two companies training in Cyprus, a company in Gibraltar and a company in Albania. Recruiting remains strong, as does the relationship between employers and the Army within The Yorkshire Regiment's catchment area.

### Training and Operations

4 Yorks continues its support to the Regular Army in Iraq providing eighteen soldiers and officers to Operation Telic within the last year with ten still currently deployed. The wealth of soldiers with operational experience from Iraq continues to multiply,

a total of almost 200 have now served in this theatre since 2003.

4 Yorks training has occurred at individual, sub-unit and unit level throughout the year. The bulk of the Battalion managed to partake in an overseas training exercise with B and D Companies going on their respective Exercise Lion Stars to Cyprus, C Company exercising in the tunnel networks of Gibraltar on Exercise Marble Tor and A Company completing support weapons cadres in Albania on Exercise Albanian Express. A section from the battalion also participated in Exercise Co-operative Lance in Moldavia involving twenty-three different national army contingents. A team from C Company also netted a Gold Medal on the Brigade Patrols competition Exercise Martial Merlin.

With one single cap badge now covering the whole of the regiment's footprint, recruiting has received new focus and stands at 100% for soldiers. The challenge facing the recruiters in the New Year will be the formation of a Regimental Band which will become the recruiters' main effort into 2007.

# 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

## (The Duke of Wellington's)

### Commanding Officer's Report

This is my second report as commanding officer and also comes at the end of my first year in command. Time has sped by, in no small measure as a result of our hectic pace of life. As the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group we have continued to work at a high and demanding tempo. This is dictated to us by the Commitments Diary, a work of the devil that descends upon us from above. It is a demanding mistress and leads to the Battalion spending much of its life deployed on Salisbury Plain. Time on the Plain is broadly divided between supporting individual training or collective training. It is the latter that provides us with the most fun and opportunity as it usually revolves around the Battalion providing some form of free play enemy force. Increasingly we now deploy as an irregular force, replicating militias, Taliban, and terrorists. At the risk of gloating we have enjoyed some significant success in this role and can claim gaining the upper-hand against 2 Para Brigade, the Coldstream Guards (twice), 52 Brigade, the HCR, and the LD.

Arguably, one of the benefits of this role is the extent to which we are masters of our own destiny when not working to the Commitments Diary. With so many diverse customers to satisfy there is no true sense of higher ownership. As long as we meet the many demands



placed upon us and achieve the effects required we are very much left to our own devices. Sport and adventure training have filled this gap, as well as battlefield tours and long-weekends. Looking back over the calendar I note with some satisfaction that we have sent groups to look at past conflicts in Normandy, Arnhem, and, most satisfyingly, South Africa. All sub-units have spent at least a week conducting some form of adventure training or out-door activity. Others have been sailing in the Canaries, whilst some trekked through the mountains of the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain. A team also competed in a commando

competition in Italy. It is our sporting record in this year, however, that we are most proud of and is helping to cement a reputation for sporting excellence in the Yorkshire Regiment. Individuals have played at representational level for the Army at Rugby and Fencing, and also for the Combined Services Skiing team in Australia (yes - Australia!). The Battalion's football team won four cups including the prestigious Infantry Cup. The Rugby Team won the Army 7s, did well in the Cyprus 10s, and three other fairly major competitions: and at the time of writing we have reached the finals of the Army's Rugby League competition as the defending champions. All in all we have won some eight pieces of silver and one more is



nearly in our grasp. We will continue to invest in sport throughout next year. The Rugby Army Cup remains our principle goal and this season we will again go at it with vigour and determination, and hopefully aided by a strong squad and a fair wind. If we get it right sport will set us apart from many other units and should work well as a retention and recruiting tool for the Yorkshire Regiment for soldiers and officers.

Looking to the future. As many of you will already know we are due to join 12 Mechanised Brigade in March 2008 as their Armoured Infantry Battalion. Getting there from the time of writing looks to be a hard slog, with much of the fighting element of the Battlegroup deployed for much of the time. However, the finish line of a hard marathon is in sight and I am confident that we will get there in good order and with our reputation enhanced, especially as a hard nut to crack when OPFOR. In 12 Mechanised Brigade we switch our focus from training others to training ourselves. BATUS is our immediate objective and we deploy to Canada in the summer of 2008. Thereafter we are slated for a tour of Iraq, commencing in 2009. This will be the Battalion's first tour since returning from

Iraq in October 2005 and this is a significant tour interval when compared to many other infantry battalions. As you can imagine many of those currently serving with the Battalion are keen to deploy sooner than that. We all watch the changing political landscape with interest. Individuals from the Battalion are however in harms way at this time, with two officers, two SNCOs and three Corporals currently on operations in Afghanistan. I hope to send more should commitments permit.

Overall a busy and rewarding reporting period and one in which we have continued to build upon the initial success of the Land Warfare Centre role established some nineteen months ago. We have much to look forward too and much to do, including delivery of the high profile Fire Power Demonstration, which will be all consuming during October. Thereafter we can look forward to a constant series of high profile exercises from November 07 to March 08. During this time we hope to add a few more scalps to our belt. Fortune Favours the Brave.

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Pullan

### BURMA COMPANY

- OC - Major J. R. Bryden
- 2 IC - Captain C. Johnston
- CSM - WO2 Yeadon
- WSM - Colour Sergeant Roberts
- CQMS - Colour Sergeant Peacock

#### 4 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant A. Bond  
Sergeant Parsons

There has been a lot of movement within the Company since the last edition of the Journal. We have said goodbye to WO2 CSM Dean Owens and his wife Anne Marie as he moves briefly back to the 2nd Battalion for Op Herrick 7 before returning as Ops WO with 3 Yorks in the New Year. We thank them both most sincerely for all that they have done. In his place we welcome WO2 CSM Keith Yeadon on promotion from Corunna Company. Colour Sergeant Hinchcliffe has returned from Afghanistan and moved straight on to be a Colour Sergeant Instructor at the Infantry Battle School Wales and Lance Corporal Swindels remains attached to 1 Royal Anglian on Op Herrick 6 -we look forward to his safe return, as does his brother who is also in Burma and has now also promoted to Lance Corporal.

Other congratulations on promotion go to, in their new rank, Colour Sergeants Peacock and Roberts; Sergeants Higgins, Macgregor and Matkowski; Corporals Collington, Watts and Shaw; and soon to be Lance Corporal Keiller - the Junior Company Clerk. Additional congratulations must go to Privates Bishop, Pugh and Levitt on their successful completion of the Potential Non Commissioned Officer cadre (photo opposite). Sergeant Anderson, in his first twelve months

#### 5 Platoon

2nd Lieutenant H. Stow  
Sergeant Anderson

in the role, has won the Muji Kas award for the best Sergeant in the Battalion; and Corporal Higgins (now Sergeant) was awarded the Taylor Miles award for the best Corporal in the Battalion.

We have said goodbye to Sergeant Parsons who moves up to Yorkshire to take over the critical role of Regimental Shepherd and also to Lance Corporal





Bowness who has provided an excellent service as the senior Company Clerk over the last 18 months. We welcome Lance Corporal Baker from Alma and a host of young Private soldiers who have filled the space left behind by the drummer's return to Somme earlier in the year.

After a week firing Initial Gunner Tests at Lulworth and the provision of Civpop (Civilian Population) to an Ex Wessex Warrior against 1 Coldstream Guards the Company's first major event of this period was Ex Vertical Venture, a week's adventure training package at the Joint Service Mountain Training Wing Capel Curig (JSMTW(CC) at Capel Curig in North Wales between the 6th and 11th May 2007. The Company, plus a slice of Hook (HQ) Company enjoyed a five day multi-activity week consisting of a day each of hill walking, surf kayaking, canoeing, mountain biking and rock climbing. The unit provides all instructors, accommodation and equipment; all we needed was the people, some minibuses and a sense of humour to cope with North Walian weather!



The walking was conducted all over Snowdonia with some teams making it up Snowdon, Carned Llewellyn and Tryfan. Canadian canoeing was done on a local lake and the very popular surf kayaking took place on Blackrock Sands. It was a bit wet for any serious rock climbing but a few good days were had at Tremodoc Upper Tier and the best of the mountain biking was done on the purpose built Marin Trail that runs just next door to the camp.

Nearly half the company has been tied up in trialling the General Service Respirator (GSR) over the last few months. The GSR provides incomparably better protection than the current S10 respirator and has a







number of other beneficial features: it has a single lens giving better situational awareness and twin self sealing canisters, either of which can provide adequate protection, making canister changing drills simply a matter of one off - one on. The down side is perhaps that the twin canister design makes it quite heavy and the additional protection is in part provided by a second seal around the nose and mouth that can be a little claustrophobic.

The trials were conducted by the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) and consisted of a number of weeks of basic NBC exercises and live firing in Thetford and Warcop followed by a month long stay in Fort Polk Louisiana to test the respirator in hot and humid conditions. The Hot and Humid trail was made up of a number of representational tasks (offence, defence and patrolling) in high temperatures with incredible humidity. The soldier's core temperatures were measured by internal transmitting thermometers that had to be swallowed each day and tracked through the body. The good side to this was the requirement for an 'enforced' R&R package in Dallas, Texas, to ensure that all micro thermometers were passed before the flight.

Two of the larger exercises that the Company has been involved with during this period saw the soldiers deploy as formed taliban / insurgent groups to conduct a full range of non conventional operations against 52 Inf Brigade on Op Herrick 7 Pre Deployment Training and again against the Airborne Task Force (2 Para) of 16 Air Assault Brigade on Ex Eagles Eye. Although not what they joined to do, the lads have embraced this new challenge with real vigour - particularly the opportunities to conduct suicide bombings and 'kidnap' Blueforce soldiers in order to test the exercising Brigade's man-away drills. In fact Burma has proved particularly adept at kidnapping over the last few months taking the lead with six dismounted snipers, FOOs and recce troopers of the Household Cavalry, two Paras and five 1 Royal Irish recce soldiers including the



Recce Platoon Commander. Not to mention the brutal and cold-blooded execution of the Household Cavalry Regiment's Quartermaster Technical!

In the background of the activities listed above has been the normal set of company training commitments and routine commitments in support of the Land Warfare Centre. Additionally the preparations for the Company's commitment to the Combined Arms Firepower Demonstration in October have already begun with field firing straight after leave and integrated live firing with the Warriors in early September.

Major James Brydon



## CORUNNA COMPANY

OC	- Major R. C. O'Connor
2 IC	- Captain M. Wade-Smith
CSM	- WO2 Stones
CQMS	- Colour Sergeant Sykes

### 7 Platoon

Lieutenant C. Dawson  
Sergeant Seviour

### 9 Platoon

Lieutenant S. Farley  
Sergeant Roper

The months leading up to summer leave saw Corunna Company almost constantly deployed in a series of Opposition Force (OPFOR) tasks. For all of these tasks Corunna Company was operating as terrorists, either the "White Horse Commando," a fanatical group of terrorists committed to freeing Wiltshiria from external interference, or the Taliban for an Afghanistan pre-deployment exercise.

The first task was against the Coldstream Guards Battlegroup. Much of Corunna Company was detached to support Alma Company in the conventional role. The White Horse Commando was therefore less than platoon strength and made up of predominantly company headquarters personnel although with mortar fire controller and sniper pairs from Somme Company and a section of engineers from the Royal Engineers Troop.

In the opening hours of the exercise the Commanding Officer kept the White Horse Commando on a very tight rein and did not allow us to initiate any attacks. With the initial task therefore one of observation rather than violence WO2 Stones relived his days from the reconnaissance platoon. With a handful of men and four civilian cars he established a screen forward and triggered the enemy's movement before handing over to the conventional elements of 3 Yorks. The 3 Yorks reconnaissance and anti-tank platoons then began inflicting heavy casualties. Once the shooting had started the White Horse Commando was unleashed to create chaos amongst the Coldstream Guards and their supporting elements. Using unarmed dickers to target vulnerable positions a series of attacks were launched against convoys, patrols and armoured vehicles. Using rocket propelled grenades, mortars, snipers and multi-weapon shoots the White Horse Commando was able to inflict a high number of casualties as the Coldstream Guards attempted to capture Greenlands Camp and then move on to Copehill Down Village. In Copehill Down Captain Mike Wade-Smith and his eight men kept the Coldstream Guards at bay for several hours with a mixture of improvised explosive devices and machine gun fire. Private Qaranivalu proved to be devastatingly effective with the GPMG. That night the dispersed elements of the White Horse Commando came together to form a flying column. With a rag tag mixture

civilian cars the Commando drove deep into Coldstream Guards territory in search of the Guards' supporting gun battery. After hiding the cars the Commando launched a fighting patrol to destroy the battery. The attack was a resounding success and after rolling up the battery the Commando made good its escape, complete with two prisoners. Unfortunately, exercise control ordered the immediate release of the prisoners.

The Commando's final day of the exercise saw them facilitate the infiltration of the main 3 Yorks conventional force into Copehill Down Village in order to besiege the Coldstream Guards Base. Although the attack on the base was not due to start until first light (by when the whole of Alma would have been in position), the arrival of a Gazelle helicopter an hour earlier was too good a target to miss. When the aircraft shut down and the pilots walked across the car park to the Guards base the White Horse and Alma gunmen opened fire. Within minutes the helicopter and all of the Guards' vehicles were destroyed and the infantry were fixed in the base where they were subjected to a devastating barrage of mortar fire. After several hours of fighting the White Horse extracted.

The final force on force exercise was against 52 Brigade as they prepared to deploy to Afghanistan. For this exercise rather than deploying as the White Horse Commando, Corunna was deployed as the Taliban, complete with beards (beards is probably over stating it, scruffy and unshaven would be more accurate). While the majority of the 3 Yorks Battlegroup remained in the Salisbury Plain area, Corunna deployed to Wales.



Corunna and Somme Company soldiers in CDV.



Initially Corporal Burrows and a small team deployed to Caerwent to conduct reconnaissance and limited strike operations against the Ghurkhas, the rest of the company deployed to Sennybridge.

The scenario was that the Taliban in the area were moving prestige weapons (surface to air missiles) and would be staying at a transit camp to break up the journey. 52 Brigade launched their reconnaissance forces to try to confirm the location of the transit camp. Unfortunately for 52 Brigade the patrol from 4/73 Battery was compromised on the first night by Lance Corporal Hunter and his standing patrol. At first light Corunna launched a sweep of the area to see if any observation posts had been inserted. After several hours a patrol was discovered and as they attempted to escape Lance Corporal Hunter tackled one of the gunners and took him prisoner. A lengthy fire fight ensued as the gunners tried to rescue their man. However, within minutes he had been spirited away and it took the intervention of the exercise control before he was released.

After 48 hours the exercise moved to Caerwent where the Company managed to capture and destroy a police station, stage a show of force for propaganda purposes, and launch a suicide bomb attack against the main security force base. However, 52 Brigade launched an armoured infantry Battlegroup from Salisbury Plain to relieve the besieged forces in Caerwent and after a day of fighting Corunna was finally overwhelmed.

Although the company has spent almost all of its recent time on force exercises operating as irregulars for the benefit of someone else's training, the training benefits for us have been immense. We have been able to thoroughly practise fighting patrols, close target reconnaissance, ambushes, urban operations, fighting in close country to name but a few. All of this has been against a live, thinking enemy. However, because we have not been constrained by the rules of war, we have been given an opportunity to try thinking like real terrorists. This can only be of benefit in the months and years ahead.



**Mike Wade-Smith in CATT.**



**Battle preparation on Exercise Lions Strike.**



**Private Howden with SAM-7.**



**Hostages at police station.**



There has still been the opportunity to conduct conventional training. We have been able to take advantage of our close proximity to the simulators in the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT). Indeed, we have conducted more synthetic training in CATT with Warriors than we have in the field.

However, the Warriors are still regularly deployed in support of the Land Warfare Centre and consequently the crews are able to maintain their skills. The major conventional deployment for the Company remains Exercise Lions Strike in support of the company commanders' course run by the Combined Arms Tactics Division (CATD).

This exercise sees the deployment of the entire Battlegroup on tracks and although students fill the principle command appointments it is still a valuable training opportunity.

Major R. C. O'Connor



Moving to Assembly Area on Exercise Lions Strike.

### HOOK COMPANY

- |      |   |                        |
|------|---|------------------------|
| OC   | - | Major F. Bibby         |
| CSM  | - | WO2 Wood               |
| CQMS | - | Colour Sergeant Benson |

The departments of Hook seldom have time for extra curricula activities but for once May was a welcome exception. Every effort was made to get soldiers out of camp and doing something different and non military while the programme allowed. The company made best use of the Battalion Adventurous training programme placing soldiers from all departments on adrenalin filled weeks with the other companies at Penhale Camp and Capel Curig in Wales. Those of a less adventurous nature were sent packing with their history books on separate Battlefield Tours to Arnhem and Normandy organised by the RAO and reported on in articles in this journal. The chance to address the work, life balance has been invaluable in refreshing everyone readying them for an exercise packed July.

July started with the 52 Brigade Mission rehearsal exercise which saw the Battalion equipped with pick up trucks, beards and shamags. This was an unusual

assignment, especially for the QM's department and the MT but 3 Yorks rolled out of Battlesbury Barracks looking every inch the Taliban force they were meant to be.

Throughout all this time Hook's Department of Steel has continued in earnest. Any available Wednesday afternoons have been spent competing in various sporting events including dodgeball and basketball to see which department would collect the coveted trophy. This year the CIS Platoon has been too strong and their name is etched on the trophy in this, its inaugural year.

As a company, Hook have started strongly in the Champion Company Competition coming second in the orienteering leaving us placed behind Somme in the overall standings. Two soldiers to note in this performance were Taylor and Skidmore who have since gained promotion to Lance Corporal.

### CIS PLATOON

- |      |   |                |
|------|---|----------------|
| RSO  | - | Captain Pearce |
| RSWP | - | WO2 Burns      |

#### Normandy Battlefield Tour, 21-24 May 07

Having been in the Battalion for nearly 21 years and never attended a Battlefield tour, there was little hesitation in volunteering the CIS Platoon and me to go to Normandy.

The hotel in Normandy was a welcome sight after our long journey and once we booked in, the group sat down to eat. This inevitably was followed by a stroll into town for a beer but at six Euros a bottle Normandy is not the ideal place for Yorkshire men to drink and the night ended early.

Breakfast the next day was followed by a bus trip to our first battle site. King Sector on Gold Beach was

where the British 50th Infantry Division landed on D-Day, 6th June 1944. An opportunity for photos of General Montgomery's war memorial was followed by standing on the beach where 25,000 British soldiers had landed by the end of the day. Bob (see Captain Perera's report "Exercise Historic Duke" on page 64) a military historian, addressed his audience painting a picture of what happened all those years ago. As he did so a lump grew in my throat and glancing around the group it was clear to see the emotions this vivid insight of history evoked. Looking at the bunkers that remain overlooking the beach brings the history lesson even more to life.



On the way to our next location there was a brief chance to view the sites of the Pill Box Battle, Mont Fleury Battery and the clearance of Crépon where CSM S. Hollis Green Howards earned his VC. Sadly time was tight and we had to move on.

The Cinéma Circulaire Arromanches 360 located overlooking the Mulberry floating harbour was our next stop. Here we watched a twenty minute film about the local area, past and present filmed with a combination of nine synchronised cameras mounted on various places including a tank, a helicopter and a boat giving you a varied perspective.

In Arromanches a museum is built on the very site where the Mulberry artificial port was installed and its remains can still be seen just a few hundred metres out to sea. Mulberry was the code name for the port which was an idea conceived by Winston Churchill to allow provisions to get through to troops fighting in the Battle of Normandy.

Following a visit to the US National Cemetery in St Laurent the day culminated with a stop at Pointe du Hoc, the German cliff top battery assaulted by US Rangers. At a vantage point overlooking the beach Bob told the story about the ladders that were built to aid the Americans scaling the sheer cliff faces and the difficulties they faced by assaulting such a lofty position.

The hotel offered refuge, beer and a time to reflect on the day but no sooner had I shut my eyes and my alarm was going off for day two of Bob's tour.

We drove to Sword Beach, Queen Red Sector where Bob brought to life the story of the D Day assault from a number of perspectives. First the battles fought by the East Yorks, 1 S Lancs and the 13/18 Hussars. Then we moved inland for the description of 1 Suffolks and the 13/18 Hussars battle to capture the strong points of Morris and Hillman.

The next destination on the tour was Bob's beloved Pegasus Bridge in Ranville-Benouville, (Calvados). Bob told the story of the men of the 6th British Airborne Division who were the first liberators to arrive in Normandy on the night of 5th June 1944. The Benouville Bridge more commonly known now as the Pegasus Bridge, was to be captured and held until reinforcements arrived by glider-borne troops commanded by Major John Howard played famously by the late Sir Richard Burton in the film epic, *The Longest Day*.

For me the next location was the pinnacle of the tour, a visit to the Memorial in Fontenay Le Pesnil of the 6th and 7th Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (Polar Bears). The Memorial is not usually part of our tour itinerary but Bob thought it fitting that we went and

paid our respects to the fellow Yorkshire men that gave their lives over sixty years ago. He had researched the 6th and 7th Battalions involvement in the War and to his credit delivered the story fantastically as he had done throughout the tour. He described how the 6th and 7th Battalions embarked on HMS Cheshire arriving off the coast of Normandy on the 11th June 1944. By late evening that day they were five miles inland having been involved in various engagements with the enemy none more notorious than the elite 12th SS Panzer Division. Over a fourteen day period the 6th Battalion had seen a change in Commanding officers, twenty-three officers and 350 other rank casualties, only twelve of the original officers remained and they all were junior. The end of this visit was marked poignantly with a laying of a wreath at the memorial.

Merville Battery was the last site on the tour. This German Battery is situated 2km inland and was an indirect fire battery, dependant on the forward observation post on the beach at Franceville. The Battery is an historic site extending over ten hectares and preserved since the end of the war. As well as a command post and ten bunkers for the routine military functions that took place, there are four formidable casemates whose guns laid enfilade fire on Sword Beach, threatening the Eastern flank of the Allied invasion. The highlight of the visit to the Battery was the amazing sound and light show of the attack on the 6th June 1944.

The trip for me just put all the different books and films that we have all read and seen about the historic D Day landings into perspective. Actually visiting some of the famous locations and listening to Bob's emotionally delivered stories was an experience I will never forget.

WO2 (RSWO) J. M. Burns





## SPS DETACHMENT

RAO	- Captain Perera
Detachment Commander	- Captain Haslett
RAOWO	- WO2 Doyle

### Exercise Viscontea 2007

On Friday 8th June nine members of the SPS Detachment from 3 Yorks (DWR) went to Italy to compete in an International Military Challenge held in Valbrona, Northern Italy. The challenge is run over three days with parades held on Friday and Sunday and the competition on the Saturday. Friday saw the flag raising ceremony and a chance to meet the other competing teams which included the hosts and teams from France, Latvia and Austria, after the ceremony the team captain's briefs concluded the activities for that day.

Saturday was the main competition the first team setting off at 0700hrs and the others teams at ten minute intervals. The competition is designed for three person teams in a patrol format successfully navigating around the mountains and completing various military stands

at checkpoints along the route. The route this year was approximately 30k in difficult terrain.

On Saturday evening after completion of the competition all teams were invited to the outskirts of Valbrona for a party. The atmosphere was excellent as the wine and beer flowed quite easily, with all teams bragging of their exploits during the competition phase. Everybody enjoyed the evening but fatigue played a part and most teams retired early in preparation for Sunday.

On Sunday morning there was a church service followed by the laying of a wreath and the prize giving ceremony. This was the second time the SPS Detachment from 3 Yorks (DWR) have entered this competition, previously held in Tirano. This year was definitely the harder with the Detachments veteran team completing the patrol in over twelve hours and coming fourth overall, only six points behind third position.

## QUARTERMASTER'S AND MECHANICAL TRANSPORT PLATOON

QM (Maint)	- Major A. Pigg
QM (Tech)	- Captain P. McNeil
RQMS (Maint)	- WO2 Moroney
RQMS (Tech)	- WO2 Carter
MTO	- Captain N. Wilson
MTWO	- WO2 Crump

For the want of a nail the battle was lost. So goes the old rhyme, penned at a time when the farrier and blacksmith accompanied both the covering force and main body of the Army. In today's modern Army, Equipment Care (EC) is as important today as it was in the days of old and is essential to the operational effectiveness of any unit. With this in mind 3 Yorks Battle Group are currently undergoing an EC renaissance and it will remain the "buzz word" within the department until everyone has been completely indoctrinated. Some of you may well have guessed there is a certain technical tone to the latest G4 notes this time around.

The tempo within the Battle Group has remained unabated since the last instalment, with a myriad of varied and challenging tasks for the G4 departments to tackle. This has included supporting the Land Warfare Centre's programmed training events and other issues such as the disposal of Alma Companies antiquated fleet of 432s to the Army Base Repair Organisation at Bovington. These fifteen armoured vehicles will eventually be upgraded to the FV 430 Mk3 Bulldog variant and will see service in the near future with units on operations in Iraq. The Alma team must be congratulated in preparing the fleet to an exceptionally high standard. The Company Fleet Manager, Colour Sergeant Luscombe led the Company in mourning after the departure of these faithful battlefield taxis. Rumour has it there was not a dry eye in the Company when the

last of the vehicles were loaded up and departed Battlesbury Barracks for the final time.

Perhaps the most noticeable G4 support requirement during this reporting period was to Ex Kush Dragon, 52 Brigade's Mission Rehearsal Exercise for their imminent operational tour to Afghanistan. The Battle Group supported this exercise without deploying armour. The Warriors being replaced by a fleet of no fewer than 70 assorted civilian vehicles sourced and issued by the Motor Transport Platoon and utilised by the Battle Group to their full potential in varying ways.

The Battle Group represented a mixed bag of exercise play groups such as Taliban, Afghan National Army (ANA) and members of the Afghan Civilian Population. The Quartermaster's dressing up box was raided and everyone looked the part complete with well nurtured beards. Regular liaison with the Field Training Group (FTG) ensured the G4 support was effectively distributed to the Sub Units by the CQMS staff under the command and control of the BGLO.

With an increment of manpower to bolster the overall numbers of the OPFOR, Knook Camp was identified as a mounting base for the 160 augmentees and sixty Afghan Bi-cultural Bi-Lingual Assistants. These personnel along with the remaining 3 Yorks members were kitted out and issued with their new attire and equipment, including 250 Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) vests and other TES equipment



from FTG. The Catering Platoon as ever performed miracles in feeding these varied and remote groups, with the Quartermasters' and MT Platoon supplying the Sub-Units with amongst other things, defence stores to re-enforce their "Taliban strongholds".

The G4 support to Kush Dragon was deemed a success with some useful lessons learnt and that will undoubtedly serve 3 Yorks well when tasked with a similar exercise.

Major A. Pigg

### CATERING PLATOON

RCWO - WO2 Wilson  
Master Chef - Colour Sergeant Barnard

Who said that being a chef was no fun? Over the last three months the department has been extremely busy, not just with work but Adventurous Training, Battlefield tours and Catering Competitions. This has been the first time in most of the chef's careers that the whole department was able to get away for some out of barracks activity. Much enjoyment was had by all in particular the sight of Lance Corporal Mere Waqanimaravu abseiling 170ft and deciding the last 10ft to be too scary thus perching on a ledge refusing to move. Luckily she was coaxed down with no damage done.

Now that the department works very closely with Sodexho in delivering the catering service it is eligible to put the chefs forward for Sodexho employee of the month. Corporal Sarah McCubbin was nominated and after much deliberation was awarded the accolade, not only for Warminster but for the whole of the contract which includes the Salisbury Plain and Aldershot area, literally thousands of employees. This was an excellent achievement and she received £75 in vouchers and has been put in a draw to win a weekend in London.

More recently the chefs entered the 4 Div Field Catering Competition (Ex Tigercat) in Aldershot. It

was a very well attended event with twenty-six teams entering in total. The day was broken into two parts, the morning was cooking and serving a meal from Compo (with a small fresh supplement) for ten covers and the afternoon was like an episode from 'Ready, Steady, Cook' with a box of fresh ingredients. The morning session went very well and saw the team achieve 4th overall, an excellent result. The afternoon was a bit more challenging and despite an inventive and delicious end result saw the team drop a few points. This resulted in 9th position overall; still an outstanding achievement considering not one of the chefs involved had any previous competition experience. The team consisted of Corporal Lee Pearce, Lance Corporal Kerry Nash and Private Kev Phelps with Sergeant Matt Hodgson in the Admin role.

The period has seen a number of chefs posted in; Private Sylvester Netley from Training Depot and Lance Corporal Scottie Bethel and Private Stevie Hawkins from 3 Lancers. We have only had one farewell to make and that was for Corporal Dougie Watson on a much deserved promotion to join the Coldstream Guards in Woolwich.

WO2 (SQMS) Wilson

### EXERCISE HISTORIC DUKE - BATTLEFIELD STUDY

Arnhem, 7-10 May 2007

Before the eagles could scream, early on the morning of 7 May a party of twenty-five all-ranks 3 Yorks (DWR) set off for the long drive to the battlefields of Arnhem.

The drive to Arnhem was uneventful, with two hours of the drive taken up by watching the mandatory film "A Bridge Too Far". Our guide was a Major (Retd) Bob Darby of Remembrance Travel (a subsidiary of the British Legion) ex-Parachute Regiment and by far the best tour guide one could have (shame we could not have said that about the coach driver who, even with Sat-Nav, got us lost!) We arrived in the Gelderland province in the early evening and booked into our base-camp for this tour, the Campanile Zevenaar (highly recommended hotel). We settled into our hotel and even before the beer was poured the first drama began ... the CSM had lost his bag! After much searching (and ribbing by the other SNCOs), a sheepish looking soldier tried to explain that he had accidentally taken the bag ... oh ... and he had "accidentally" used the CSM's towel too! Later on that evening, some of the juniors decided to take a taxi into Arnhem to conduct some cultural exchanges with the locals but

were to soon find out that the town of Arnhem on a Monday night is not exactly a busy place!

The second day began with a visit to Grave Bridge, south of Nijmegen. This area-of-ops was designated to the 82nd (US) AB Division commanded by a young 30-something General, General Jim Gavin, who was played by the actor Ryan O'Neil in the film. The most note-worthy event to happen at this bridge was the assault by a young American platoon commander and his platoon on one of the two pill-boxes that secure this feature. To summarise his bold and daring assault, he landed his platoon in an open field approx 200m from a pill-box, waded a River Maas tributary and assaulted the pill-box up a very steep gradient ... all under fire!

Later that day, we travelled to the city of Nijmegen. Nijmegen Bridge is one of the largest bridges in Europe and dominates the city. Again, this AOR was given to the 82nd (US) AB Division supported by the Guards Armoured Division. Referring to the film, a young Robert Redford plays a US Major who has to take a small raiding party across the River Waal and secure the far side. What the film does not capture is the sheer size and danger of this mission. Those students of history



know that the Germans were masters at siting their fire-positions. Knowing this, to paddle across a river (in canvas boats) that is both fast-flowing and wide (approx 100m) and cover open ground of approx 1km under fire is again an outstanding example of both leadership and courage.

As we drove back to our hotel that afternoon, I pondered on what I had just seen. Even in my wildest dreams I could not imagine such heroism, determination, courage and leadership that had been displayed; it was simply superhuman. Also, I thought about the significance of certain events ... what if? What if the Germans had blown the bridge at Nijmegen (which they tried to but the explosives either failed to ignite or were sabotaged), thus preventing XXX Corps pushing any further; would this act have had a ripple effect across the battlefields of Western Europe?

The earliest reference of Arnhem is in 893 as Arneym, referring to the eagles that inhabited the hills and forests in days past. It is fitting then that men falling from the skies; British, American and Polish should have a battle that has become synonymous with airborne forces, the Battle of Arnhem.

The British 1st Airborne Division supported by the Polish 1st Independent Brigade parachuted and glided into this area starting on 17 Sep 1944. Unlike the Americans, who landed virtually on top of their targets, the British landed in the area of Ginkel Heath, north-west of the town of Oosterbeek, some 8 miles from their target.

There are many events that happened between the period 17 - 21 Sep 1944 that are each note-worthy but

too long to add to this article. However, the last stand at Arnhem Bridge by Lieutenant Colonel John Frost, CO 2 Para and his command, 1 Para Brigade Group, stands as a fitting tribute to the fighting spirit of the British soldier. With no support, a reinforced parachute battalion withstood heavy assault from the German 9th and 10th SS Panzer Divisions.

This whole battlefield study was executed by Bob Darby in an excellent fashion gathering momentum with the crescendo being the Battle of Arnhem itself.

Again, on the long drive back to the UK, I thought about the men who fought so gallantly in this area. There are so many "what ifs?" Why were XXX Corps stopped at Nijmegen? Was their supply line so stretched that they could not make the ten mile journey to Arnhem to reinforce Lieutenant Colonel Frost's men? What would have happened if the British 1st Airborne Division had copied their American counter-parts and dropped onto their objective, would the battle have had a different outcome? Whatever; the men involved in this operation continued the strong British tradition of overcoming adversity and they truly were heroes.

The finale to the battlefield study was the laying of a wreath in a war cemetery in Holland at Bergen Op Zoom. A young soldier from Burma Company in our group had a grandfather who died in this area. But the poignancy of the moment to me was the fact that this young soldier's grandfather was a Corporal in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and this summed-up, in my eyes, what this battalion represents; a rich history and family unity.

Captain M. P. Perera AGC (SPS)

## OFFICERS' MESS

After the valuation reported in the last edition of the Journal, the long term projects to digitise the silver and property are on hold in preparation for the pan-Regimental plan for the accounting and management of property, both Yorkshire Regiment and Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Within this work we hope to rationalise the property holdings over the next twelve months as the generosity of officers, colleagues, guests and friends is threatening to overwhelm the property room and there is far more property, admittedly of varying quality, than we could ever hope to display. There are some ten pieces of silver which, on a recent inspection, were found to be damaged and we hope to fix these under insurance over the next few months. In addition to this, work is underway to begin an affordable refurbishment programme for property that requires a little work but could not be classed as damaged. This starts with creating secure box frames for the Waterloo and Abyssinian medals. Many Mess improvements have also been completed over the past few months, not least of which is a full refurbishment of the gardens - including Captain Ben Redshaw's adventure play ground!

Given the tempo of commitments since March the Mess has packed a lot in. We now have well attended Happy Hours every month and since the last edition we have had an informal Airline Party, a Battle of the Hook Guest Night, a Summer Party, a Fathers' Dinner Night,



**Captain Wilson with the Silver Putter.**

a Crown Club (Majors) Ladies Night, a Captains Dinner Night, the annual Silver Putter / Wooden Spoon golf competition, a working lunch for the Land Warfare Centre staff and one for DGTS, Major General Cooper DSO, MBE.

The Airline Party was a sight to behold. Captain Lee Pearce and his team did a fantastic job of turning the Mess into the 'Dukes Air Lounge' and even found real airline seats to sit down to dinner on.



Of particular note was the Hook Dinner Night. The battle honour is shared with 1 RTR as is our Mess, and the decision has been made to honour this important battle honour with an annual event with A Squadron and 1 RTR as a whole. We were honoured to be joined for dinner by Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Hugh Le Messurier who was the Battle Adjutant of the Dukes on the Hook as well as Mr Kevin Attenborough a national service Royal Artillery officer who provided the Dukes fire support, and Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) George Forty, historian of the RTR, son and brother of Dukes' officers and an RTR Troop Leader in Korea who fought and was injured in the Dukes' Battle Group. We also hosted COS Land Warfare Centre, Colonel Russ Wardle, CO 1 RTR, Lieutenant Colonel Ian Gibb and Lieutenant Colonel Guy Shuttleworth whose father the late Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth fought in Korea

and later became the founding father of contemporary Dukes Rugby. The Commanding Officer took the opportunity to request Colonel Guy's permission to name the 1st XV pitch here in Warminster the 'Shuttleworth Field', an offer that he kindly accepted.

The summer party was a low key affair with the emphasis on quality over quantity. We dodged the rain and were blessed with a few hours of fine weather and so were able to entertain 120 to an upmarket barbecue with dancing, roulette and a magic show. This was followed by the Father's Dinner Night in early July where we entertained a total of forty-six officers and guests to a traditional regimental dinner night followed by a morning of boys and toys as we released them over a selection of armoured vehicles.

PMC Major J. R. Bryden

### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

RSM - WO1 G. Snaddon  
PMC - WO2 J. J. Hallsworth

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess continues to be the engine room in the madness that is the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group. By the time this edition of the Iron Duke is published many Mess members will have delivered the Combined Fire Power Demonstration. This is the second time that the Battlegroup have conducted the British Army's show of strength and capabilities with last year's event going extremely well, lets hope for an even better show this year.

The number of living-in Mess members seems to increase daily and the Mess is now at bursting point, the fact room is so tight that the younger members have now been offered the chance to live out in rented accommodation, something that they have accepted and grabbed with both hands.

April saw the Mess say farewell to the outgoing Regimental Sergeant Major, Captain Wilson and saw us welcome RSM Snaddon and his wife Heather into the fold. A fantastic evening was had by all in the more formal setting of a Regimental dinner, where the outgoing RSM spoke with great affection for the Mess before presenting the PMC with his beloved Pace stick. Whilst commenting on what it meant to him, and that he had never managed to drop it throughout the time he had used it the PMC promptly dropped it on the floor, much to the amusement of the remainder of the Mess.

The time for the Summer Ball quickly crept up upon us and was eventually held on 7 July. Due to the splendid surroundings that the Mess is set in it was decided to take full advantage of the space and hold the event there. WO2 Wood and his selected committee produced a function that will be remembered by the 180

attending Mess members and guests for a long time to come. The event took the form of a very informal function with entertainment both inside and out of the main building, with the chefs producing an outstanding array of fresh food cooked to order.

A point worthy of note was the look on WO2 Wood's face when he first met the band that was going to open the function; to say they were underdressed would be an understatement, however much to his delight they proved to be a fantastic group and made the whole evening a great success.

Prior to a well earned summer leave the Mess made several presentations to attached members of the Battle Group. Just to name a couple, WO1 Grant Stevenson, formerly SSM, A Squadron, is now posted to the Bowman Trials Team at Blandford and also to Sergeant Julie Wright, the busiest SSA that the Battalion and Battle Group has ever seen. However those that have not been mentioned along with those that have are wished all the best in their new positions and are welcome back to the Mess. Congratulations are in order and welcome to the Mess to Sergeants Bagnal, Higgins, Hopkinson, Jones, and Lee on promotion.

On the social front the Mess will be holding a Golf day at Frome Golf Club where all Mess member golfers, or not will be encouraged to attend. This will be a chance to welcome into the Mess the new faces that have recently joined the Battle Group, over the last couple of months. More Mess party's and dinner nights are in the early stages of planning. However the main effort will be the event of the year; the Rupert and Andy Capp awards!

WO2 J. J. Hallsworth

### OFFICER EDUCATION

Despite the frenetic pace of life within the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup, there has been a great deal of activity on the Officer Education front, which can be divided into two main groups of activities.

The first are those mandatory courses that an officer is required to prepare for and complete in order to become qualified for promotion. In the case of Lieuts they need to attend the Junior Officer Leadership

Programme (JOLP) at an education centre and the Junior Officer Tactics Course (JOTAC) at the Land Warfare Centre. In addition they must complete the Military Knowledge (MK) 1 package. This is an online study and examination course and takes up a significant amount of time. In theory, study should be completed during work time. In the case of Captains they are required to complete the online study MK2 package and attend three Military Analysis courses at an Education Centre.

The second group of activities are designed to assist the professional development of the junior officers. Some of the activities have been designed with the specific intention of assisting officers in their preparation for the mandatory courses. For example the Battalion Second in Command and OC Corunna ran a seminar on the Procurement Process and anti-armour weapons. This was primarily to put into context the information contained within both the MK1 and MK2 syllabuses. However, the presentation was also to assist officers in their tactical planning - in order to protect against an enemy armed with shaped charges or explosively formed projectiles it helps to have an understanding of how they work.

Much of the focus of the work has been on doctrine. Groups of junior officers were tasked to produce a short presentation on a doctrinal subject such as the Core Functions and the Operational Framework. While these may seem heavy subjects they are fundamental to understanding the way that the Army operates.

Fortunately Officer Education has not been all doctrinally focussed. There has been an opportunity to look at some important lessons from history. Captain Chris Adair gave an excellent presentation on the lessons from the Battle of Spion Kop in South Africa and the officers from A Squadron gave a presentation on the impact that an individual vehicle crew can have upon a battle. Complete with model tanks (including a radio controlled, ball bearing firing Tiger Tank) they told the story of the Battle of Villiers-Bocage and the impact of Hauptsturmführer Michael Wittman.

The main effort for Officer Education has been the use of the 7 Questions Combat Estimate. Thus far the 7 Questions training has consisted of a formal seminar followed by a TEWT on the ground. Although this resulted in a somewhat lengthy estimate, the idea was to develop "intellectual muscle memory," ie in the future platoon commanders will conduct much of the estimate subconsciously and in a fraction of the time. Training in the 7 Questions is almost constant as it is very much at the heart of how Battlegroup Headquarters conducts its planning process and this is replicated at company level. This is true whether or not the Battlegroup/company is operating in the conventional role or, as has often been the case recently, irregular forces. The intention is that a version of the 7 Questions will be used at all levels within the Battalion to solve all problems, be they military or otherwise.

Major R. O'Connor

## DUKES' RUGBY

### Army Seven Aside Champions

The last few months have been a very successful period for the Dukes Rugby Club. Following the success of the 7s team in Pocklington during Easter leave the players prepared themselves for May's Army Championship. Last year we came a disappointing 2nd to 1 Scots something that we were not contemplating this time around. In order to qualify for the Finals the team had to win the 5 Division competition which we did in a stylish manner. No team came close with 1 Staffs being thumped 27-7 in the final.

The Army Championship was going to be a different challenge but after a shaky start we progressed to the quarter finals where we beat a competitive 1 RRF with a last gasp Lance Corporal Burenivalu try. The semi final was a re-run of last year's final with 1 Scots boasting Scottish and Fijian Internationals standing between the Dukes and possible glory. The Scots were swept aside with our boys scoring five unanswered tries, leaving the opposition heads down, despondent and bewildered.

The final was plain sailing with 4 Regiment Royal Artillery weak at the knees at the prospect of facing the mighty Dukes. They had every reason to be scared as we crushed them 37-0 with an absolutely breathtaking display of 7s rugby. Private Karavaki collected the trophy which has been won by this Regiment a record nine times. Lance Corporal Burenivalu was awarded man of the competition for his speedy exploits and proudly received his trophy.

### The Akrotiri International Floodlit Tens

It was a cold and dreary April day when the squad was named to travel to Cyprus to compete in the Akrotiri Tens. Imagine the delight of all those concerned; a week of sun and sea away from the stresses and strains of the Warminster regime and the inclement weather. The floodlit tens are internationally renowned as being a festival of rugby and a stage for players of all standards to exhibit flair and panache. The Battalion had a successful rugby season and recent success at the Army Sevens had boosted the Club's winning spirit and although the competition would be strong in Cyprus we would play to win.

First things first, the preparation had to be done. Major Finlay Bibby, with a little help from Trinny and Susannah, ordered the kit. A wonderful ensemble which included sun hats and knee length khaki shorts, if nothing else we were sure to be the smartest team. With the kit ordered it was time to begin the conditioning. Cyprus was certainly going to be hot and tens is played at a furious pace, similar to sevens but with the rucks and mauls of fifteens. The squad was going to need to be fit. Training responsibility was given to Private Staniland and what followed was some of the most painful, lung busting sessions the squad had experienced. When training twice a day recovery is important and in order to assist with this a large paddling pool was placed behind the gym and filled with ice, after each session the squad stripped down and took the plunge. This was a particular favourite of the Fijian players.





Twenty six teams had entered the tournament from the Army, Navy and Air Force as well as civilian sides. Of particular interest were the Army President's Team, 7 Royal Horse Artillery and a Navy Selection side. All games were to be played during the evenings, under floodlights, once the heat had subsided. This provided time for acclimatisation, team training and sunbathing during the days.

On the first night we were drawn to play two games with the first against a much fancied RAF President's 10. We firmly stamped our authority onto the RAF side in the first minute with two break away tries and the mobility of the team paid off against the larger less mobile RAF side. Full time score 42-0. The next game was against the Akrotiri Griffins, a local side who were hosting the tournament. This too was won easily 35-0 and by the end of day one all squad members had got their boots dirty and thirteen unanswered tries had been run in. Of particular note was Corporal Tuikoro who showed strong leadership as well as his customary pace and strength to galvanise a team that had not played together as a ten.

Two games on the Monday meant that the Tuesday was a rest day and an opportunity to train, relax and socialise with the other players of the tournament. The

tournament is very competitive but there is equally a very strong social programme and the Akrotiri Rugby Club were superb hosts throughout - always keeping the beers cold and the barbecue stoked.

Having won the first two games we had qualified for the main competition. Wednesday saw the team drawn against the Royal Signals in the first of the knock out games. In a more competitive game we conceded our first try but came out on top eventually winning 27-5 and into the quarter final. The quarter final saw the Dukes return to form, sweeping aside RAF Akrotiri convincingly and setting up a mouth watering semi final against the competition favourites the Army President's 10.

Every man was well and truly up for a physical encounter and nothing provided inspiration like the opportunity to beat the Army side. A game that was within our grasp slipped away as the Dukes' forwards concentrated on pummelling the so far untested Army pack instead of allowing our far superior pace and guile to outflank the opposition. Caught unawares the Army sneaked in for a try before half time and then again at the death as mistakes were made when trying to play catch up. A very sad end to our tournament.

Having picked up a number of injuries in the semi final the Army went on to lose the support of the crowd and to 7 RHA in the final. 7 RHA became graceful winners of the 2007 Floodlit Tens and the Army trundled off with their tails between their legs. Once the rugby was over it was time to truly celebrate and Akrotiri Rugby Club hosted a phenomenal party with live bands and barbecues which lasted throughout the weekend.

The Akrotiri Floodlit Tens is a fantastic tournament and provides a stage for teams of all standards. It truly is an exhibition of the game and is superbly organised by the host club. We will be sure to return next year to compete for the title.

Captain M. Wade Smith

## ARMY RUGBY TOUR

### Australia and New Zealand, May 2007

With the Army team still nursing sore bodies after the victory over the Navy at Twickenham, we met at Heathrow airport with the prospect of two weeks in Australia and New Zealand. This was the culmination of the Army Rugby's centenary year. The two weeks would include test matches against the Australian and New Zealand armies.

#### Australia

After a flight that seemed to last an eternity we landed in Sydney. It was early evening and when we arrived at the hotel we could not complain. In Manly,

slightly to the north of Sydney, the hotel was literally metres from the beach. Jetlag was forgotten and everyone was slightly excited about finally arriving that bags were quickly dropped off in rooms, a quick freshen up, and then it was out to test the local bars and beverages. The first couple of days were spent trying to overcome the horrendous jetlag, with light P.T. However we soon got into the training in preparation for the first match which would be against Australian Rugby Presidents Select Team. However it wasn't all work. We were treated to a night at the opera at Sydney Opera House to



see Rossini's Stama Mata. At night the Sydney Opera House combined with the Bridge were simply stunning.

The game day finally arrived. It was going to be played on the famous Coogee Oval in Ranwick. Due to a televised game after ours, this test would be 35 minutes each way and would be a rolling clock. We found out their team would include Army, Navy and Air Force players as well as some ringers from local clubs who were not in the military. After the national anthems the British Army team quickly silenced normally vociferous home support with a dominant forward display that denied the Australians any useful ball. The backs also showed power and pace and gave their antipodean counterparts a lesson in lines of running. It was not long before the score line started ticking over. Although the hot weather suited the Australians more, they looked pretty happy for the half time whistle in order to regroup. However the respite was short-lived as the British Army started the second half as they left off. The fluid rugby stuttered a little bit after the sin-binning of a number of players due a minor differing of opinions and a flurry of fists. However the Australians were

never able to compete. The final score was 38-0, and would have been a lot higher had it not been for the rolling clock and time constraint. It was during the after match drinks a former Duke came and introduced himself. Charlie Renilson who served with the Dukes in 1960 to 1961 proves the fact "once a Duke always a Duke". We were able to share a beer and talk about Dukes Rugby and the golden era of the sixties when greats such as Cambell-Lamerton were playing. His name can still be seen on the Dukes Rugby Union Honours board. It was then back up to Manly in order to celebrate our win before a 0530hrs wake up in order get to the airport for the flight to Wellington, New Zealand. So with parched throats and hangovers we went through passport control and the lengthy security checks prior to falling asleep on the plane.

### New Zealand

We arrived in Wellington and went straight into training to get the flight and the previous day's game out of the legs. Then it was time to venture out and see what Wellington had to offer. The schedule in New Zealand would be tight as we would have two games to play in less than a week. The first would be against the New Zealand Army's Academy team and the second a Test match against the New Zealand Army. As a result we would have an alcohol ban until after the test game. The Defence Attaché proved to be a former Duke (albeit as attached). Colonel Nigel Lloyd was with the Dukes when the Dukes were based in Minden in the 1970's and was the Anti Tank platoon commander. He was keen to catch up and find out the news from the Battalion as well as find out what had happened to a number of his former soldiers who are now LE officers.

We were welcomed by the New Zealand team in the traditional Maori way or Pohiri. This process brings the visitors and the home people together. Initially we were challenged by three Maori warriors. It was at this point I made sure I had a number of large Fijians in front of me. The warriors brought us forward where speeches were exchanged and songs sung. We were now able to size up very closely the New Zealand Army team. They were not small, with a couple of them having hands the size of shovels, majority having no necks to speak of and several had heads the size of pumpkins. It was going to be completely different to the game in Australia.

The New Zealand Army Academy team proved to be a very free-flowing but hard and physical game with the







Kiwi's keen to match our open game plan. The British Army were woken up when the Academy team scored first. Total domination in the set pieces and some excellent running from the back ensured that the British Army ran away with the game in the second half with the final score being British Army 43 New Zealand Army Academy 15.

We now tried to recuperate as best as possible prior to the toughest game of the tour and some would argue the season. Pool recovery sessions, ice baths and massages eased sore and battered bodies. More training sessions on the pitch to perfect the set pieces and backs moves and we all felt prepared. A drinks night (soft drinks only!) at the British Consulate and days out to see the local sights kept us busy and our minds off the game.

Game day quickly arrived. After the two hour journey to FMH stadium in Palmerston North home to the Manawatu Turbos the team focused on the job at hand. After the National anthems and the challenge of the NZ Army Haka the game kicked off in front of 2000 partisan spectators. The NZ Army came out all guns blazing and were determined to beat us through physicality and intimidation. The NZ Army, although fast and mobile, were completely outplayed in the

set pieces. The first 25 minutes of the game would be extremely frustrating as the British Army were unable to convert pressure into points. The Kiwis were first onto the score board with a penalty. However the British Army quickly replied. It was at this point that the game started to change. Frustrated at the lack of success, especially with the majority of possession and territory, the Kiwis started focus on British Army key players. On 35 minutes Georgie Kemble the Army hooker had to leave the field with a closed eye requiring six stitches after getting punched repeatedly on the floor. Rob Sweeney the Army fly half had to leave at half time due to concussion after being tackled late numerous times in full view of the lines men. The second half proved to just as ferocious as the first with the Kiwis still dominating the tackle area and ruck. However some hard driving at the lineout saw the British Army cross the line and score the try, the score being 3-11. The last quarter was a cliff hanger as the Kiwis threw everything at the British Army. However the British Army defence stood fast against the onslaught. The Kiwis kicked a penalty to reduce the score to 6-11 which gave them a real chance of winning in the final minutes; however some last ditch tackles kept the Kiwis out. The final





whistle was greeted with relief as the British Army completed the four capped game grand slam (Navy, RAF, Australia and NZ Army sides). The only thing left to do was to celebrate in style and hope the hangover would not be too bad for the return flight home.

It was a chance in a life time tour. Although very professional in attitude, we were able to relax in the traditional rugby tour way at certain times. The hosts, especially in New Zealand, were brilliant and helped make the tour so memorable. It was also brilliant to meet old Dukes half way round the world and talk about shared interests. It proved the fact "Once a Duke ..."

Captain C. Johnston



*(Those of us who served with the Battalion in Hong Kong in 1968/70 will recall the rumbustious games played against the Malaya based Kiwi Battalion, resulting in the Dukes being victorious in the far East Cup two years running - Editor).*

## DUKES' FOOTBALL

I recall sitting to write of the season 2005/6 and feeling somewhat disappointed at the results I penned, offering excuses as I went along and trying to convince myself that we were just plain old unlucky. I am now satisfied that we were somewhat unlucky, but as a famous old golfer (Gary Player) once wrote 'the more I practise, the luckier I become' he may have been onto ten wins, two draws, five losses and no silverware. In comparison, season 2006/7 saw thirty games twenty-nine wins, one loss and silverware as follows: the Infantry Cup, 5 Division Premiership Cup, 5 Division Major Units knock out Cup, 5 Division Challenge Cup and, lastly, the newly formed Hook trophy.

Five pieces in all and plenty for the Commanding Officer to peer through whilst entertaining guests in his office. Without sounding too Brian Clough, we were near impossible to beat and indeed lost the one game due to a weakened side and a very dubious penalty, although I am sure this sounds very much like sour grapes, this was no way to spoil a 100% record season.

I will concentrate on the infantry Cup to illustrate our success as it is a very well contested competition and presumably recognisable to all, indeed it is the largest of all the Corps Competitions and whilst it is not the Army Cup it does rank second in the field next to it after the inter-corps Championship, such is its scale and importance. The Battalion had reached the Infantry Cup final before in 1996 but had lost by three goals, this year we made it again and went on to win after a titanic battle against ITC Catterick which saw us one all after full time, two all after extra time and winning eventually 5 - 4 on penalties in sudden death after the regulation five penalties each and still no conclusion.

ITC were a talented side and had very recently beat The Argyll's by five goals to nil (the Argyll's went onto

make the Army Cup final after exiting the Infantry Cup). ITC proved a tricky test as they played with a similar style and set up to us. The game proved a spicy affair and saw two fairly serious casualties due to a clash of heads between Corporal Rob Smith (a Duke but playing for ITC) and Corporal Ash Jones. Jones had been cut badly and required several stitches but carried on (Terry Butcher style) with a rudimentary bandage around his head, justice would see him score the winning penalty against a beleaguered ITC who had floundered due to the brilliance of Private Paul Jones' goal keeping. Jones managed to save three penalties, he had also kept us in front during normal play with some very athletic saves, one of which was cleared from the line in a truly world class one-handed save. But for his heroics we may have been there well into the night as the penalty shoot-out proved just as nail biting as normal time had been, each team had the upper hand at various stages but composure and the brilliance of one individual when his time came eventually won through, real Roy of the Rovers stuff.

The route to the final had been just as well contested in parts, although we had been much more clinical in disposing with the opposition and had only one goal scored against us until the final. The Cup run had been as follows: Dukes 3 v RGJ 0, RGBWLI 0 v Dukes 5, Dukes 2 v 1 Scots 1, Dukes 3 v RRF 0. The RRF tie had been the semi-final and saw us pitted against the Champions of Germany; they proved little trouble in comparison to the Scots before them who had several Infantry Corps players and indeed one professional playing for Clyde. The closing minutes of the tie were just a battle to keep them out, but keep them out we did, solid and unrelenting. A remarkable game and every bit the stuff of top class football.

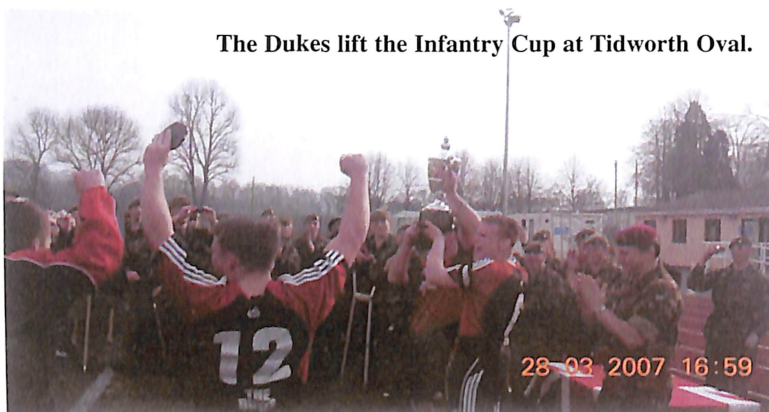


Celebrations a plenty, each week toward the end of the season seemed to be a final, five in all and just reward for a great deal of work throughout the campaign. The team set off on an end of season tour to Barnsley to face Kingston United and were losing 5 - 3 on 80 minutes, we went onto win 7 - 5 by 90 minutes and this I believe sums up the spirit of the team, they simply will not accept defeat lightly, if at all.

After the game we re-joined to the Brooklands Hotel, where we conducted the end of season awards in true Footballers wives fashion. The five star hotel was suitably complete with fountain and marble floors and a silver service to players and partners. The following players were awarded trophies, Corporal Adam Collington 'Player of the Year', Lance Corporal Lee Shaw 'Players Player of the Year', Lance Corporal Farquhar 'Most Improved Player', Private Kev Shinn 'Leading Goal Scorer'. Lastly WO2 Schofield was subjected to something of a 'This Is Your Life' style tribute after his retirement from the team, being the only player to have played both finals, his repost was truly moving.

Success it would seem is a fickle mistress and she needs constant attention; the close season did little but take away our edge. We were to take a part in the pre-season campaigns of two notable clubs. Firstly, Bradford Park Avenue (BPA) from the Unibond League (8th tier of English league) who we played in a showpiece match in front of a paying crowd with a marching band at half time and the cast of ITV's 'The Royal' (giving some colour to the interval in a penalty shoot out televised for Calendar News). The fixture came after three weeks on exercise and twelve hours in the bus due to floods. Still with no sleep in two days it took 44 minutes for Bradford to score against us. I had done my homework two days before and watched them draw one all with Gretna from the Scottish Premier league, so perhaps we should not have expected a result against them. Three days after our match they lost by

The Dukes lift the Infantry Cup at Tidworth Oval.



only one late goal to Huddersfield Town FC. Still I would like to see the result if we were adequately prepared. I know we all felt a little disappointed to have lost, but we knew why.

Result aside the day was a success for the Yorkshire Regiment as the event was a formal opening of the Donald Simpson Bell VC suite at BPA. Bell VC\* had been an Officer in the Yorkshire Regiment and was the only professional footballer to have won the award whilst still registered as a footballer in the league until followed by just another some years later.

The next big test was against Barnsley FC Academy who had travelled directly from the Shrewsbury Tournament beating several clubs including Hull City, River Plate (Maradona's old team) and finally losing to a Mexican side in the final. BFC Academy is in the Premier league of Academies and last season beat Manchester United amongst many other notables. Having welcomed them to Camp we set about swapping trades, us benefiting from professional football coaching and them getting thrashed over the training area on an overnight exercise (fair deal we thought!). The next morning we played against them and did very well until the last ten minutes, where one of BFC's first team regulars came into his own and bagged a brace to take the tie at its closing stages. The final result was 4 - 2 to Barnsley FC but the experience had been invaluable and the occasion priceless for our club.



Dukes XI and Barnsley F.C.



I fully believe we would have beaten anyone in the Army that day and this was endorsed by the BFC manager who summed us up as 'eleven hard working, and talented nutters - a good team, I really didn't expect it!' we had the upper hand for some 40 minutes of the game but as they say 'form is temporary and class is permanent'. The referee also commented that it had been the highest class game he had officiated so far.

Some league teams have not faced the quality of opposition we have had in pre-season and we are thankful for the somewhat harsh lessons these battles have delivered. The coming season hangs in the balance. We aim to lift the coveted Army Cup that has eluded the Infantry for some twenty years, but inevitably we have lost three of our number to postings.

As I write this, our pre-season is underway and we are busily throwing every effort possible at the roots so that the fruit does not die on the vine. As well as improving our kit and infrastructure, the finishing touches are being made to the new dugouts and the newly formed development side has been entered into the first division. We will do our utmost to ensure that season 2006/7 is not a one off; rather it should be a building block. Unfortunately, words are cheap; and actions are everything, thankfully I am doing the talking and the team is doing the playing. We can only wait and see what happens next but the players are eager.

Captain N. S. Wilson

\* 2nd Lieutenant D. S. Bell VC, Green Howards. "For most conspicuous bravery at Horseshoe Trench on 5th July 1916. During an attack a very heavy enfilade fire



**Barnsley FC in action as the Dukes sort the base line. Goalkeeper Private Jones (pictured) is ex BFC A.**

*was opened on the attacking company by a hostile machine gun. Second Lieutenant Bell immediately, and on his own initiative, crept up a communication trench and then, followed by Corporal Colwill and Private Batey, rushed across the open under very heavy fire and attacked the machine gun, shooting the firer with his revolver and destroying gun and personnel with bombs."*

## LAND WARFARE CENTRE BATTLE GROUP LAD

### Exercise 'Over The Hill'

On 4 June, five members of the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group LAD (LWC BG LAD) in Warminster set out to climb the highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales and cycle between each location, starting and finishing at sea level. The team consisted of Corporal Hewitt (Si) event I/C, Corporal Jackson (Jacko) event 2I/C, WO2 AQMS Thomas (Mark), Corporal Thornton (Gav) and Lance Corporal Magee (Scouse), and a support crew to assist them during the event.

The idea to attempt this mammoth task started nearly nine months previously. We put together a basic plan and approached the OC who agreed to allow us the time off we needed. Within a few weeks we had recruited Mark, Gav and Liam and we started to plan the route. Once the route was outlined we booked accommodation and carried out a recce. We also decided to try and raise money for two very worthy charities, these being the Starlight Children's Foundation and the Army Benevolent Fund.

On 3 June, after some seven months of careful planning the team set off for Fort William, arriving in the early evening to get settled in the accommodation. Once settled it was into the town for some well needed refreshments to prepare ourselves for the days ahead.

#### Day 1 - Ben Nevis

*Elevation 1343m, distance 15 miles, duration 8 hours and 35 minutes.*

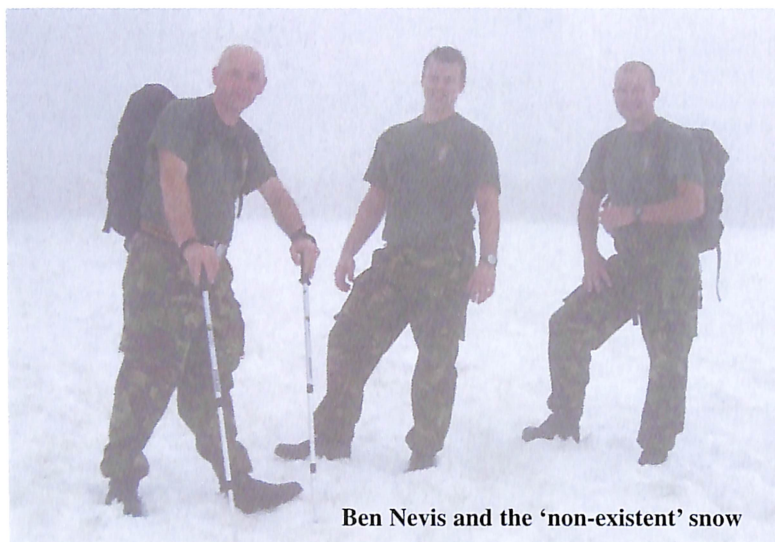
To ensure the team started at sea level the challenge began at the waters edge of Loch Linnhe, from there it was a short walk to the Glenn Nevis Visitor Centre, and the start of the trek up Ben Nevis itself. At the visitor centre we met up with Staff Sergeant Park (Des) and Sergeant Hymas (Neil) who were our safety staff for the trekking phases of the challenge. Des being the professional MLT that he is gave us a quick brief of the route ahead, when asked if there was the possibility of snow he replied "of course not, it's June!" And with that we set off. The team set off at a slow pace taking in the beautiful views overlooking Fort William. About two hours into the climb the cloud descended and visibility went down to twenty metres, and as we approached the summit the path disappeared under the supposedly non-existent snow.

#### Day 2 - Fort William to Glasgow

*Distance 101 miles, duration 8 hours and 30 minutes.*

The team set off at 0730hrs and soon settled into a steady rhythm out towards Glenn Coe. The weather was perfect and the team was making good time, happy and





Ben Nevis and the 'non-existent' snow

surprised at how easy they were finding the first day's cycling - until they went past the 75 mile point. The route into Glasgow started to become more and more undulating and some of the team were finding it hard to sit down.

### Day 3 - Glasgow to Longtown

*Distance 95 miles, duration 8 hours and 30 minutes.*

Everyone woke up feeling stiff from the day before not really looking forward to the day ahead. The team set off and cycled through the city centre and headed out towards Hamilton. Once we left the city most of the aches and pains disappeared. The weather was fantastic, glorious sunshine all day and some of the team even got a little burnt. Good progress was made and we stopped at the English border for a little while before reaching Longtown and our accommodation for that night.

### Day 4 - Longtown to Drigg

*Distance 80 miles, duration 7 hours and 29 minutes.*

The closer we got to Scafell Pike the more hills we encountered; Scouse was cycling up one when just as he reached the summit his chain came off. Scouse lost momentum fast and as his feet were clipped into his peddles there was nothing he could do but look for a soft piece of grass and lean over. The sight of Scouse falling off his bike sent Jacko into a fit of uncontrollable laughter; this was unfortunate as Jacko was breathing out of every hole in his body trying to get up the hill.

### Day 5 - Scafell Pike

*Elevation 978 metres, distance 5.5 miles, duration 5 hours.*

This was meant to be an easy day, just a short walk up the highest peak

in England. By now our legs were beginning to feel fatigued and Scafell Pike proved harder than first thought. We stopped at the top for the usual photo shoot before heading back down. The team knew the following day would be the hardest as we would have to cycle about forty miles through the Lake District. Shippy boosted morale when on his return he simply said "I won't lie to you lads, some of you probably won't make it!"

### Day 6 - Drigg to Preston

*Distance 88 miles, duration 8 hours.*

The team was preparing for the ride ahead with anticipation, when our chief morale officer Shippy informed us we had three major climbs to complete before we were out of the Lake District. "don't worry lads, the

third is the hardest, but only if you survive the second!" I'm happy to say we did all make it, and we didn't leave anyone behind. Once we were clear of the Lake District it was a nice ride into Preston.

### Day 7 - Preston to Snowdon

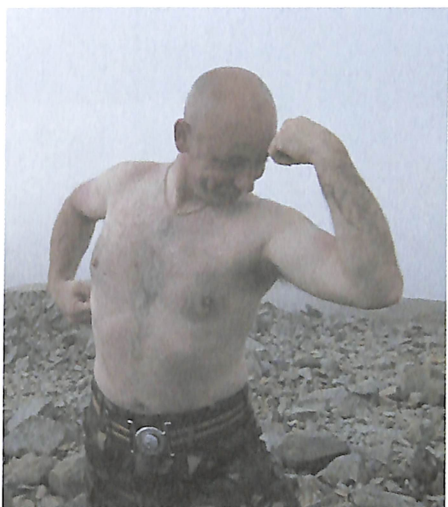
*Distance 110 miles, duration 11 hours and 18 minutes.*

As we left Preston the miles seemed to roll by and before too long we were in Liverpool. On the recce we had been informed we could cycle the Mersey Tunnel but when we arrived the police refused us entry, so we had to cycle into the town centre and get a train from Lime Street to Birkenhead. After a slight detour we were back on our original route, but we now had a bigger problem. With over sixty miles still to do Jacko had a knee injury, it had been playing up on and off



Scafell Pike





since Glasgow but now he was in real pain with a possibility he might not make it to Snowdon. The team slowed the pace right down and rallied around Jacko as he struggled on. The going was tough and tested all of our spirit and resolve, especially Jacko, who by now had half a pharmacy at work on his knee, but eventually everybody made it in one piece. Then it was off into Betws-y-Coed to drink away the pains ready for the final day.

#### Day 8 - Snowdon

*Elevation 1085 metres, distance 8.8 miles, duration 4 hours.*

We set off up Snowdon on the PYG track, we made it to the summit in just two hours and after the usual coffee and photos headed back, this time taking the Miners' track down. At the bottom we headed to the café for more coffee and waited for the bikes to arrive before the final cycle ride into Caernarfon.

#### To the Finish

*Distance 13 miles, duration 53 minutes.*

As we set off from Snowdon the heavens opened and we cycled the next twelve miles in torrential rain, it didn't matter though the finish line was near and morale was high, nothing was going to stop us now. This was the first and only bit of bad weather we had experienced during the whole exercise. We had planned to finish by touching the water at Caernarfon Castle taking us back to sea level, however, when we arrived the tide was out so we just touched the mud and headed off to the pub. In total we travelled from sea level to sea level over the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales covering 517 miles. When I asked the team if they fancied doing it again the reply I got was "on your bike" among the other unprintable replies. The team are still collecting money and have currently raised in the region of £2000. If you wish to make a donation please visit the teams web site at: [teamoverthehill.spaces.live.com](http://teamoverthehill.spaces.live.com).

### EXERCISE VELDT VENTURE

*"The Boers are not like the Sudanese who stood up for a fair fight, they are always running away on their little ponies"* Kitchener, COS, then Commander in Chief South Africa

Ex Veldt Venture was a ten day Battlefield Study (BS) to South Africa for sixteen officers and SNCOs of the Dukes. The aim of the exercise was development; it sought to improve understanding of current British military doctrine by viewing it through the prism of past operations.

The BS covered Lord Methuen and Lord Roberts' advance to towards Kimberley and General Buller's advance to Ladysmith as well as a day analysing Kitchener's counter insurgency. The specific battles studied were Modder River, Magersfontain, Paardeburg, Colenso, Spion Kop and the Thukela Heights as well as the actual relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith.

Before the party even got to South Africa there was a lot of work to do. The full reading list took most of us

a good few weeks to get through and was issued with assistance from the library at Joint Services Command and Staff College, Watchfield. In addition we met for a small dinner night that included two presentations from Dr Stuart Thomson of King's College, London.

In country the field phase consisted of a three phase analysis of each battle based on the Clausewitzian method of research, root cause analysis and criticism. In practical terms this was translated as: What happened? Why did it happen? How would we prevent it happening again? To complement this method three other small exercises were used: an individual intuitive decision making exercise, a group procedural decision making exercise (the 7 Questions) and an evening debate. The counter-insurgency phase was a complex and fluid set of operations over two years and covering



nearly the whole of modern day South Africa; it was therefore much harder to link to the ground. The issues were covered in Bloemfontein at the memorial gardens by means of a central presentation by our guide, a presentation on the media and the military by journalist and author Kevin Myers and a discussion comparing Kitchener's counter insurgency to the British principles of counter insurgency in ADP Land Ops. Throughout the field phase each participant recorded two lessons or key points from each day. On return to the UK these were collated by the Ops Officer and he prepared and presented the key lessons identified from the trip to an audience of Battalion officers.

The second Anglo Boer War provided an ideal vehicle for this sort of training for a BG expecting to conduct contemporary operations. It offers striking parallels to contemporary British operations: it was limited; it was expeditionary; whilst not armoured, manoeuvre played a vital role; it was fought as part of an alliance; it shifted from the conventional to counter-insurgency; it was internationally unpopular, domestically divisive and conducted under unprecedented media scrutiny. In addition South Africa proved to be a very popular and cost effective location. We were fantastically well looked after and had the opportunity to explore beautiful areas on foot, on horse back and even on quad bikes. One of the farms the group stayed on had been a Boer HQ during the battle of Magersfontein and the owner of another was related to an infamous Boer General of the era - serious history was never far from the surface.

Major J. R. Bryden



### 3 YORKS JUNIOR NCO CADRE 2007

This year's cadre began with a three-day Pre-Cadre Training Package. After forming up nervously for the first time the students had to pass several in-tests in order to earn a place on this year's course. These included a Physical Fitness Test (PFT), a Basic Combat Fitness Test (BCFT), a map reading test as well as a basic military knowledge test. The students also conducted a day of field-craft where they were refreshed by the Directing Staff on several areas ranging from recce patrols to fire control orders.

The first week of the cadre was the CLM package and was conducted in camp. It was during this week that the students were instructed on the responsibilities expected of a JNCO in and out of barracks. The men also closely analyzed values and standards and qualities and styles of leadership amongst other things. By completing the Junior Command Leadership Management and the cadre as a whole, students qualified for the Individual Leadership and Management (ILM) NVQ, a tremendously useful qualification to obtain.





Students also learnt during the first week that it pays to be a winner and Battlesbury hill will always remain close to our hearts!

On the second week of the cadre we relocated to Knook Camp, on Salisbury Plain Training Area for a four-week Battle-Camp. Students were given a brisk tour of camp by Sergeant Saviour before settling in to their new homes. It is at Knook where students really got into the weeds of their new jobs and the men were tirelessly practiced on the estimate/orders process. They were also heavily tested at probably the most intrinsically important part of the cadre which was becoming a successful Section 2IC in the field, where it really matters. Fitness continued to become more progressive throughout the cadre and after attempting the Battalion two and three-mile course the Platoon was practiced in the Battalion Gun Run and the notoriously famous Sergeant Saviour's Bayonet course! There was also some preparation for the 'Fan Dance' as most students completed 'Ex First Look' (a 14 Kilometre march in the local area).

Exercise 'Copenhagen's Chase' was the Final Test Exercise and for many of the students the first time they had conducted training at Sennybridge. Everything the

Platoon had been taught during the previous five weeks was now put to the test and the quality and improvement in the delivery of orders and Section Attacks was astounding. The exercise finished with a Company Deliberate Attack in the south of the training area followed by a casevac extraction.

The smiles on the faces were evident to the eye and the course nearly complete. However there was literally one final mountain to climb as every remaining student completed Exercise 'Fan Dance.' The Black Mountains had never looked so bleak and austere yet the men found both the physical and moral courage to overcome it and in a time quicker than the previous Pre-Brecon Cadre.

Special thanks must go out to all the Directing Staff involved and a big well done to all men who finished the cadre, a fantastic effort alone. Congratulations must also go out to the four men who promoted immediately after the cadre, Lance Corporal Stewart (Corunna), Lance Corporal Dale (Alma), Lance Corporal Kennedy (Somme) and finally Lance Corporal Hearne who was awarded this years top student (Corunna).

Captain B. G. T. Redshaw







### LEEDS 10 km 'RUN FOR ALL'

Sunday 24 June 2007

Jane Tomlinson CBE is the Leeds housewife who was diagnosed with terminal cancer seven years ago. Since being diagnosed with the disease she has competed in numerous physical challenges in an attempt to raise the profile of cancer suffering. These physical challenges range from completing a London Marathon; being the first ever cancer sufferer to complete an Ironman Triathlon; and more recently, completing a 3,000 mile bike ride across the breath of North America. In the process her exploits have raised over £5 million for cancer charities; and she has since started Jane's Appeal, a foundation that gives to five different UK based cancer charities.

The inaugural event to raise funds for Jane's Appeal was the Leeds 10 km 'Run For All' road race, which will become an annual event, and is the only such race in Yorkshire. The concept being that it will become the run for Yorkshire, which will one day compete with the BUPA Great North Run in terms of size and awareness of charity fund raising. It will also become Jane Tomlinson's legacy for awareness of cancer suffering.

As part of the inaugural race, 3 Yorks entered a team of twenty-five officers and soldiers to take part in the event. The aim was two fold: - a) To raise funds for Jane's Appeal; and b) To raise the profile of The

Yorkshire Regiment in Yorkshire. The initial reasoning behind entering the event was a very personal one, having lost my mother to cancer in 2005; however, when I first mentioned the run to my platoon I was overwhelmed by the amount of people who have been affected by the disease, and when I emailed the race organisers and Jane Tomlinson herself, they were very keen to have an element of the Yorkshire Regiment compete in some shape or form.

The CO 3 Yorks kindly agreed to sponsor, through the Battalion PRI fund, the entrance fees for the twenty-five man team. The team comprised of all ranks of officers and soldiers from Captain down to Private, from each of the companies within the Battalion with a good percentage came from the Reconnaissance Platoon. It is of note that all the volunteers had experienced the effects of cancer on family members and friends, or were just motivated to raise money for a cancer charity. Each team member carried a bergen weighing 35lbs, and the aim was to complete the 10 kms, in full kit, in less than one hour. Unfortunately due to the length and intensity of commitments imposed on the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup, it was very difficult getting the whole team together prior to the event to train; therefore it was left up to individual groups of volunteers to complete their own training leading up to the run.



The team congregated at Carlton Barracks, Leeds at 0800 hrs on the morning of the race and made their way to the start point at Millennium Square to be met by 8,500 other competitors and countless thousands of spectators and well wishers. It was a fantastic atmosphere, with people of all different ages coming out in all sorts of fancy dress, however amongst the festivities, there was a definite element of hardcore runners. 3 Yorks had also linked up with the Yorkshire Regimental Recruiting Team under the guidance of Colour Sergeant Jimmy Jenkins, who was on hand to lend support and promote recruitment.

Jane Tomlinson made a Herculean effort to be there on the day, and officially set the day off, despite rumours in the press abounding that she was too ill to attend. It was a pretty laboured start, as all large runs tend to be, and the team didn't really get into their stride until the third kilometre, however it did give the boys the opportunity to engage in a bit of banter with the other competitors and crowd alike, all of which was very friendly. It was a little surprising to witness just how pro-Army the crowd actually were, with not one single word out of turn; albeit not many knew quite what to say besides "Go ... men!", or "Go ... the Army blokes!". Throughout the course, which took the competitors out towards the Meanwood area of Leeds, the level of support didn't change until the final kilometre, which then became unprecedented. Turning the last corner into the Headrow area of the city centre, we were met by several thousand supporters, and the level of cheering meant we pretty much floated over the finishing line on fairly tired legs in a time of 1:06:50; a little over our target but in the circumstances a good effort. On the slow walk back to Millennium Square I heard Private Liam Howden of Corunna Company remark "That was a helluva buzz!"

The Battalion and families had supported the event well, and prior to the run the team had raised £1,252.50 for Jane's appeal. At the end of the race some of the organisers ushered the team into the VIP area to present the cheque to Jane and Mike Tomlinson on the main stage. A very emotional Jane personally asked if we would be returning next year.

There were quite a few local and national celebrities around the VIP area who had come out to support the day, including Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson; Tim Stimpson (ex England and British Lion RU player) and Nell McAndrew (fit model and Forces Sweetheart), who unfortunately for her, spent a little bit longer than she cared for having her picture taken with 3 Yorks.

Most of the lads who competed felt that the one hour mark could and should have been beaten, and, commitments permitting, were keen to try again next year.

If anyone is interested in taking part in next year's race, due to take place on Sunday 22 June 2008, you can enter via the website: [www.runforall.com](http://www.runforall.com)

Captain C. Armitage





# D Company, 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

Officer Commanding	- Major A. Cooper
PSAO	- Captain D. Morris
CSM	- WO2 Yates
SPSI	- WO2 O'Neill

Since taking command of D Company it is reassuring that the pace of life on both the training and support to operations front has not declined. I suspect that that is mainly due to the steady hands and dedication of the rest of the D Company command team.

Training through the Battalion has concentrated on improving shooting with a view to getting as many soldiers passed through to the transition to field firing stages in preparation for Annual Camp in Okehampton. The Company training programme has been more field orientated with an excellent fieldcraft / stalking weekend in June being arranged by the PSI, Colour Sergeant Blake. The highlight being a 2000m stalk on the CSM and PSIs - never has so much effort and sweat been used to cover such a short distance! Private Abu Qaoud stole the show with a first round kill, even putting his brother Lance Corporal Abu Qaoud in the shade (he was last seen looking for his teddy bear, lost somewhere on the training area after he was spotted!)

Adventure training has seen the OC compete in Ex Alpine Challenge in Bavaria with the team from HQ 15 Brigade achieving a creditable 7th out of thirty teams. The Company adventure training was run at Carlton Lodge, Thirsk. A hard day's work (high rope activities, archery and raft building) obviously culminated in a good team building exercise in the local hostleries.

Annual training has seen twenty-one members of the Company deploy on Ex Glow Worm at Fort Stewart, Georgia, USA with the US National Guard (USNG). A reciprocal arrangement saw a Company of USNG come over to Okehampton to be put through their paces 'Brit style' - coming from a mechanised background, they struggled with the terrain and shooting from anything but prone - but a fun time was had by all.

A notable success for the Company was competing in a NATO military skills competition in Monchengladbach open to regular and reserves. Not only did the team win the Reservist competition but also gaining first place overall in the DCCT shoot and physical assessment - congratulations to Lance Corporal Williams, Privates Abu Qaoud, Matu and McDermott on a fantastic achievement. It should also be noted

that Sergeant Fitchett and W/Private Parker went as team admin/reserves. They ended up competing as a mixed European team with two German soldiers, getting second place in the mixed team event and third overall in the reservist competition. The team manager, WO2 (CSM) Yates was suitably impressed with all competitors' achievements.

D Company has been at the forefront of support to operations with Corporals Rees and Richardson and Lance Corporals Brown and Ellin having recently returned from Operation Herrick in support of 3 Cdo Brigade, Lance Corporal Wood and Privates Hobson and Tibble due to return shortly from Operation Oculus with 1 RGR. Sergeant Fitchett, Corporal Dolan and Privates Robson and Worthington have now completed their mobilisation and are in the process of integrating with the 2nd Battalion for their forthcoming Herrick tour.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to the new additions to the families of WO2 (CSM) Yates, Sergeant Wass and Lance Corporal Wilson. Finally, congratulations on their recent promotions to Sergeant Edwards, Corporal Pigg and Lance Corporal Williams.

As a look forward the Company is preparing for Bowman conversion in the new year and further deployments of soldiers with a FP platoon on Operation Herrick.

Major Andy Cooper





## H.M.S. IRON DUKE

### REFIT IN PORTSMOUTH AND OUR EAGERLY AWAITED RETURN TO SEA

Since the last issue of Iron Duke there have been quite a few changes onboard both in terms of personnel, our material state and capability.

First I will bring you up to date on the most important feature of any Ship, and that is her Company.

In early June Commander Mark Newland RN joined as the new Commanding Officer, relieving Commander Andy Jordan RN, who left to take up his new position as part of the UK Maritime Component Commander (UKMCC) Staff in Bahrain. We would all like to wish Commander Jordan well for the future and hope that he will look back on his time on Iron Duke with fond memories.

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that Iron Duke remains in safe hands, as this is Commander Newland's fourth Sea Command and second Command of a type 23 frigate, until recently he was the CO of HMS St Albans. His other Sea Commands were HMS Leeds Castle - a South Atlantic patrol vessel, and HMS Quorn - a mine counter measures vessel. Commander Newland has also attended both the Initial and Advanced Command Staff Course, he has been Chief of Staff to the UKMCC in Bahrain, as well as being part of the UK Maritime Battle Staff. Prior to returning to sea he researched and taught on Campaign Planning, the Command Estimate and ASW at the Maritime Warfare Centre in Portsmouth. Earlier in his career Commander Newland had an exchange appointment with the French Navy and served as the Operations Officer of the French Destroyer Cassard. He is married to Sarah-Jane, who teaches Biology at Clayesmore School, Dorset and they have three children.

There have also been several other new arrivals in the Wardroom, notably these include a new Weapons Engineering Officer, Lieutenant Commander Andy Rowlands, the Gunnery Officer Lieut Commander Tony Williams and the Operations Officer Lieutenant Commander Bob



**Commander Mark Newland RN.**

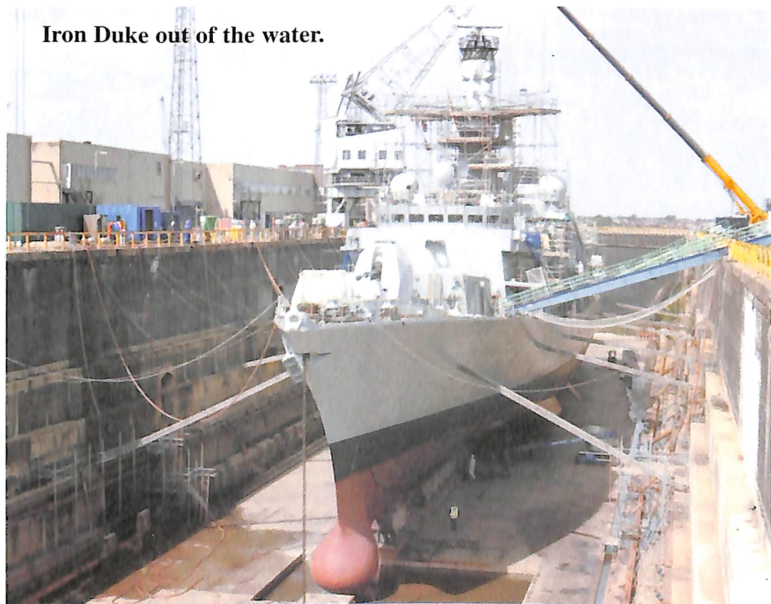
Laverty who, until quite recently, was a submariner serving on a variety of submarines, both SSN's, Hunter Killer Submarines, and SSBN's, providing the UK's Independent Nuclear Deterrent. Bob has previously spent all his time at sea under the water and now that he has seen the light, quite literally, he is looking forward to the novel prospect of returning to sea on top of the water. Among the other new joiners are Lieutenants Chris Trevethan, Jason Hannigan, Andy Brown and Tom Williams, the four Officers of the Watch. There have also been a few changes with the ship's Senior Rates, SNCO's. The most notable one is the arrival of our new Executive Warrant Officer, WO1 Fox. The Executive Warrant Officer is the only WO1 post onboard and his role is to be the link between the Ship's Senior and Junior Ratings and the Command. He is also the whole Ship manpower co-ordinator and is the closest role the Royal Navy has to a Regimental Sergeant Major. Like Lieutenant Commander Bob Laverty, WO1 Fox is also a Submariner, and is looking forward to experiencing life on, as apposed to under, the ocean waves.

The remainder of the Ship's Company has remained almost unchanged since Iron Duke's return to the UK in early December last year having completed a very successful deployment.

After some much needed post-deployment leave it was back to work in early January as Iron Duke entered into an enhanced maintenance period, or to give it its correct title Docking Period 2 (DP2), in our base port of Portsmouth.

Although Iron Duke herself has been in dry dock, the requirement for training, not only for the new equipment being fitted, which has been quite extensive, but also in preparation for our return to sea has remained.

**Iron Duke out of the water.**





Everyone is required to regularly attend and pass a sea survival course, which includes damage control, fire fighting and first aid, as well as remaining in date for weapon handling tests and range days. Additionally we have had several members of the Ship's Company selected for promotion and these successful candidates have been able to get away on their promotional courses. In some cases they have been able to return to Iron Duke to take up their new positions.

The DP2 package has been comprehensive and an excellent opportunity for the Ship's Company, along with our commercial partners in the dockyard, to conduct extensive maintenance. Mechanically DP2 is a very important period as it is one of the few occasions that we get to take both gas turbines, our main engines and the diesel generators down for some very deep maintenance. As I'm sure you can imagine as there just some jobs you can't do on a fifteen-year-old warship, that's got one careful owner and just over 450 thousand miles on the clock, when she's up and running.

We have also been updating and enhancing the various weapon systems onboard, including the addition of a new Anti Submarine Torpedo Defence (ASTD) system, which will further enhance our ability to conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), the primary role of Iron Duke. There has also been a significant amount of work conducted on the flight deck and in the hangar. Which will mean that on our return to sea will be able to operate a much wider range of helicopters, from larger aircraft such as Merlin and Sea King down to the smaller aircraft such as Lynx.

There has also been a great deal of work carried out to improve habitability onboard. The galley, mess decks, heads and bathrooms have all undergone extensive refurbishment as have the fridges and air filtering systems. We have also had a new water purification system added which will significantly increase the amount of fresh water we are able to make. This increased ability has a significant impact on the quality

amount of fresh water we are able to make. This increased ability has a significant impact on the quality of life onboard and our endurance especially when we deploy to hotter climates.

After spending several months in dry dock, having the ship's hull cleaned and preserved and two new propellers fitted, we were ready to return to the water. Just before the dry dock was flooded we took the opportunity to take a final look at the ship's hull, just to remind ourselves how much is actually under water, it's the red painted bit. Then on 19 June the dry dock was flooded and Iron Duke floated once again.

Thursday 26 July was another milestone in the return of Iron Duke to the Fleet. The Ship's Company were fallen in on the jetty awaiting the arrival of their Commanding Officer. Commander Newland then addressed his Ship's Company, to mark the start of a new chapter in the history of Iron Duke and to brief us on the ship's programme and his aims and objectives for the next twelve months. The Ship's Company then marched onboard to our respective Messes and Iron Duke had her Ship's Company living onboard once again. Another step closer to our return to sea and a day we had been all looking forward to for many months. It was then time to start the preparations for our leaving the wall in late September.

The remainder of the summer has been spent conducting harbour trials for the ship's machinery and equipment, training exercises for the Ship's Company and inspections from external authorities. This first period at sea will be very busy conducting numerous sea trials, safety training for the Ship's Company and making preparations for our return to the Fleet towards the end of autumn.

Our return to the Fleet will be another step closer to us becoming a fully operational warship again. It will also mean that we will have to focus on our preparations for our operational training, delivered by Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) in Plymouth at the beginning of 2008. This intensive eight-week period at FOST is designed to test the ship and her crew in all aspects of naval operations from war fighting to providing humanitarian and disaster relief in preparation for our deployment next year.

I am glad to say that life hasn't been all work and we have been able to do a little entertaining. There is certain amount of pride associated with serving on a Ship named after such a great military leader and we are well aware of the special bond that exists between ourselves and His Grace the Duke of Wellington. Commander Newland wished to further strengthen this relationship and took the opportunity to invite Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Wellington onboard. I am very glad to say that Their Graces were



**Starboard propeller looking forward.**



able to accept and on Wednesday 1 August, with the sun shining, they arrived for a lunch party. I think it is quite safe to say that both Their Graces and those who had the opportunity to meet them thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we would hope to be able to extend another invitation to them in the not too distant future.

As you read this article chances are we will be at sea conducting trials, safety training or some basic

exercises in preparation for our return to being an operational warship and subsequently rejoining the Fleet. I hope that you have found this article of interest and in an era where joint operations between all three services are becoming more frequent I hope it has given you a little bit more of an insight into this current phase in the life of a modern warship.



**Their Graces with Commander Newland.**



**The funnel badge.**

## GIGGLESWICK C.C.F.

Contingent Commander - Major Darren Richmond

This has been a successful year for Giggleswick School CCF, and a period of significant change.

Our inspection by Captain Woodcock RN in October 2006 identified a flourishing contingent with enthusiastic officers and cadets who were prepared to commit and perform to a high standard within a busy school, environment. A very good report to support the outgoing Contingent Commander, Squadron Leader Phil Andrew, who remains within the Contingent as an experienced 2I/C.

It is most encouraging to see the CCF taking an active involvement in the competitive arena. Teams entered the Royal marines Pringle Trophy and Brigade Colts Canter with significant success in specific areas of both. The RAF Section took part in a number of flying days across the country and cadets continue to perform well in Part 1 and 2 tests. The Contingent gained its first bit of silverware for some years at the Brigade First Aid competition which builds on the First Aid qualifications gained by Year Eleven students as part of their training programme. Success also came at national level from our .22 shooting teams who came second and fifth out

of over 160 schools in the Green Howards Country Life competition, thanks to the efforts of SSI Johnson and his evening coaching sessions. A team from the Marines took part in the arduous Achnacarry March and managed to contribute over £500 to the associated charity.

A very encouraging number of cadets have taken part in leadership courses at Nesscliffe and Frimley Park. Our Sixth Form retention is improving dramatically with the offer of Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme and BTEC. Attendance at field training exercises is improving as cadets are gaining confidence in their own skills and physical abilities. A number of cadets have managed to gain 4\* kayaking qualifications and several are working towards the new, more rigorous BCU 3\* award. If there are any readers of this article who have the experience, qualifications and enthusiasm to help with either adventure or military training I would welcome a conversation with you.

Summer camp at Wathgill was again very successful with nearly sixty cadets attending. It is with great optimism that I look forward to the forthcoming year.



## CYPRUS 1957

**In our last edition Lieutenant Colonel Tim Isles OBE described the 1975 UN tour in Cyprus of Alma and Corunna Companies.**

**In this extract from his family history, Corporal Neil Cairns recalls an incident from the 1957 tour.**

I sailed out to join the Battalion when I was 18, arriving in Cyprus on 14 April, 1957, travelling by three ton lorry to Battalion Headquarters, somewhere in the Troodos Mountains. I was interviewed by Captain Mike Campbell-Lamerton, OC Signals Platoon. I was posted to the Signal Platoon stores, under Corporal Ernest Senior (Ernie) who was to be my friend and mentor for the next three years.

The Battalion base camp was two miles outside Nicosia. We were under canvas, with deep storm trenches at the side of all the roadways. The cookhouse, dining room, all Company offices, stores and the Signal Stores were all marquees.

We were on a search and destroy mission against EOKA terrorists in the area of the Markheras Monastery. Information had been received that Afxentiou, one of the more notorious of the EOKA leaders, had for long periods lived in a hide near the monastery. The arrest of a man who knew the location of the hide led to a decision to try to snatch Afxentiou. At dawn on 3 March, the hide was discovered and, on being summoned to give up, four men crawled out slowly, offering no resistance. From them it was learned that Afxentiou was still in the hide. His response to a call to come out was a burst of machine gun fire, which

killed Corporal P. Brown. It was clear that Afxentiou intended to sell his life dearly. Corporal Brown, a National Serviceman, with only two weeks to go before demob, had been hit three times in the stomach, one round in the solar plexus, the other two cutting the runners each side of his belt buckle. His back had been blown away. Later we found that the weapon used was a Thompson sub machine gun with the .45 lead type bullet. The Battalion was gutted.

The hide where Afxentiou was dug in was on a shale banking. We plastered it with everything we had got, but to no avail, he was just so well dug in and all our hardware was just bouncing off the scree. Corporal Bailey MM, nicknamed Mickey Mouse, was talking to someone, saying that if that had been us in Korea the Gooks would soon have had us out. An officer overheard the conversation and said, "What would that be, Corporal Bailey?" On being told the officer dashed off and was soon back with two cans of AVGAS (aviation petrol). Climbing above the hide he poured both cans down the hillside. Getting clear of the area and leaving time for the fuel to soak in, he fired a Very pistol at the hide. Whoosh! Up it went. Typical, for his trouble he got a mention in Dispatches, poor old Bailey got nothing.

## INTELLIGENCE OFFICER 1 DWR, BELFAST 1971

**Major Bob Heron wrote last time about his experiences over the internment operation in Belfast in August 1971, as Section Commander, endless prowling round a small, frequently violent, patch of the city. Now Colonel Alistair Roberts MBE remembers the intelligence story of that period.**

I suppose it was 1970 when we were warned off for our first Northern Ireland tour of the recent IRA campaign. We were coming to an end of our sunshine posting in Hong Kong and had been watching the PWO, literally and euphemistically a long way away, getting stuck into some old fashioned riot control with the Civil Rights marchers in NI. However our attention was concentrated somewhat by the end of the HK tour when it was announced that we would go to Belfast on our return and already the first British soldiers had died through IRA action, including the three young Fusiliers in North Belfast.

Looking back I cannot even remember whether we did any specific training beyond box formation riot drills and education on the history of the troubles, but that may be unfair. We seemed to spend most of late 1970 and early 1971 preparing for and carrying out Public Duties and, as I recall, the NI tour then started in June. None of the Lydd and Hythe sophisticated build up of later tours. As Assistant Adjutant/Intelligence Officer I was sent on the IO's Course at Ashford, where in preparation for tackling counterinsurgency operations I became an expert on Motor Rifle Division

signature equipment! We did spend the last afternoon of the five week course on NI.

In May 1971 I joined 1 RHF in Girdwood Park for the last month of their tour, which was an education in itself. I had read the intelligence reports for the couple of weeks prior and the situation appeared relatively quiet but things erupted almost immediately I arrived. Billy Reid, an IRA gunman from the New Lodge, had been shot dead by an RHF Colour Sergeant and there was twenty-four hour rioting for about a week, culminating in a massive IRA funeral. Quite a baptism! The bad news was no-one really had time for me and the handover; the good news was the funeral provided the only intelligence photos in existence of all the IRA hierarchy. These photos became the basis of our intelligence efforts both regimentally and at 39 Brigade, our command headquarters.

The Jocks loved the rioting and seemed totally out of control, bashing heads indiscriminately; the CO, David Anderson, was a charismatic character who rode around in an unarmoured landrover, wearing his glengarry rather than a steel helmet, urging his men on. He reminded me of Mad Mitch in Aden for his style and

attitude. Their Mess seemed to have an endless supply of very good Scotch which was used to stiffen the resolve of the officers facing another night dodging missiles in the New Lodge Road. It was also used to good effect to loosen the tongues of the local politicians and priests. Full credit to their CO, by the time 1 DWR had arrived, we had gleaned the skeleton structure of the local IRA. We therefore had some names and some photos and spent the first few weeks trying to match the two. Not an easy task as clearly we had no overt help from the locals; nor were the police able to assist much. The RUC had very little access at that early stage and were relying on files from previous IRA campaigns plus some very unreliable sources. Having said that, our local Special Branch were great to work with and were most supportive of 1 DWR. In the first few years of the campaign the Army rather bulldozed its way in and developed its own networks, often unsubtly and usually for short term gain rather than long term infiltration. A find of a weapon or bomb making material here and there gave a regiment more kudos than a string of strategic sources.

I hinted earlier that we were unprepared for this war. This could not have been demonstrated more clearly than in the intelligence world. Basically we made it up as we went along. We were "lucky" to have Brigadier (later General Sir) Frank Kitson, author of the Mau Mau "Gangs and Counter Gangs" and "Low Intensity Operations" fame, as our Brigade Commander. He had a deep understanding of how to infiltrate the enemy and he set up the fore-runners of the more sophisticated covert units. In the meantime we worked with scraps; my allowance for paying for cultivating sources and information was about £50 for the tour and was still described as the "newspaper allowance". We had to use our normal issue cameras, ie one holiday snap variety per battalion, until FK suggested to MoD that they stopped HMS Ark Royal for a day, which would allow each company to have a sophisticated Pentax with lenses. They eventually arrived (and Ark Royal sailed on with no ill effect!). Keith Jagger was my photographer and was quite excellent, making full use of the very meagre resources. I purchased a wig so I could get out and about without always having an escort of three soldiers and a larger patrol to tap into. The hardest part when making a quick sortie to see Special Branch in my civilian clothes was to stop soldiers saluting me on the street!

My private covert operations were singularly unsuccessful and, looking back, were unsanctioned and foolish in the extreme. I found an empty house opposite where Billy Kelly, the local IRA Battalion Commander lived, and set up a "covert OP" complete with wig, a rather unreliable radio and my 9mm pistol. All went well for a couple of evenings until there was a knock on the door and an elderly lady stuck her head round the door asking if I wanted a cup of tea! On a second occasion we had heard there was to be an IRA meeting in the Starry Plough Pub. Brigade loaned me their covert observation van (later associated with the ill fated Four Square Laundry operation) and we set up in the New Lodge Road armed with cameras and one way

glass. The driver, an Ulsterman, went off and was to come back in an hour unless there was an emergency. Again all went well for a while and then we began to realize a crowd was forming, the centre of attention being our vehicle. They thought it was a Protestant bomb and ATO was called. We were frantically calling our driver, who failed to respond, but we obviously did not want to compromise the operation by flinging open the doors and making a run for it. Things got serious when ATO arrived and we could hear a wheelbarrow being deployed - he was going to blast open the doors with us inside! The Battalion had deployed to create a cordon so, as no locals were close by, we tried to speak to ATO through the closed doors - no response. Just as we were about to spring out of the van rather than be liquefied, our driver sauntered up, said sorry to the locals and ATO for the trouble - "he had just been for a pint" - and drove us safely away!

But I must not overdo the "Dad's Army" view; I might get a bollocking from Charles Huxtable, CO at the time. The Dukes had an outstanding tour and one of the areas in which we excelled, dare I say it, was our intelligence effort. We had an exceptional record of uncovering wanted individuals; we built up some effective local sources; and we formed a very productive operational relationship with Special Branch. Very sadly two of my closest allies on the ground, Tony Redwood Davies in the New Lodge area and Chris Gilbert in Unity Flats area, are no longer with us, but we had some exciting times together. On internment day Tony and I were ambushed on three occasions, luckily without a scratch. Just after the third incident the press arrived with the CO and I was asked to brief them. Midway through the briefing we were again attacked; strike marks appeared on the road amongst us, so we retreated gracefully. Charles and Tony both received awards for gallantry for that tour, OBE and MBE respectively.

I mentioned internment which was a defining moment in the campaign; history will probably judge it as a political and military failure. Whatever, for us it was a very significant operation, involving a coordinated visit to about thirty houses looking for key IRA personnel. Most frustratingly Chris Gilbert and I were in Unity Flats the night before internment and were witness to an outdoor meeting addressed by Gerry Adams, Liam Hannaway, Joe Cahill, Billy Kelly and others, all of whom I knew were on the target list for the following morning. A request to Brigade to move then and there was refused. In the event, we did not get many on our list and none of the above; almost certainly those who were genuinely active were already living in safe houses. One classic encounter we all remember was when Bob Tighe went to arrest Billy Kelly; he found Oliver, his cousin, and uttered the immortal words "you'll do", little knowing that Oliver was a qualified solicitor. It cost MoD a chunk of money but the whole operation was symptomatic of how little we (Army/SB) really knew; we knocked on the doors of derelict houses; we knocked on doors where the targeted individuals had lived but moved away some time previously. Our successes came later through building a thorough knowledge of our area and alert soldiering.



As I sat down to write this, all sorts of memories flooded back - Keith Best and half a dozen men "holding" the New Lodge Road against crowds of several hundred and using his throwing arm to return many of the missiles, Mike Sherlock returning to Girdwood horizontal after having been pole-axed by a well aimed rock, Dick Glazebrook (the 2I/C) and his elephant gun, which, much to his frustration, he never

fired in anger, the July marching season, and many others too numerous to relate.

This was the Dukes' first tour of many in NI. Despite the lack of sophistication and naivety of the Army's operations, we acquitted ourselves well and set a standard for future deployments which would be hard to beat.

## BALKANS POSTSCRIPT - THE DUKES IN KOSOVO 2001

by Colonel Nick Borwell

The Dukes' conversion to Armoured Infantry was considered, within 1 Armoured Division and the wider Field Army, to have been the most successful on record. As far as Commander 4 Armoured Brigade was concerned, and the GOC, a stint manoeuvring on the Canadian Prairies in BATUS in 2001 would confirm the Battalion as representing the apogee of armoured excellence. Events conspired to delay this opportunity until our Tercentenary year. Instead, the Balkans beckoned once more for the Dukes. Those who had been to Bosnia met the challenge with a mixture of disappointment and relief: disappointment because by 2001 Kosovo was relatively quiet - though not risk-free. Relief, because we were not on half-rations and the actors in this particular drama seemed to have largely run out of steam.

What follows is a collection of snap-shots from that time, looking back, as we are, from a far less certain and more hazardous operational climate for the Army in 2007. For a more detailed chronological view of Kosovo in 2001, readers should delve into their back-copies of the Iron Duke.

### Pristina

Pristina is the provincial capital of Kosovo. The majority of the population are ethnic Albanian - formerly the oppressed. The minority are ethnic Serbs, formerly the oppressors, now nervously eyeing up their Albanian neighbours. Alma Company, as the city company, had a vast area of operations (AO), both in terms of real estate and population. Coronna Company's AO included the northern quarter of the city and a large rural patch to the north within which were a number of small Serb villages and communities.

### Arrest Operations

Within days of the Battalion's arrival in Kosovo, we were to take part in a large-scale arrest operation in Pristina. This involved UK Special Forces and our own Close Observation (Recce) Platoon providing some of the targeting. The targets were Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) terrorists who were holed up around the city. UK Special Forces would arrest the "high risk" targets. The Dukes would lift the rest. All suspects were expected to be armed. All might be expected to offer some resistance - particularly on being awakened in the early hours from a slivovic-befuddled sleep. One example of Dukes in action was Lieutenant Dick's platoon. Corporal Simms was tasked with inviting a particularly

surly Albanian in for questioning. Corporal Simms was the first through the door and was confronted with the business end of a pistol. After a brief hand-to-hand struggle, Corporal Simms prevailed and the suspect was arrested. It is worth noting that, whilst the Special Forces may have been up against the "high-risk" hoods, those faced by the Dukes could not exactly be described as "low-risk"! The Special Forces target packs comprised detailed information on their targets. They received detailed briefings and may well have had the opportunity for full rehearsals. For the infantry there were no packs, only rudimentary addresses, no air photos, no floor plans and no information on enemy weaponry. That our men succeeded so brilliantly in the most successful arrest operation ever carried out in Kosovo, in their first week in theatre, remains a credit to them.

### Allies

It is worth saying something about "friendly forces" in Pristina. With the honourable exception of a few contingents, many of the UN civil police were monumentally useless. Those exceptions were, of course, the British - particularly the peerless Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) who had just rebadged from RUC, the Canadians, some of the western Europeans, the Scandinavians, and some of the Americans. To generalise, the rest were at best a shambles, at worst corrupt and involved in the misery of drugs' and people trafficking and racketeering. A particular thorn in our sides was the Italian Carabinieri. They generally wore superbly tailored black uniforms and personified victory of style over substance. They worked exclusively to Italian direction and they focused on securing Italy from the Albanian menace from across the Adriatic. They resolutely refused to coordinate their activities with anyone else. By day, this was irritating. By night it was positively dangerous: on a number of occasions Alma Company or COP patrols and OPs came close to shooting heavily armed Italians lurking in unsavoury parts of the city.

### Town Planning

The UN senior representative in Pristina was an avuncular German called Siegfried Brenke. He was an architect and career civil servant who passionately believed that the route to stability and law and order in the city lay in town planning. To this end, he plotted the destruction of a number of the illegal buildings that

were mushrooming all over Pristina. He had a point. Illegal buildings were unsafe and the rent they accrued was a lucrative sideline for the Albanian Mafia. That said, it was a civil and police matter and I was reluctant for my over-stretched Battalion to get its sleeve caught in this particular mangle. The idea that the ineffectual local and UN police and civil servants would be able to evict homeless families, bulldoze the offending structures and secure the sites, whilst containing any backlash, defied common sense. The involvement of British soldiers in evicting civilians or guarding those demolishing homes, illegal or otherwise, would have handed a propaganda victory to the insurgents and those who wanted to make mischief. No demolitions occurred during our tour!

### **From Mortars to Mortar Boards**

Perhaps the most remarkable example of an asymmetric approach to the Albanian insurgency in northern Macedonia occurred in Pristina in the summer of 2001. Having seen the effects of the insurgency in Macedonia during surge operations on the border, we identified that much of the support for the rebels was coming from Pristina. This took the form of volunteers fighting south of the border, production of propaganda literature and media features, and demonstrations in the city itself. Much of this was inspired or orchestrated by students in Pristina University. The campus was 100% ethnic Albanian - progressive it was not. Having discussed the issue with the Brigade Commander and the UN leadership in the city, I visited the Dean of the University and proposed a pilot scheme whereby the Dukes would lead discussion groups to allow an exchange of ideas between international community representatives and the student body. The UN, the British Consul, DFID, the Red Cross and other organisations were supportive, but this support fell short of actually being prepared to chair any discussion sessions. This fell to us, or more specifically the young officers in the Battalion, on the basis that most of them had recently been students themselves and would be best able to get the message across. Our subalterns and captains were centralised for an evening of briefings and rehearsals. They would chair discussions in such varied subjects as the security environment, the rule of law, democracy, elections, independence and the EU. They had to be prepared to facilitate discussions on anything the students wish to raise, to promote moderation amongst them and to propose an alternative to fomenting unrest in Macedonia and lynching Serbs. We had anticipated about sixty or so students at the first session. In the event about four hundred turned up. We drew in more young officers and even the Company Commanders were co-opted. I am not sure how he managed it, but the RSM chaired a group that was almost entirely female! Measuring success in these instances is often difficult, but the students were receptive to our arguments. They were occasionally belligerent, but humour defused any rancour. This first successful session was followed by two more. The Black Watch continued with the meetings after we left and I believe their successors did too. None of the civil

agencies ever volunteered to take on the mantle, but they did attend and participate. It was young infantry officers who chaired the groups right to the end.

### **Border and Rural Operations**

The Dukes not only dominated Pristina, but also provided two companies (Burma and Somme) as the force reserve. These either deployed independently, formed part of other multi-national battlegroups, or, on two occasions, formed part of the Dukes Battlegroup. We provided a Tac Headquarters and an echelon for Battlegroup deployments, leaving Major Lewis, the 2I/C in command with the balance of the battalion in Pristina. It was during one of these deployments that a bomb killed a senior Serb in the city - oddly enough, he was unpopular, even with the Serbs, so the backlash that might have been expected never occurred.

### **Reassuring Serbs with the Swedes**

Burma Company was the first to deploy under command of the Swedish Battlegroup along with a Swedish Company. A specific threat to the Serbs in a village near Pristina had been identified. Burma effectively locked down the village and, together with their Scandinavian comrades, ensured that no attacks occurred.

### **Serbs pull out of the Eastern Buffer Zone**

Burma also deployed with the Finns to monitor and ensure the Serb withdrawal from the buffer zone on the eastern border with Serbia. It was feared that the Serbs would make some sort of show of force, refuse to leave, or indulge in some defensive fire with artillery. In the event, they meekly melted away - possibly in part due to a resolute NATO deployment. Not for the first time, this deployment in the US area saw non-US units, including Burma Company, on the Main Effort. For the US Army, the Balkans was a theatre where force protection was paramount. Before 9/11, US posture there was in stark contrast to the robust approach they currently exhibit. For this deployment, the Mortar Platoon re-rolled effectively to conduct the recce task - given that the Recce Platoon was fully committed as the COP in Pristina. Once again, the innate flexibility of the British Infantry was demonstrated by the Dukes' Mortar Platoon on this deployment.

### **Dukes Battlegroup on the Macedonian Border**

About halfway through the tour, the US Brigade again required reinforcement in order to dominate Kosovo's border with Macedonia. Once again, non-US troops found themselves on the US Brigade Main Effort. A Kosovan village near the border had come under mortar and small arms fire a few days earlier. US troops had been in the vicinity. There was some intelligence to suggest that the KLA had done this themselves to excuse retaliatory strikes against the Macedonians. Far from being worthy descendants of Alexander, our experience of the Macedonian troops we met was that they would have been unlikely to provoke the KLA - they seemed to jump at shadows and rarely ventured far from their bases. During the course of our deployment our Mortar Platoon fired in action for the first time since the Hook.



Every night we fired illumination rounds to intimidate the KLA and to give heart to the decidedly wobbly Macedonians. The US Brigade had a twenty-strong liaison team deployed alongside the Macedonian headquarters south of the border. Immediately following the mortar attack, the US pulled their liaison team out - handing over to a Dukes Captain and his driver! This may well have been a coincidence, or maybe not. US units had been operating along the border for several months before our arrival. Nonetheless, one of our Scimitars from 9/12 Lancers drove over an anti-tank mine. Trooper Slater was killed and two other soldiers were wounded. The chances are that this mine was left over from a minefield cleared by UN de-miners the year before. The following morning, we were supported by a Finnish flail vehicle. We were reasonably sure that there would be no more mines - after all, the Scimitar had been driving on a well used track. The flail detonated a second mine within five yards of the first. For two mines to have been missed on a well-used track was possible - but unlikely. It is equally possible that the KLA, upset that we were disrupting their cross-border offensive and smuggling operations, had mined the track. Indeed, there were reports that this may have been the case. Either way, the Dukes Battlegroup lost a fine soldier on the Macedonian border.

#### **Dukes Battlegroup on the Macedonian Border - again**

The Dukes Battlegroup, this time with a Finnish Company under command, was tasked in support of the German Brigade in south west Kosovo. The Dukes' AO was the "Dragas Bootleg", a salient surrounded on the west, south and east by the Macedonian border. The Royal Tank Regiment (RTR) had deployed for two

weeks in the infantry role to allow the Dukes to disengage our reserve companies from Pristina. The RTR had "lifted" a number of KLA insurgents. By the time the Dukes had been in the Bootleg for forty-eight hours we had doubled the number detained by the RTR during their whole deployment. This was achieved through infantry fieldcraft, proper siting of OPs and aggressive foot patrolling in the mountains. The excellent Finnish company was deployed in a forested area. Their detention level was low, simply because the prospect of facing these enormous, bearded Nordic warriors, complete with skinning knives on their belts in the dark of a Balkan wood, seemed to be more than enough to dissuade insurgents from taking that route. A Turkish battalion had the AO before the British arrival and it moved north to allow us to operate. The Turks were interesting - tough troops, but a Battalion Headquarters that would put most British Garrison Divisional Headquarters to shame. Carpets and chilled drinks were the order of the day. The German Brigade Commander seemed frustrated that the Turks had not intercepted many KLA insurgents, which is precisely why we were there. The Turks had an excellent programme for developing local civil infrastructure which seemed designed to prove to the locals that the Ottoman Empire was not all bad. The Dukes deployment to Dragas provided another example of operational excellence that contributed to our high reputation across the Army.

The Operational tour to Kosovo in 2001 was not as hazardous as those hitherto for the Battalion, or the Infantry as a whole in Iraq or Afghanistan. It was, however, challenging and members of the Battalion who served there can reflect on a job exceedingly well done.

## **GALLIPOLI 1915**

### **8 DWR was in 32 Brigade of the 11th Division**

#### **Extracts from the Diary of Captain V. N. Kidd**

- 6 August Embarked on Destroyers at about 1630. Left Imbros about 2000. Landed under fire at Suvla Bay about 2400. Moved off in the rear of the Yorkshire Regiment to Lala Baba.
- 7 August About 0200 the Regiment was ordered to move across the narrow strip of the Salt Lake and help to occupy Hill 10.
- 8 August The Regiment moved up in support of the West Yorkshire Regiment on the line Sulajik, Kuchik, Anafarta, Ova. At dusk we were ordered to move up to the left of the West Yorkshire Regiment and dig in.
- 9 August At about 0400 the Regiment and the 7th Field Company RE was ordered to advance on a bearing of 70° and attack Teke Tepe, the East Yorkshire Regiment being in front. At about 0600 when the Regiment was about

- 9 August 600 yards from the objective the front line troops of the leading Regiment appeared to be retiring, so the order was at once given to advance to a small donga and hold on there.

By this time a lot of men from the leading Regiment had rushed past, saying that the Turks were advancing in force. The fire now became very hot and heavy casualties were rapidly being sustained. Lieutenant Colonel Johnston had already been wounded before we advanced and at this moment Major Travers was seen to fall. The command then devolved upon me.

The Turks were now beginning to turn my flanks and, as I had only about 350 men left and practically no officers and ammunition was running short, I decided to withdraw to a more suitable position.

9 August (continued) At about 1130 we took up a position near a farmhouse about 600 yards due west of the donga and took steps to hold on until reinforcements arrived and more ammunition.

The enemy force (about 300 strong) came on but were held for about an hour, until it was again reported to me that we were being turned on our left flank. At that moment a runner came up from HQ, 34th Brigade, with an order saying that if compelled to withdraw I was to fall back on the left of the Manchester Regiment. This movement was completed by about 1530 and we at once dug ourselves in on the left of the 34th Brigade.

10 August Orders were received to join our own Brigade HQ and, at 0500, the Regiment moved off and eventually finished up with

10 August (continued) the 32nd Brigade at about 0730 and was ordered to remain in reserve until called for about 1005 hours.

At about 1030, owing to a line of another Division breaking in front of our Brigade HQ, the Regiment fixed bayonets and went up to fill the gap and, at about 1100, the line was once more secure and unbroken.

That night what was left of the 32nd Bde Regiments remained in Reserve behind Brigade HQ.

11 August The Regiment remained in Brigade Reserve all day until orders were received to fall back to the beach to reorganise. This movement was begun at about 1630 and by 1930 the Regiment was bivouacked on the beach after being shelled all the way back by the enemy

### Report of Operations on 21st & 22nd August 1915 by Lieutenant A. F. T. Lamb

#### 21 August

At 1515 I debouched from the trenches with my company in artillery formation. Almost immediately we came under fire, losing a few men. After advancing about 400 yards in this formation I extended and very soon came under shrapnel fire. We pushed straight on through a trench held by the York and Lancasters and reinforced the firing line (X and Y Companies) who were making for the right edge of 'W' Hill.

We now came under heavy rifle and machine gun fire in addition to the shrapnel and the general confusion was increased by the York and Lancasters merging with us in an advance. Here we lost very heavily and had to crawl or by very short rushes with long intervals between, as very little support came from the rear. At this time we were still being shelled and also were enfiladed on the right by rifle and machine gun fire.

I was joined here by 2nd Lieutenant Edwards of the West Ridings, who remained with me during the rest of the action. We made two more short advances through scrub patches with some forty or fifty West Ridings and York and Lancasters, losing very heavily. At the end of the second rush we were finally held up; this being about 3.55 pm. About this time 2nd Lieutenant Thurlow (Assistant Adjutant of the West Ridings) was hit coming up with about ten men from the rear.

We were now shelled continually with HE and shrapnel and any attempt at advance was stopped by enfilade fire. By about 5 pm nearly all the men behind the bank had been put out of action, including all officers of the West Yorks on my right. No more support came up from rear and I heard no more firing to my front, which was slightly to the right of original advance. Heavy firing was going on both flanks, I being well to the front on the left flank.

We were held up here till about 7 pm when I crawled back to a bank about 80 yards in rear, after everyone was killed or wounded. On my left I found 2nd Lieutenant Solley, wounded, with about thirty West Ridings. Some were dead.

About 8 pm I moved up to the southern edge of Hill 50 with eight unwounded men and 2nd Lieutenant Edwards as I heard people entrenching on the hill. The men were some of City of London Yeomanry, who stated there was no room for me to join in with them. As it was quite dark I withdrew to a small gully running back from the trench running round Hill 50. I spent the night there and my eight men. I sent two messages to the Brigade but could not get in touch.

#### 22 August

As soon as it was daylight I retired half-left and joined up with a party of forty men under Sergeant Wain (Y & L), who were dug in behind a bank 80 yards behind my former line. We again came under enfilade fire from the right. As I heard no firing from my front I held on all day where I was. Again, I could not get in touch with Brigade.

About 2 pm a signal orderly came up to say that the 32nd Brigade were retiring on the beach that night. About 4 pm the enemy landed some shrapnel on us and I retired down the gully into the trenches of the Border Regiment. Eventually I joined up with Colonel Gislane and retired to the Beach.



## DIARY OF PRIVATE H. C. DE MAINE, 1st/6th BN DWR

*This does not constitute a coherent account of life in the trenches in WWI, but it serves to illustrate the report by Brigadier John Greenway on the Somme Battlefield Tour (p 94). Private Maine's diary manuscript stops in April 1916.*

### September 1914

After several unsuccessful attempts to join the Army due to my extremely youthful appearance and being under age, I was accepted as a Private in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (TF). Rate of pay 1/- per day. Though I gave my age as 19, I was actually 17 years 9 months. Passed the doctor and was sworn in at Guiseley Drill Hall. Posted to C Company, 2/6th DWR, commanded by Colonel R. E. Williamson. C Company officers were Captain W. Cloughton and 2nd Lieutenants W. K. Law and W. Woodhead.

### January 1915

A period of hard and vigorous training, broken only by a 48 hours final leave during February. A lot of our training was done at Doncaster Racecourse, this included battalion, company and platoon drill, close order drill, PT, bayonet fighting, etc. Field operations by day and night were carried out in the surrounding country. We did long route marches in full marching order, distances varying from 10 - 25 miles and I found some of them a gruelling test of endurance. Our full kit, with rifles, probably weighed 80lbs. Our training included billeting expeditions, entraining, trench digging and relief of trenches at night and we had more musketry on the range at Cantley. Church Parade every Sunday morning, those of C of E denomination went to St George's Church, I liked services at this church. The Battalion was drawn from the following districts and organised into four companies:

- A Company - Skipton (formerly A & B)
- B Company - Bingley & Howarth (G & H)
- C Company - Gargrave & Settle (C & F)
- D Company - Keighley (D & E)

There was great excitement during our last few days at Doncaster when we knew we were going abroad on National Service.

### 14 April 1915

A great day in the history of our Battalion. Paraded at Regent Square about 1pm with the band of the 2/6th Battalion and marched to a siding near the station where we entrained. A large crowd gathered en route and gave us a fine send-off. The train left Doncaster about 3pm and went via Grantham, Peterborough and London to Folkestone, arriving at Folkestone Harbour about 10pm. Embarked on the SS 'Onward' and, before midnight, sailed for France. Arrived in Boulogne in under two hours, where we disembarked in the dead of night.

We marched out of the dock area, past a couple of French sentries, and through the quiet and deserted streets of Boulogne to St Martin's Camp situated on a hill about three miles out of town. There were very few tents and most of us bivouacked on the rough and uneven ground. Each man was issued with one blanket and, as it was a bitterly cold night, I doubt whether anyone got much sleep on the cold ground. I frequently got up and walked about.

### 29 April 1915

Enemy heavy guns shelled Fleurbaix. It was our first experience of being under artillery fire. We cleared out of billets as the shells came dangerously close to us. We had two killed and three wounded. The dead were so badly mutilated that they were buried on the spot where the shells killed them. The sight of these casualties rather shook one. At night we relieved the 1/4th Battalion. DWR in the trenches. Our Company, C, were in support at an old shattered building called 'Dead Dog Farm'. We provided working parties and carried rations and water for the battalion. The trenches in this sector were not trenches in the true sense of the term, they were barricades of sandbags built on the ground. The line was thinly held, our battalion holding a large frontage in front of an old, ruined monastery. The road leading to the trenches in this sector was very exposed to enemy machine gun and rifle fire but had to be used for reliefs as there were no communication trenches.

Relieved 5th Battalion in trenches. Sergeant Slinger wounded in the arm. We were very tired when we got into the line as, in addition to our full equipment, we carried rations and firewood. We did all our own cooking in the trenches and we could see the small spirals of smoke going up from the fires in the German trenches opposite. German snipers very busy. We had a few casualties in the battalion. Each man was supplied with lump of cotton waste in the event of a poison gas attack. We were told to urinate on the cotton waste and put it over our nose and mouth.

### 9 May 1915

Attack on Aubers Ridge and Festubert. A terrific bombardment opened up at about 5am followed by British and French attack (French on Lens) on our battalion's immediate right. Our Division was to occupy and consolidate trenches captured by the 7th and 8th Divisions. The artillery bombardment was the biggest of the war so far and it seemed to me that nothing could survive it. The din was terrific. It was an awe inspiring sight and having only been out a few weeks it was a real baptism of fire. The attack, unfortunately, failed and we suffered casualties during the day. We were relieved at night by the 4th Battalion and went back to Fleurbaix.

### 14/15 July 1915

Relieved 7th Bn DWR in the trenches about a mile in front of the Yser Canal in the Ypres salient. Crossed canal in the vicinity of Essex Farm. The ground sloped upwards towards the enemy. The trenches were in bad condition and here and there were arms and legs of dead French soldiers projecting. The smell was abominable, the stench of death and decay. Distance from German trenches varied from 50 to 100 yards and there was a bombing sap and listening posts pushed out from our line to within 15 yards of the enemy line. We had a rough time. Lieut Slingsby, Signals Officer, was killed. He was a fine chap. A few NCOs and men were killed and wounded. The Germans shelled Ypres with 17 inch guns.

## CHINA GILL'S 27 YEARS IN THE DUKES

*In the last edition China Gill told of his deployment with 1DWR to the area around Brussels. It was 16 May 1940 and the Germans were advancing rapidly. After a great deal of moving around, China and Battalion HQ ended up west of the city, the roads full of refugees, and the German army less than a mile behind. They were again ordered to move.*

The Battalion crossed a canal near Anderlecht, the carrier platoon formed a rearguard. Roads and bridges were blown. One railway bridge was very high, although the troops took cover some distance away, the height caused stones to be blown some distance. This resulted in one large stone landing direct on the head of Sergeant R. E. Major causing his death.

We arrived at Volsem at 1530 hours, a meal was prepared. Six planes flew over machine gunning, there were no casualties. Orders arrived to move during the night to Iddergem and take up defensive position near Goych. The march was difficult and the road congested with isolated British troops, so we arranged for most of them to fall in behind our column. So we arrived at Goych with a Field Ambulance, anti-tank guns and numerous men from other regiments. Here we had breakfast and were then ordered to continue the withdrawal, thus we had a second night without sleep, across the country to Nederbrakel making our way to Tournai.

At HQ Company we received very little news of the rifle coys, the CO of course knew the position but men only heard bits here and there. Rumours kept flying around that we were cut off from the Division, but all proved fruitless.

We came to the top of a hill, to the right was a refugee camp, it had been bombed by Gerry aircraft. It was a pitiful sight, the MO and a few officers and ORs gave some assistance, but we had to keep moving so had to leave them. We were told that transport would be at Hoope Wood, we kept marching, suddenly some transport turned up and took us to Pont à Chin just North of Tournai. Our rearguard was a section of carriers from each battalion of the brigade and a couple of anti-tank guns.

The CO and Adjutant crossed the bridge over the river Escaut. An officer was in charge of a demolition party and despite being warned of our rear guard and no enemy in sight, as soon as the CO left the bridge was blown, thus losing our carriers and guns; the crews had to swim across. Arriving at Pont à Chin in late afternoon, 23 Company RE were holding the area, their CO agreed to keep his men in line for the night so the Dukes could have a night's sleep. On 21 May defences were strengthened; shelling and small arms fire was heavy causing only a few casualties.

22 May orders came to withdraw at nightfall to the "Gort Line" east of Lille. Just before the move HQ was heavily shelled, RSM Allsop was slightly wounded. The enemy were getting close, the Battalion got away during darkness. 2nd Lieutenant Benson with twelve men and four Brens covered the withdrawal, breaking

off contact in a lorry ... At dawn we passed through the town of Hem. The Battalion took up positions near Forêt sur Marque. Battalion HQ in an old fort where the Cheshire Regiment (Div MG Bn) had an excellent position. The fine weather suddenly ended, rain fell on the 24th, 25th and 26th. The rain also held up the Germans' advance.

This break enabled the officers in the forward positions to come back for a rest. The Division Commander, Major General Alexander, paid a visit on 26 May. It was only now we realised the danger to the whole BEF (*British Expeditionary Force*). ... Enemy action increased, dive bombers were more active. Orders came to march to Lille, on to Armentières\*, Poperingue to Proven and Hondshoote...

We found a NAAFI dump in an abandoned building and managed to retrieve boxes of cigarettes that we handed out to all passing troops. Enemy action was encountered on all sides, huge flames lit the sky. Despite the narrow gap the Battalion was unmolested. Armentières was reached on the 28th.

Higher authority had commenced withdrawing transport and after Lille we never saw our B Echelon again, the Battalion depended on picking up rations wherever we could. At a wood north of the town the Battalion after twenty-five miles marching were able to rest for two hours, eating some of their haversack ration. Enemy planes attacked, but there were no casualties. The march commenced again, the pace was slow due to road blocks, burning vehicles, French troops who began cutting the traces of their guns leaving them blocking the roads, then riding off on their horses.

We arrived at a wood near Proven with a few vehicles left. A meal was prepared and much appreciated. We were told we were safe for a few hours as we were covered by some French tanks, when suddenly the tanks appeared and were abandoned by their crews who then set off for Dunkirk. Then a rain storm appeared; it bogged down the German advance. It was here orders were received to make for Dunkirk. Trucks were man-handled out of the boggy wood and loaded with as many men as possible, the remainder on foot. We had only covered a couple of miles when orders came that no more vehicles could proceed. This was due to every road, path etc being already littered with abandoned vehicles. Our trucks were guided by MPs to a large dump and set on fire. An enormous ammunition dump was exploding nearby, sending its shells all over the area.

On the road again we were diverted to a small village Les Moires four miles from Bray Dunes on the coast. Battalion HQ was in a small farm, the coys deployed along the banks of the canal stretched over nearly 5000 yards. C Company occupied a position over a bridge and streams of refugees, soldiers and transport were crossing.

It was now the morning of 28 May. CSM Gresham and Corporal Flint were sent out to collect cooking utensils, any sort of food they could find, and reasonable breakfast was prepared. Then the companies



deployed in their positions, no more transport was allowed over the bridge. The front was protected by the canal, but the field of fire was restricted by the mass of abandoned vehicles etc. The number of brens per company was trebled and ammunition collected from jettisoned trucks. The amateur cooking staff and three volunteer slaughterers laid in stocks of fresh pork, beef, vegetables and any tinned food they could find.

Bombing could be heard in the distance. Lieutenant Sills sent for me to accompany him in a recce of the company positions. I found him in a stable with two large farm horses with no saddles but had halters and reins. The horses were about 16-17 hands high; I had to use some steps to mount. I had never rode a horse before and had difficulty getting him started. He went forward, then stopped, then went backwards until I finally managed to use my knees and feet. By the time I caught up with Lieutenant Sills he was off to the next company. On arriving back at HQ he told me to water and feed the horse before setting him free.

30th May, at dawn, it was still quiet. Colonel Parham of the RA arrived on a cycle. He had been treated in a French hospital at Hondschoote and reported some British troops were still there. Lieutenant Sills, CSM Gresham and a few soldiers set out and came back with an officer and eight other ranks.

The bridge was blown at 1100 hours. At 1400 hours the enemy opened up with mortars, guns and rifle fire. Casualties were now being brought to the RAP at Battalion HQ. They were given treatment by the MO Lieutenant Cullen and his two orderlies Lance Corporal Newsome and Private Briggs. Corporal Stutely also assisted them.

Sluices were now opened, flooding the area. This prevented enemy armour advancing but also made the company positions wet. The CO's driver made countless trips taking wounded to the CCS at Dunkirk. One German wounded was having his possessions searched. A small round tin was found, he would not divulge what it contained. Eventually the top was prised open and it was found to contain a condom. Captain Smith was kept busy with his carriers going from one area to another to assist the rifle companies. There was spasmodic firing during the night.

1st June 0700 hours C Company was withdrawn slightly to avoid being cut off. I was now with the AA Platoon again and was in a secluded position with a bren gun. Fighting got fiercer. A small force assembled from HQ Personnel commanded by CSM Gresham to assist C Company. They were held up by floods but did some good work before returning. They suffered some casualties: Drummer Suggitt was killed (one of my original friends on Boys' Service in 1929). Private Dodds, Pioneer Section was killed as he stood next to his brother Jackie Dodds. Shelling got heavier; a shell exploded in mid air. I felt a sting on a finger, then felt a heavy thud near my foot. A piece of shrapnel about five inches wide and a foot long was embedded in the ground about one inch from my left foot, the jagged edges had caught my left forefinger but only made a very small cut.

Suddenly disaster occurred, a shell just cleared a building facing the enemy but then went straight into the RAP, instantly killing the two orderlies Newsome and Briggs. The MO had just left the RAP to get some more supplies (morphine etc). A part of the Officers' Mess was also hit, only catching a corner with no casualties.

About 1700 hours a small plane with French markings flew from the German area towards Dunkirk. It was too far away to be fired at. We followed its flight and when it reached Dunkirk it fired a smoke flare, then flew South, fired another back towards the first one thus forming an arch that we guessed would be for the benefit of German gunners. The plane then made its way back and was considerably nearer our position. I was ready with my bren but it was out of my range. I was about to fire my ammo with one tracer in each five rounds to see how near I could get. I suddenly thought that Battalion HQ had only been shelled a few times, most shelling had been on the small village half a mile to our rear, and firing tracer rounds at a target out of range would instantly attract heavy shelling to our position. It turned out to be correct and (we) were not shelled again.

About 1900 hours Brigade Intelligence Officer arrived in a light tank with orders for the Battalion to retire at dusk. Orders were sent to the companies, who broke off contact and withdrew quietly. We reached Bray Dunes on the coast two and a half miles north of Dunkirk. A Staff Captain said to go towards Dunkirk and you will find small boats to take you out to the larger ships. We marched along the sand dunes to the northern outskirts of Dunkirk. There were about six lines of vehicles head to tail from beach leading out to the deeper waters. These had been used as improvised pontoons to assist troops to reach small boats, who then took them to deeper waters and transferred them to larger vessels.

By the time we reached them this procedure had ceased. A few hundred yards more and we reached the mole where large vessels tied up to embark troops - there were no vessels in sight so we waited at the end of a long queue for some time. It was getting towards dawn when word was received that due to heavy losses of HM Ships and other vessels during daylight, no more vessels would be used until dusk. We were all ordered to return to the sand dunes and find cover.

*\* "Mademoiselle from Armentières, hasn't been kissed for forty years, hinky dinky parlez vous" - old WWI song (with infinite variations, mostly unrepeatable). My French road atlas shows three Armentières in Northern France, and I expect it is the one on the Marne that the song refers to.*

*You can use a Michelin "Calais Lille Bruxelles" 1:200,000 1 cm : 2 km road map to follow the geography of this withdrawal of - by the time they had criss crossed through the minor roads - at least 150 miles, between 16 May and 2 June 1940.*

# UNVEILING OF A WAR MEMORIAL TO 1(UK) DIVISION

Palazzuola Sul Senio, Italy

In the Autumn of 1944, following the 'breakout' from the Anzio Beachhead and the liberation of Rome, the 1st Battalion of the Dukes, as part of the 1st (UK) Division, was fighting its way up Northern Italy, beyond Florence and up into the features of the Northern Apennines. Liberating the small town of Palazzuolo Sul Senio in September 1944 and then on the 8th/9th of October, after very fierce fighting, taking the crest of the feature known as Monte Cece. Private Richard Burton was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the taking of Monte Cece and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel F.P. St M. Shiel, who had taken command of the Battalion from Lieutenant Colonel Brian Webb-Carter only a month prior, was killed on the summit shortly after it was taken.

It was at the invitation of the Commune of Palazzuolo Sul Senio that a small group of Dukes set off to Italy on Friday 7 September to represent the 1st (UK) Division at a ceremony to unveil a memorial to the Division in the town. The group included:

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter

Major General Donald Isles - 1st Battalion subaltern in 1944

Major William St M Shiel - son of the Commanding Officer,

Mr John Young - 1st Battalion Corporal in 1944.

The two main events of the weekend were, firstly, on the Saturday, on the top of Monte Cece, which most of the group managed to climb, including John Young (at 83 years young!), and where there is already a memorial plaque (see Spring 05 edition, page 54), a remembrance ceremony and wreath laying was held followed by, in true Italian style, many speeches, including a quite emotional one from John Young about his comrades, in particular his friend Richard Burton VC.

The second main event of the weekend, on the Sunday, was the unveiling of the new memorial to the 1st (UK) Division. This was a much more formal affair, which started with a parade led by the local Italian Army Regiment, followed by local veterans groups and standards and finally the VIPs including; the Mayor of Palazzuolo, the British Defence Attache from Rome, General Webb-Carter and the Italian Army Commandant. The Mayor unveiled the memorial and following the British and Italian National Anthems, wreaths were laid including a Dukes wreath which was carried and laid by a young Italian soldier. Many speeches later we were invited, together with what looked like most of the population of the town, to a wonderful Italian lunch.



**General Webb-Carter and John Young at the Memorial Plaque on Monte Cece.**

When our small group left Palazzuolo on the Monday, we all felt quite honoured and humbled by the warmth of our hosts, the people of Palazzuolo and the Italian officers and soldiers of 66 Airmobile Regiment. It was a wonderful weekend.

*(Dom Alberic Stacpoole sent in some material which connects with this report. He says that when 1 DWR were led up Italy by Lieutenant Colonel Brian Webb-Carter DSO\*, his four Company Commanders were called the "Barons" and were much admired, all with MCs. One was Peter Faulks, later a judge, whose son, Sebastian Faulks, is the author of Birdsong. In January 1944 1 DWR landed under command of Americans at Anzio/Nettuno and were first into Rome, so leading the March of Honour later on; and pressing on beyond Florence where Dick Burton gained a brilliant VC on 8th October.)*



**General Evelyn, General Donald, and Major William Shiel.**





The unveiling ceremony

## BATTLEFIELD TOUR TO FRANCE, MAY 2007

by Brigadier John Greenway CBE

Thirty to forty Dukes and their friends have become accustomed to gathering from time to time to set off on one or more Regimental Battlefield Tours led by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter. Some have attended all the tours: Waterloo and Ypres in 2001, Anzio in both 2003 and 2004 and Tunisia in 2005. Now, in 2007, Agincourt and the Somme were the focus.

### Agincourt - 1415

Ever alert readers will have worked out that neither the 33rd nor the 76th Foot existed in 1415. Nonetheless, we hope that they will be glad to have a reminder of an away win for England against the French; moreover, Agincourt was only a short distance from Crecy, and earlier away win by Edward III in 1346.

General Evelyn had done well to obtain the services of Juliet Barker, the author of the book "Agincourt, the King, the Campaign, the Battle", as our guide. Speaking with great enthusiasm and clarity, she captured our attention and taught us much about King Henry V's meticulous planning for war, the efficacy of our archers, and the fierceness of the hand to hand battle in a small area of farmland, which, in the deep mud, led to carnage amongst fallen men and horses. Juliet was accompanied by Dr Ingrid Roscoe, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, whom we were glad to have with us for the day. We were glad too to be joined for lunch by Monsieur Jack Thorpe, our good friend from Erquinghem-Lys.

Anyone thinking of visiting the site should look for the modern name, Azingcourt.

### The Somme

Over the next few days General Evelyn took us all out onto the ground above the River Somme and we followed the progress (or lack of it) of the massed allied forces in 1916. Our 1st Battalion was away in India, so we gave particular attention to our 2nd (commanded by Lieutenant Colonel R. N. Bray, Grandfather of Brigadier Michael Bray), 10th and 1/4th Battalions.

It was very moving to stand, in driving rain as it happens, so tears were disguised by raindrops, behind a trench from which the men went over the top with fixed bayonets in 1 July 1916 - only to encounter, within one hundred yards, virtually impenetrable barbed wire and the hail of enfilade machine gun fire which decimated them.

The men were not Dukes in this instance, but Accrington Pals. General Evelyn had given each of us an envelope showing the name of an Accrington man who was there on the day, so it was even more moving to walk the same hundred yards to where they fell, now the site of an immaculate Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery, and discover whether "our" man survived. A few had, many had not and some survived only to be killed later in the campaign.

It gave us pause for thought, too, to stand on the piece of farmland on which, in November 1916, Temporary Captain Henry Kelly, 10 DWR, had not only led the capture and occupation of enemy trenches, but also, when outnumbered in a counter attack, carried his wounded Sergeant Major and subsequently three other men to safety, undoubtedly earning the award of his VC.



We paid our respects collectively at Becourt and Mill Road Cemeteries, where Dom Alberic Stacpoole led the prayers, David Peckover sounded the Last Post and Reveille, General Evelyn gave the Exhortation and John Greenway and Paul Taylor laid wreathes.

But there was also time for rest and recreation; some visited Amiens and Paris, others found more information in Museums, or sought the final resting place of family members in other Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries.

There was time too to reflect on the comment made by many historians, including most recently by Juliet Barker, that we in Europe seem unable to learn any lessons from history, returning time and again down the centuries to fight to the death over the same old pieces of ground.

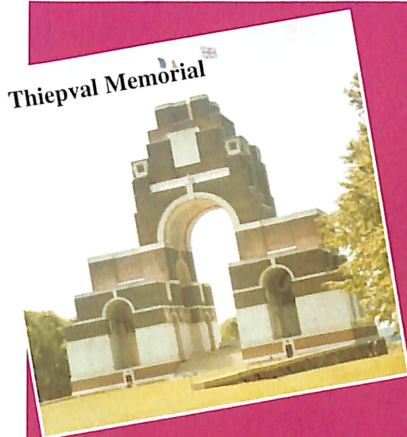
We enjoyed some private evenings, renewing relationships and, of course, telling tall tales of times past and laughing a lot. We also shared collective meals, the highlight of which was the last evening, which was

enlivened, as has become the tradition, by a musical and humorous cabaret performance by David Peckover - enhanced this year by his wife, Jeanne's, delightfully mellifluous contribution.

As ever, the whole group has cause to be most grateful to General Evelyn for all his hard work in preparing and conducting the tour, and to Bob Heron and Janet Gul, as well as the RHQ volunteer support team, for their immaculate administration. Wine with the picnic lunches was a popular innovation.

It can have come as no surprise to general Evelyn that there was general agreement amongst the party (*see below*) that another Regimental battlefield Tour would be well supported by the usual suspects. So, dear reader, if you have not found time to attend one, get your name in early for the next tour, possibly to Spain, in 2009.

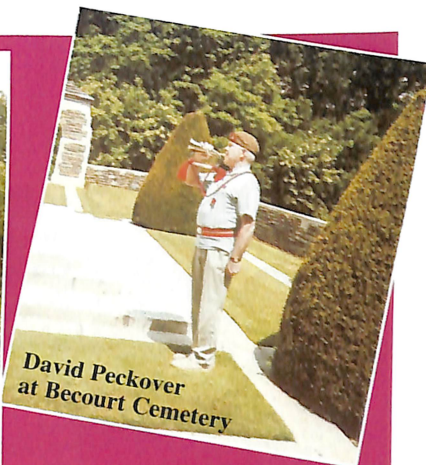
*(Since this report was written it has been confirmed that a Tour to the "Peninsular" in 2009 is definitely on the cards.)*



Thiepval Memorial



Statue of Winston Churchill  
on Avenue W. Churchill near Pont  
Alexandre III.



David Peckover  
at Becourt Cemetery



Hotel de Ville, Albert.



The piece of farmland where Kelly carved his VC.

The tour party were: Major Bob and Linda Heron, Lieutenant Colonel Robbie Robins, Dom Alberic Stacpoole, Janet Gul, Bob Hanson, Pat Harley, Richard Harvey, Cyril and Jean Ford, Scott Flaving, Irene Mallinson, John O'Niell, Jack Smith, Rodney Owers, David and Jeanne Peckover, Geoffrey and Patricia Popple, John Sargeant, Brian Searson, Paul Taylor, John Young, Colonel Charles Dent, Major David and Meike Harrap, Captain Bob and Jean Wilson, Tony and Margaret Balding, Major General Sir Evelyn and Lady Celia Webb-Carter, Brigadier John and Judith Greenway, Brigadier Michael Bray, Geoffrey Bullock, Cliff Boothman, Kath Shone, Jack Thorpe, Lesley Winspear.



## THE 'DUKES' MUSEUM

Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax, HX3 6HG

Having received our second lottery bid in February for the 'Forgotten Voices' project to complete the refurbishment of the Museum by late 2008, the plan is to split this into three phases: 1 - World War 1; 2 - the Victorian Era and 3 - Redcoat. The first phase has been completed and opened to the public at the end of October.

The old 'Trench' has been revamped to produce a basic history of the War, linked and illustrated where possible to the Regiment. On entry between a German Machine Gun post and a Dukes sentry, the visitor will be faced by four 'bays' in chronological order with images and labels: from the euphoric Bay 1 - 1914 'To War'; to the more sobering 2 - 1915 'Stalemate' and tragic 3 - 1916-7 'Slaughter'; and onto 4 - 'The Casualties'. A Memorial Cross Case with an audio point on the exit of the Trench will remember over 8,300 Dukes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

There are two new cases outside the Trench: for the regular 2 DWR in the 'Old Contemptibles' at Mons in 1914 and at Hill 60, Ypres in May 1915 suffering from the first gas attack; and local territorial 1/4 DWR at the Somme, Thiepval in September 1916 and facing the final German offensive on the Lys in 1918. Posters showing the roles and battle honours of all our Battalions will complete this phase. (An audio point with eight stories to back up the two cases will not be completed until mid 2008).

The Museum's opening hours are:  
Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am - 5.00pm  
Sunday, 1.00pm - 4.00pm

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



Museum exhibits.

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE WAR OF WARS by Robert Harvey.** Constable, 962 pp including index and bibliography. £9.99.

A penny a page for a well written and pacy paperback account of "The epic struggle between England and France 1789-1815" is good value. Robert Harvey has a string of successful histories behind him, and balances the fluent style of a journalist with some solid history. There are useful maps and diagrams of some of the main sea and land engagements.

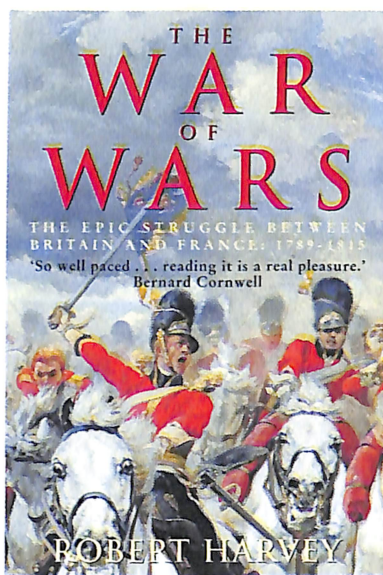
Mr Harvey uses his first 150 or so pages to show how the revolution destroyed the French ancient régime and provided opportunity for a young, unprepossessing Corsican in the French artillery to make his way in a complex and dangerous political environment. He describes British complacency, Pitt the Younger determined not to go to war and taking an appeasing line. Then goaded into action by French excesses, "the

British military intervention at the outset of war was almost unparalleled in history for its disastrous incompetence, timorousness, indecisiveness and appalling leadership".

There followed the calamitous campaign led by the Duke of York ("his stupidity as a man was equalled only by his ignorance as a general") in the low countries in 1793, where the 25 year old Arthur Wellesley had a taste of action at Boxtel, with Austrian and Prussian allies coming and going, and ending in complete failure, as at about the same time the British toehold in Toulon was firmly trodden on by brilliant gunnery from a certain Major Bonaparte, and an expedition to support royalists in the Vendée came expensively to nothing. Not a promising start; the author suggests that a firmer, or anyway better directed, hand at this stage could have averted war all together.

The scope of the war - India and Egypt in the East to South America and the West Indies in the West - was vast, so there is inevitably some geographical hopping about and occasional repetitions if the author thinks we might have forgotten an important connection, but it is skilfully handled. A keen Dukes reader can experience a warm glow as we learn that the defeat and death of Tipoo Sultan at Seringapatam materially undermined Napoleon's campaign in Egypt which he claimed was to give him a jumping off point to march overland to India, link up with his ally Tipoo, and kick the hated British out of the sub continent.

Success in the early years of the war belong mostly to the Royal Navy whose mastery of the high seas, totally established after Trafalgar in 1804, did for England then what the Battle of Britain did for us 136 years later: it removed the threat of invasion. The story gets more regimentally satisfying later on: there is a reasonable background chapter on the young Arthur Wesley and his family assisted rise, although due credit is given to his earlier achievements. After Charles Curry's article on the brothers Cornwallis in our last edition, perhaps we can also be pleased at the recognition given to the Admiral



of that name for his excellent work in the Channel, bottling up the French fleet in Brest. When Wellesley lands with his modest force in the Peninsular in 1809 we are on more familiar ground, but far better able to place the action in the wider context of what has gone before, and of the much weightier events happening simultaneously further East.

One of the dangers of military history in a concise form is that it whirls along on the surface but you are left knowing little about the impact on the people of the time. Mr Harvey gives us more than a passing glimpse of the horrors of this protracted struggle; Napoleon was callously indifferent to casualties and the suffering of the men of his Grand Armée, let alone his enemies and the civilians who

stood between him and his vast ambitions. Men, women and children died in their tens and hundreds of thousands. Be in no doubt; Napoleon was a bad and dangerous man who had to be stopped, and his very real achievements do not outweigh his personal responsibility for misery and destruction on a colossal scale.

If you have any interest in these affairs at all - and there is much of value that the modern soldier can learn in these chapters - you will enjoy this book.

Tim Nicholson

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From Scott Flaving

In response to the article on Exercise Snow Boot, (Spring 2007 page 33) my memories of this are somewhat different. I was tasked to act as interpreter for the Ops Officer, Captain Harrap, on a recce of an unfamiliar part of Germany for reasons that were not explained. ... On return to camp I happened across a document from GOC 4th Division ordering all units to carry out winter warfare exercises in early 1979. I was well able to put two and two together and was concerned, very concerned.

By lucky coincidence, a few days later I found that Exercise Snow Queen, skiing in Bavaria, was taking place at the same time and immediately volunteered for ten days of skiing and après ski. The Intelligence Officer, Captain Best was very suspicious about my new found interest in sport and checked the Battalion forecast of events to see if there was a clash. Of course there wasn't, Snow Boot was still quite secret, if not top secret. My request was authorised.

I set off for Bavaria as three metres of snow fell on Schleswig Holstein and the German army was mobilised to assist the civilian population. The Battalion was due to leave for their exercise area a day or two afterwards. In Bavaria there was a shortage of

snow! I was forced to drive round Bavaria and Austria, visiting Berchtesgarden, Bad Tölz and Oberammergau.

I did manage to get some skiing in, but did not go down with frostbite or trackrash.

However, I will say that it was the only major exercise that I missed in Germany and I probably hold the record for being On Exercise, from Corps to Company level, from Study Day, through CPX, BBGT to FTX - I was there!

### From Les Shaw - by e.mail

There is a very good website which reunites ex-forces personnel, having over 200,000 members. It is [www.forcesreunited.org.uk](http://www.forcesreunited.org.uk). There are over 250 ex Dukes associated names there already, included some from other cap badges who were attached at one time or another.

### From Ken Wharton (a summary of his letter)

I am researching a book on Northern Ireland and would like to hear from members of the Dukes who have memories and photos. The book will be supportive of the British Army.

My website is: [www.forgotten-voices.co.uk](http://www.forgotten-voices.co.uk) and you can e.mail me at [ken\\_wharton@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_wharton@hotmail.com)



# 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, 14 The Poplars, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 7PW.

**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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REGIMENTAL WEDDING

Major Matt Palmer, son of Major Don and Gilly Palmer, married Elizabeth Salt at St Mary's Church, Batcombe, Wiltshire on Saturday 16 June 2007. The photos show Matt and Liz leaving the church under an arch of swords held by colleagues, and the couple cutting the cake at the reception.



## OFFICERS' DINNER

Brigadier His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, General Sir Charles Huxtable and Major General Donald Isles, were joined by fifty-eight other officers of the regiment at the Army and Navy Club on 29 June. It was particularly good to see the Commanding Officer, Second in Command and other officers of 3 Yorks (DWR).

Subject to "the exigencies of the service", the pattern of future Officers' Dinners will be:

- 2008 - Yorkshire
- 2009 - RMAS Sandhurst
- 2010 - Warminster
- 2011 - Yorkshire
- 2012 - London

The photo opposite shows the Duke and General Evelyn chatting to Major Paul Fox.





## ASSOCIATION DINNER AND DANCE

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the Regimental Association was held in Bradford on 6 October.

Earlier in the day a large number of former members of the Regiment gathered in Wetherspoons pub in Halifax, to share a pint and old memories and watch England beat Australia on the large screen TV, with a spirited rendering of "The Dukes are coming up the hill" shortly after the final whistle (see frontispiece on page 50). No doubt Mr Wetherspoon is extremely grateful that chatting and singing and watching rugby seems to generate a prodigious thirst, and it was with some difficulty that your reporter extricated himself and took the train to Bradford's Interchange Station, which is conveniently just round the corner from the Hilton Hotel.

The Hilton again looked after us well, and an enjoyable evening was had by all. At the AGM it was said what a pity it was that the different gatherings could not come together, but the fact is that many of those in the pub did not want to come to the dinner whilst many of those at the dinner had no wish to go to the pub. We are all good Dukes and no doubt should think hard about the best way forward, in a spirit of goodwill and working for the common good.



**A Burma trio. Jono Wood (OC 4 Platoon), Eddie Craven (CQMS) and Tim Nicholson (OC), Minden/Belfast '79/'80.**



**Johnny Sargeant and his Korea section. From left Zero Brown, Rob Dawson, Pete Angh and Sam Hall.**

## MEETING AT THE BRICKLAYERS' ARMS

Ian McGlynn, who joined the Dukes in Hong Kong from 1 Y&L, and who left in the mid 70s for a life in the entertainment business, made a visit to the UK earlier in the year, and a reunion of close friends took place in the private room at the Bricklayers Arms in Chelsea.

Ian McGlynn is pictured below. The group photo is of (from the left) Nick Newell, Stuart Adlington (Green Howards), Margot Newell, Gilly Palmer, Sheenagh Nicholson, Don Palmer, Ian and Bonny McGlynn, Pauline and Peter Gardner, Carole-Ann Adlington, Tim Nicholson, Carolyn White, Pat Puttock.





## ***Raffle Prize Winners ...***

£250	-	G. Fickling
Hilton Hotel weekend	-	D. R. Blood
£100	-	E. J. Morgan, Mrs E. Lee
£75	-	S. H. Kirk, C. Sullivan, T. J. Isles
£50	-	C. Ford, M. Coates, J. H. Purcell, P. A. Davies
£25	-	K. Brown, J. B. K. Greenway, M. Ainley, B. Pounder, I. Abel

### **SKIPTON BRANCH**

On Saturday 16 June the branch held their annual Waterloo Dinner at Skipton Golf Club. Chief guest was Major David Harrap who gave a run down on both the Yorkshire Regiment and the 3rd Battalion. Also at the dinner were Mayor Carole Manley and her consort, John Manley.

We also invited the Chairman of Craven District Council Mr David Ireton and his wife Susan. This was their first visit to our annual dinner. We had friends from London, Keighley and Halifax branches, and altogether fifty people sat down to dinner. We had a live band which kept people on their feet dancing, and the party went on late into the night.

Mary Bell, Secretary

### **RECCE PLATOON 1DWR 1981-82**

#### **WEST YORKS REUNION 5 OCTOBER 2007**

Even more worrying than one of the lads stating boldly before this reunion "I've got a bone to pick with Brian and yourself", as we all assembled at Huddersfield TA Centre over OCA weekend the first topic of conversation was encroaching middle age and where the heck the last 26 years have disappeared to in a puff of smoke!

Bringing together the Battalion's 1981 South Armagh COP had been mooted for some time. Tragic circumstances surrounding two platoon members were known and it quickly became apparent that several are living / working overseas and that some have slipped off the regimental radar altogether. So, where is COP Platoon 1981 today?



**Above - COP South Armagh 81-82. Below - 26 years later.**





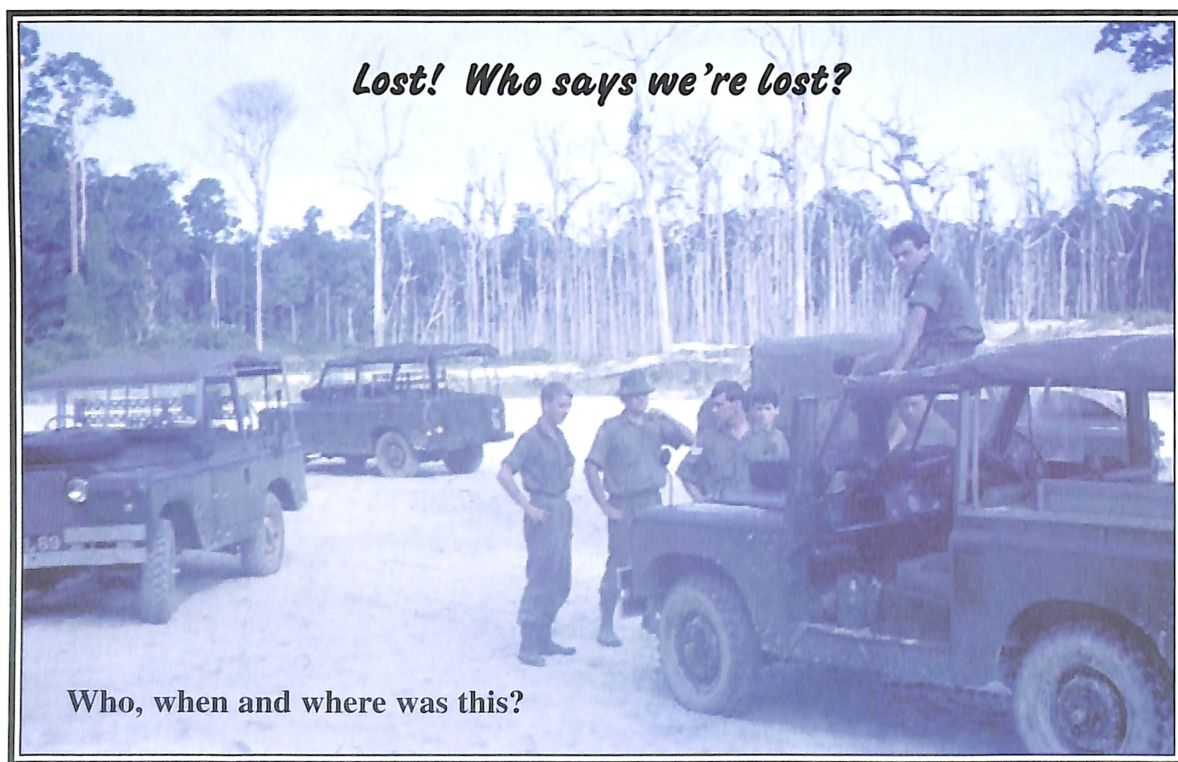
Ian Metcalfe and 'big' John Frear (Australia); Brian Thomas (Cyprus); Steve Gardner (Iraq - security contractor) and Steve Rose (France) are overseas and in spite of avid research, we couldn't get a trace on Mick Basu and Rick Woolley or Corporal 'Mario' Kemp (Signals) and Lance Corporal Lloyd (MT).

For those in contact in the UK, unfortunately Stu Hunt, Martin Sutcliffe, Tony Proctor and Pete Austin had diary clashes which left a pool of x18 for the OCA weekend. On the Friday evening Messrs Wood, Sykes, Mitchell, Dean, Campbell, Chalmers, Chapman, Gorrings, Hughes, Kay, Machen, Moore, Russell-Cox, Warden, Whiteley and Wroe met up and, on Saturday, Willy Willmott and Toz Steadman joined those who managed to physically make the Halifax event!

Friday night was great fun. In typical Dukes form, everyone picked it up as if there had been no intervening gap and the stories; laughter and leg-pulling went on well into Saturday morning! Barry Hey and his admin team at the TA Centre did us proud. During the evening Corporal Brian Dwight (deceased - RTA), store man Private C. D. Lloyd (long term resident in a Welsh care home - RTA) were fondly remembered as well as all 'in absentia' who were toasted.

General comments received strongly support repeating this again soon and with enough notice given to aid those overseas and avoid diary clashes etc. Up to date contact details for 'Lofty' Lofthouse, Mick Basu, Steve Rose, Rick Woolley and John Frear would be warmly appreciated if anyone can help.

Jono Wood, Baku



#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS / \*NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr D. Barnett, 54 Dursley Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 8DH.

Mr N. H. Bryson, Flat 2, Westhill Lodge, Hagley Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 1RH.

Mr R. Davis, Treetops, 92 Green Lane, Greetland, Halifax, HX4 8BL.

Captain S. J. Dick, 45 Halfpenny Lane, Sunningdale, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 0EG.

Mr R. J. Douthwaite, Belmore Cottage, 4 Belmore Lane, Lymington, Hants, SQ41 3NA.

Mr S. Hall, 48 7th Street, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU6 8HY.

Mr S. A. Hay, 14 Pool View, Horsehay, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2ND.

Mr J. W. Kelly, 49 Sutherland House, Corporation Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

Mr C. E. Kilner, 115 Swan Court, Chelsea Manor Street, London, SW3 5RY.

Mr M. McGregor, 19 The Meadows, Wibsey, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD6 1LF.

Mr A. D. Nicol, 16 Greenlands Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 8BQ.

Mr E. P. Pennington, 4 Abbotswood Pwy, Erskine 6210, Western Australia.

Mr G. Russell, 2 Wynnland Gardens, Newtonabbey, Northern Ireland, BT36 6SD.

Mr C. B. Sherratt, 6 Redcoat Way, Acomb, York, YO24 3NG.

Mr A. D. Siddall, Kernow House, Landlake Road, Launcester, Cornwall, PL15 9HP.

Mr R. J. D. Spence, The Tallett, Ford, Temple Guiting, Glos, GL54 5RU.

Lieut Col R. Sugden CBE, Threshfield Court Care Home, Threshfield, North Yorkshire, BD23 5ET.

Mr D. Walker, 1 Beacon Grove, Morley, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS27 9HJ.

Mr M. Wilson, 1 Lodge Hill, Addingham, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 0NG.

\* Mr W. Maynard, 5 Norfolk Place, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 6UU.

## Obituaries

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

### Captain Michael Taylor

Captain Michael Taylor died in service on Monday 16 July 2007, at the age of 43.

On Friday 27 July, around 450 Dukes mustered at St Oswald's Parish Church, Fulford to bid him farewell. The large attendance bore testament to the high regard this man was held in by all ranks within the Dukes. He was laid to rest in Fulford Cemetery under glorious sunshine, with full military honours.

Spud, as Mick was known to all, was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) in 1981 after a year as a Junior Leader, at the Infantry Junior Leader Battalion, Shorncliffe. On arrival, Spud joined Corunna Company, the company he would spend the majority of his Regimental Duty with. Rising through the ranks in Corunna he became 9 Platoon Sergeant, then CQMS and later its CSM. He served in every rank within Corunna and always considered himself to be a 'Corunna Blue'. Spud was promoted to WO1 in 2003 and was appointed as the RSM of 1 DWR. Commissioned in 2004, he was firstly appointed as Welfare Officer and finally as the OC of the Regimental Recruiting Team in Huddersfield. Spud's career was broad and varied. He trained junior soldiers at Ouston, recruits at Catterick and his Regimental Duty spanned from Norway as part of the AMF(L) to Germany in the Armoured Infantry role. Operationally, he served on numerous occasions in Northern Ireland and as the RSM in Iraq on Telic 1.

Mick Taylor was the epitome of a Duke. A Yorkshireman, with a wicked sense of humour, his character more than made up for his lack of stature. Extremely loyal, he was totally devoted to the Dukes with a real sense of duty and doing what was right, whether it meant upsetting people or not. Indeed, he is one of a rare breed of soldiers who put their Regiment and others first, rather than their own careers. He had great courage and a terrier like tenacity, which coupled with an innate cunning made him formidable whether on exercise, on the sports field or on operations. Foremost, he was a great leader. Tough and professional he led by example, yet remained approachable, open and friendly with a genuine concern for all within his charge. There are many officers and soldiers alike that have benefited from his guidance and good counsel. It is no coincidence that he was so well respected by all ranks and became the Battalion's top soldier.

There was another side to his character that demonstrated a quieter, kind and perceptive man: the devoted husband and proud father and grandfather, the keen gardener and allotment holder, the loyal and great friend to many. He remained undaunted throughout the illness that was to take his life, always more interested in the Battalion and his friends and colleagues, rather than dwelling on his own suffering.

His passing is mourned. Always missed but never forgotten. We, the Dukes, hold him in happy memory and we offer to his wife, Lynn, their children Leigh and Richard and grandchildren, Jack, Ashleigh and James our deepest sympathy.

Lieut Col Andy Pullan

### Mr Leslie Roberts

*Ian Metcalfe of Clarkson, Western Australia writes:*

"I am writing to inform you of the death of Leslie Roberts. Les died peacefully in his sleep at his nursing home in Rockingham Western Australia on 20 September 2007. Les served with the 1st Battalion during WW11. He was 92. I last visited Les in July and despite his eyesight having failed he still managed to keep up to date on current affairs and was always eager to hear the latest news from the Regiment and tell his tales from the war."

Mr Metcalfe's email is [lorian@e-wire.net.au](mailto:lorian@e-wire.net.au).

### Mr Keith Jagger

Keith Jagger died of cancer on 11 October 2007 aged 62. He served in the Dukes 1966-1975, including BAOR, GB, Cyprus (UN), and Northern Ireland. He represented the Army (Far East) and the Battalion at football. On leaving the Army he spent eight years working for the NSPCC, then had a spell driving long distance, before joining the Corps of Commissionaires, where he specialised in computer security, working with Merrill Lynch in the City of London. He was Secretary of the London Branch of the OCA since January 1996, and was a genial and efficient administrator and organiser of the branch's activities. He was greatly helped in this role by his wife, Eveline. He was cremated before a large gathering of family and friends at the City of London Crematorium at Manor Oak. Among those present from the Regiment were Brigadier and Mrs John Greenway, Major Bob Heron, and Lieutenant Colonel Tim Nicholson.



*Tim Nicholson writes:*

"Keith was a member of the Intelligence Section in Hong Kong whilst I was IO, and Gordon Bell of the Skipton Branch was Int Corporal. We were given the task of moving the battalion, men, wives, kids, lock stock and barrel, back to the UK. Uniquely the RAF decided that they would put their fleet of six large passenger aircraft at our disposal. Every person who was to travel in that move was represented on a huge board in the Int Office by a coloured disk, arranged in plane and seat order, and Keith was in charge of the board. He was beset by half the battalion, demanding to be on the first plane, in a "good" seat, next to so and so, not next to someone else's children. It was a hugely complicated task and Keith got on with it with good humour and his customary understated efficiency."

### **Mr Telford Mallinson**

Telford's sudden death occurred in February, at the age of 69, and was briefly reported in the last edition. He and his wife Irene were popular members of the London Branch, regular attenders of Regimental events and they both, with daughter Hayley, took part in the Battlefield Tour of Anzio in 2004. Telford served in 1 DWR 1955 – 1957. He was enormously proud that his grandson, Lewis Brown, who also served in 1 DWR, and then 3 YORKS (DWR). Telford's funeral was on 5 March, conducted at Chelmsford Crematorium by his brother Clifford, an Officer in the Salvation Army. Among those present were Mac and Biddy Dowdy, Keith and Eveline Jagger and John Greenway.

### **Colonel David Wonson CBE**

David Wonson died on 25 March, aged 63, as was reported in our last edition. He had recently been passed fit to take part in a charity climbing expedition, and was out walking with his daughter Dianna and his dog when he collapsed and died. He was a genial and well liked officer throughout his varied career. Initially he served with 1 Y&L, then transferred to 1 DWR. He was Adjutant 1975/77 in Aldershot, and served with the Battalion in Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Minden. He later transferred to the Royal Military Police, making his mark and rising to Deputy Provost Marshall (Army) and earning the award of the CBE.

The RMP accorded David a service with military honours at St David's Church near Llanarthne, Carmarthen, on 5 April. John and Judith Greenway, Alastair Roberts and Charles Bunbury represented the Regiment. He is survived by his wife, Julia and daughters Dianna and Kate.

### **Gerald Fawcett**

*John Golding, 1 DWR 1958-1963, writes:*

"Gerald died on 20 October 2007. He served with the Dukes as a National Serviceman from 1957-59. I took over his platoon, 1 Platoon A Company, in June 1959 and he reverted to 21/C under Dennis Shuttleworth. He was persuaded to join David Gilbert-Smith in the successful bid to canoe across the Irish Sea in Company with Charles Cumberlege, Wilf Charlesworth, Michael Bray and Jim Shenton and others. I think it resolved him never to set foot in a canoe again."

Gerald was the Dukes fisheries Officer and in the company of the well known CSM Battye took parties of soldiers over Northern Ireland fishing the rivers and lochs. I joined them on a trip to Loch Erne. We set off in a one ton truck and were issued with Sterling Light machine guns, as we were nearing the border country, even in those days, trouble was always anticipated. There cannot be many times in a fisherman's life that he fishes with an armed cordon around him, rotating with those on the perimeter after a given time!

Gerald married Valery Arnold-Forster in 1963. I was their best man. He lived all his married life in Addingham, near Ilkley, and had three children - Gale, Nicola and Roland who are all married with children of their own. He was a countryman at heart, enjoying fishing and shooting and working with his dogs. He trained all his dogs with the same kindness and softness that he approached his life in general.

Gerald worked with the Spooner Company of Ilkley, who made the large ovens used in the plant bakeries of RHM and Allied Bakeries etc. He rose to become Sales Director and was recognised as one of Europe's leading experts on modern bakery technology."

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

**Major R. A. Boxall.** Roy Boxall, who served mostly with the 2nd Battalion, between 1939-46, in India and Burma, died on 6 July 2007 at the age of 93.

**Lieutenant Colonel D. Booth.** Derek Booth enlisted into the Dukes at the end of WWII 1945, and served as a Dukes officer until 1955, including Korea and Gibraltar, before transferring to RAOC and continued serving until 1982. His total service was 37 years. Roy died on 17 July 2007 at the age of 81.

**Major F. Nichols.** Frank Nichols joined the 2nd Battalion in India at the end of WWII, he was CSM C Company in Northern Ireland 1957-59, before taking over as RSM of the West Riding Regiment in Huddersfield and he was RSM of the 1st Battalion 1964-66, before being commissioned. Frank died on 26 December 2006.

**Mr M. H. Williams.** Morton Howell Williams, who served as a National Service soldier with the 1st Battalion 1952-54, including Korea, died on 26 June 2007, at the age of 73.

**Mr P. Walker.** Peter Walker enlisted into the 2/7th Battalion at Halifax in May 1939 and mobilised in September 1939, embarking for France in April 1940. Following the rearguard action for the evacuation of 51st Highland Division at St. Valery-en-Caux in June 1940. Peter was taken POW and spent the remainder of the war in various POW camps in France, Italy and Germany, before being released by the Americans in April 1945. Peter died on 27 September 2007 at the age of 90, in Brighouse.

**Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege.** Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege died in St Monica's hospital, Easingwold North Yorkshire on Monday 22 October having been diagnosed with a brain tumour eight weeks before. An obituary will appear in the next edition.

Digitised by The Regimental Archives

