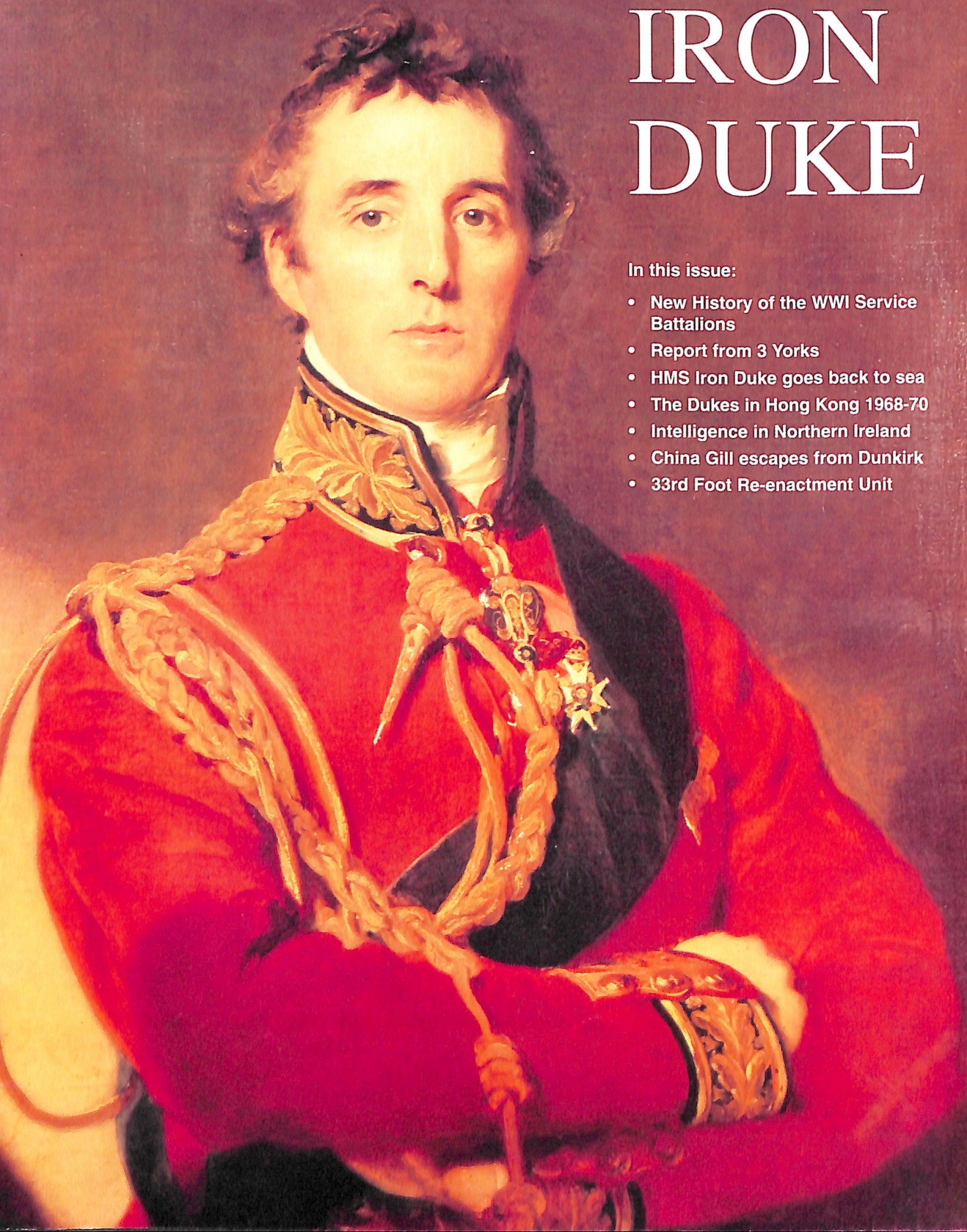


SPRING 2008
No. 264

THE IRON DUKE

In this issue:

- New History of the WWI Service Battalions
- Report from 3 Yorks
- HMS Iron Duke goes back to sea
- The Dukes in Hong Kong 1968-70
- Intelligence in Northern Ireland
- China Gill escapes from Dunkirk
- 33rd Foot Re-enactment Unit



THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of
all who served with*

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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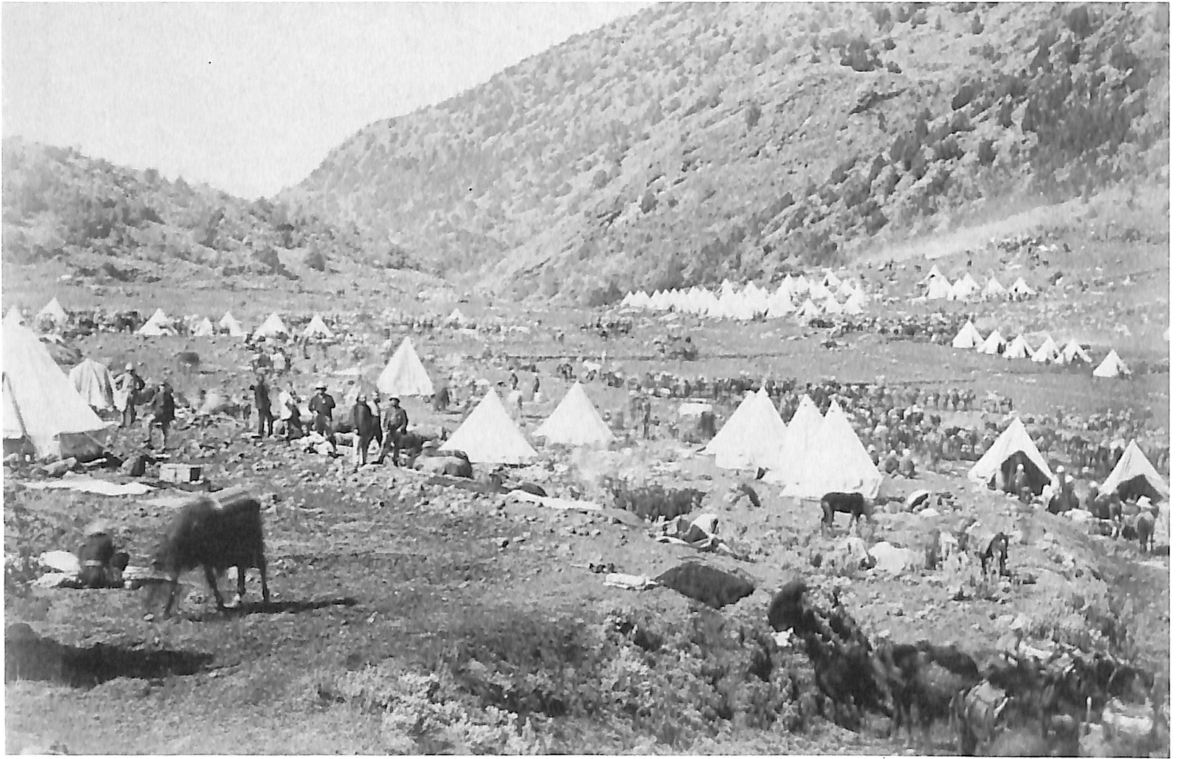
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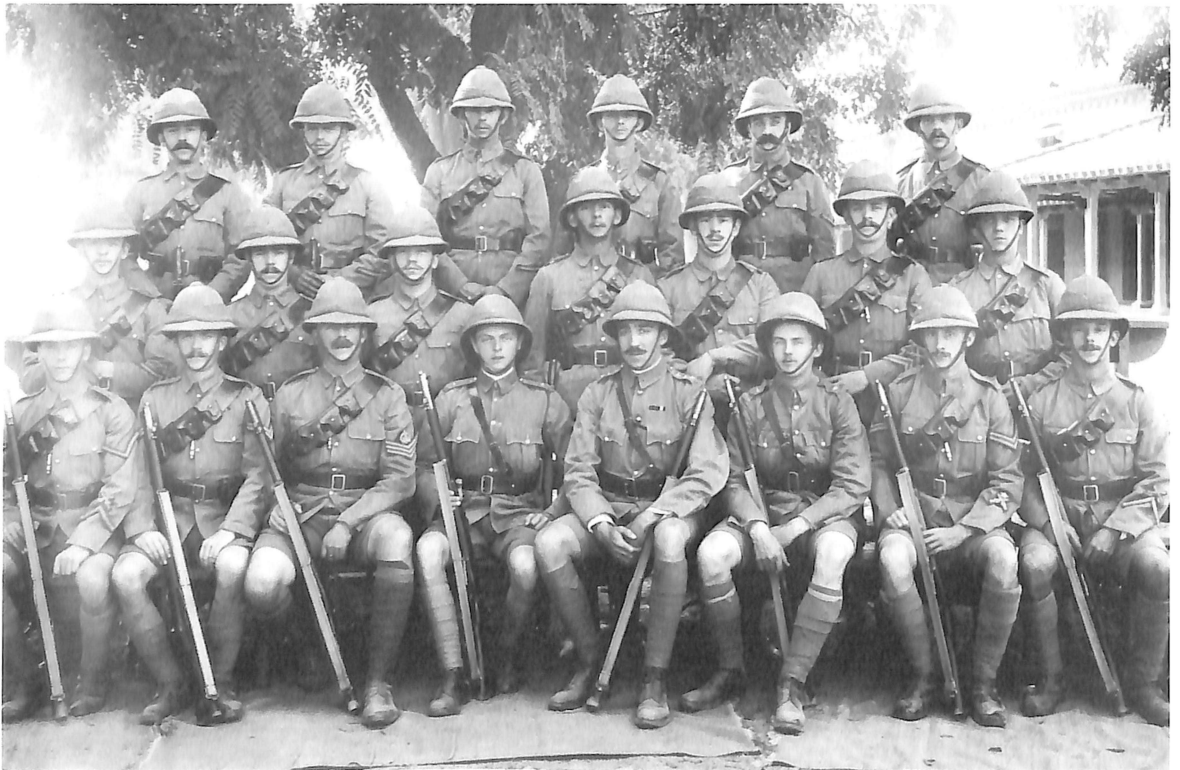
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Member of the Association of Service Newspapers



Abyssinia 1868, Bolago Camp.



1 DWR Scouts, India circa 1909-1911.

A RICH HISTORY

This edition of the Iron Duke touches on a number of episodes in the life of our Regiment over many years. The present, including 3 Yorks' last descriptions (for a while anyway) of their many and varied tasks as Land Warfare Centre battalion as they switch to an operational role with 12 Mechanised Brigade. James Hayes and others look at the late 60s, with the battalion serving in the Far East. Major Donald Palmer continues the story of intelligence in Northern Ireland, this time in Londonderry County and Belfast in the 70s. We touch on World War II and China Gill safely off the Dunkirk Beaches and, after a period in England and Scotland, re-deployed with 1 DWR to North Africa. World War I; General Donald Isles' History of the Service Battalions was recently published, and tells of the experiences of seven battalions of Dukes, raised to fight a war still referred to as The Great War, unimaginable intensity in combat, horrendous conditions, doggedly endured, and won, in France and in Italy. Lazare Ponticelli, Croix de Guerre, Medaille Interalliée and, lately, Chevalier, Legion d'Honneur, the last Frenchman to fight in that conflict, died recently and there are only two remaining British survivors of war in the trenches, both a decade into their 100s.

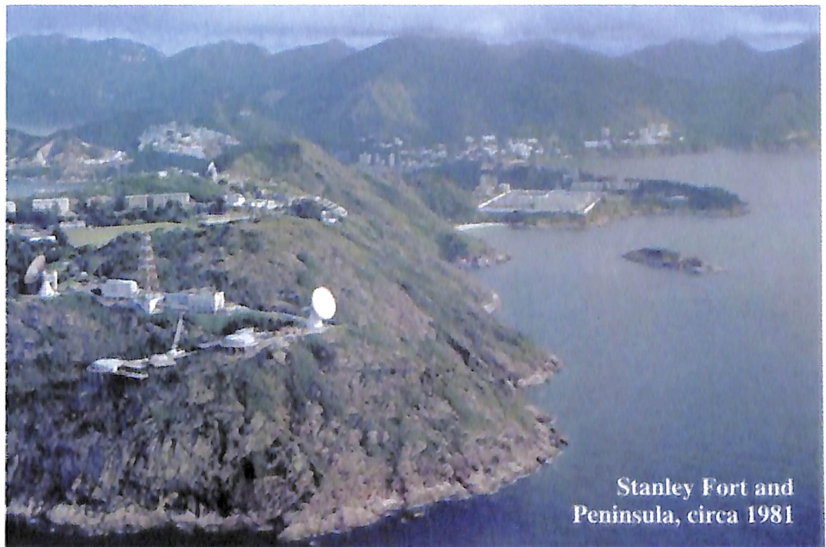
Indeed it was 100 years ago this March that some of our battalions took part in General Haig's Somme offensive. Some of the men who fought there had seen active service in the Boer War and other campaigns of the old Empire. The 8th Battalion was briefly commanded by Major Willis VC of the Lancashire Fusiliers who fought in the Battle of Khartoum and won his VC at Gallipoli. In their youth, would these experienced soldiers have had veterans of the Abyssinia campaign to look up to, and they, in their turn, men who had been present during the Indian Mutiny, and even Crimea?

We report the sad deaths of some splendid Dukes in this issue. Robbie Burns DSO, OBE, QPM, CPM, Chief Constable of Suffolk retiring in 1976 and Coy Commander A Company 1 DWR in the battle for Monte Cece in 1944. Douglas Emery DCM, platoon sergeant in A Company in that same battle, where also Private Burton, Platoon Runner in Emery's platoon, won his VC. With more recent service, Major Sid Kirk whose postings included Korea, the Malayan Emergency, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Germany, serving with the Dukes, Green Howards and York and Lancasters at various stages in his career: Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege, cricketer and ornithologist who commanded Burma Company in the 1971

Internment Operation in Belfast and later commanded a UDR Battalion: Major Dick Glazebrook PWO but Second in Command 1 DWR for that same tour, stalking the streets with a large calibre, high powered sporting rifle, looking for someone to take him on: Norman Field, national serviceman 1958-60 who played rugby league for Great Britain at Wembley in 1963 in the first match against the Australians.



**Lance Corporal B. Holdsworth,
10th DWR, with Long Enfield rifle.**



**Stanley Fort and
Peninsula, circa 1981**



Above: Corunna Taliban looking menacing.

When today's Dukes, 3 Yorks, deploy to whichever theatre awaits them, presumably Afghanistan or Iraq but who knows what other need might arise in the next few months, they tread in some right soldierly footsteps. In time their exploits too will be a part of the rich history of our Regiment.

Right: Bayonet charge by the 33rd Foot Re-enactment Unit.



Below: The HMS Iron Duke Gun Team.



A FAMILY AFFAIR

The President of the Association, formerly Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, has prepared a paper on the management of the Association and the events programme for the wider Dukes community. You will find it on page ?? (and on www.dwr.org.uk) and your comments will be carefully considered.

The key point is that most members - perhaps all - of the Dukes family want to stay in touch, meet up from time to time, to enjoy the comradeship we knew and valued when we wore the cap badge. We are all encouraged to put something into these initiatives, and mostly all that means is to 'turn up and enjoy yourself' when the chance arises.

EDITORIAL - THE NAME GAME

I have just taken possession of the Brereton / Savory History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment", something I should have done years ago but put off, relying on James Lunt's short version to bluff my way out of trouble, but with all the experts out there waiting to pounce I now need the real thing to keep me out of trouble. To apply a topical test to my new and old sources, I decided to see how many names the Regiment has had.

I already knew that Queen Anne approved the raising of the Earl of Huntingdon's Regiment of Foot on 14 March 1702 (306 years ago today as I write, and half a dozen years after the house I am sitting in was built), and raised most of its men in and around Gloucester. Ranked 33rd in the precedence table that King William III had first established in 1694 and holding to that thereafter, it subsequently, as was the practice, changed its name as the Colonels changed - Leigh's, Duncanson's, Wade's, Johnson's ("Johnson's Jolly Dogs") and so on.

In 1782, pursuant to direction from the Commander in Chief to all regiments that "were neither royal nor bore any distinctions of title", Lord Cornwallis, Colonel of the 33rd, petitioned that the Regiment should bear the name the West Yorkshire Regiment, as it "has a very good interest and the general goodwill of the people of that part of the Country". If it were thought that the West Riding was too large for a single regiment, the 1st West Yorkshire would do as well. And so it became the 33rd (or the 1st West Riding) Regiment of Foot. They were fond of parenthesis even in those days. Five years later the 76th Regiment was raised, mostly from Nottingham and Leicester, with a sizable contingent from the Musgrave estates around Carlisle, Colonel Musgrave being its first colonel.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE BATTALIONS OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S (WEST RIDING REGIMENT) IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

Major General Donald Isles CB, OBE, DL, has written this excellent new history. He writes "It is now almost some ninety years since 1918, the end of World War I, and although the Regiment possesses three fine histories detailing the part played by its Regular and Territorial Battalions in this conflict, nowhere was there to be found a comprehensive account, record or history of the Regiment's seven Service Battalions raised during the war. For some time this was a cause for concern, but more particularly, now that the Regiment has had its identity submerged into the new Yorkshire Regiment, the need for an authoritative account became more pressing. This history fills the gap and it covers the actions of the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Service Battalions, all raised as a result of the then Secretary of State Lord Kitchener's belief that the war would last at least three years and that an army of some seventy divisions would need to be raised."

I'll try not to make too much of a meal of this; it is old ground for many. In 1853 the Regiment became the 33rd (or The Duke of Wellington's Regiment). In 1881 there was a short lived titular hiatus when the 33rd and 76th were linked as the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Halifax Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), but lest there should be confusion between Halifax proper and Halifax in Canada, Colonel Alladyce, commanding the 76th (the 33rd were in India) hastened to London from Ireland to see the C in C, and his petition that the title be immediately altered to The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) was granted.

Thereafter, General Lunt assures us, the Regiment was always officially referred to as the West Riding Regiment until 1920, when the title was slightly changed again to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding). General Donald Isle's splendid new history of the Service battalions (see below) makes this point in note 1 on page xii, observing also that the Green Howards were described as The Yorkshire Regiment and in orders of battle we find many references to The Prince of Wales Own who were often referred to simply as the West Yorkshire Regiment.

The 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) it now is, so I make that seven, counting the 33rd, covering all the individual colonels' names in the first eighty years, as just one. Let's hope the ink is allowed to dry on this before some bright spark has another wizard wheeze and throws it all up in the air again. Perhaps in days gone by they took these things in their stride, but I doubt it. With every change referred to above there must have been huffing and puffing, but the Regiment went on with its work, fighting its battles and drinking its beer, none the worse for any of it that we can see from our excellent history books.

The following is copied from General Evelyn's Introduction to the History and puts it well into context.

"This book is a valuable addition to the Regimental library and it is a story which should have been told years ago. General Donald Isles has done a tremendous job by extracting all available material from war diaries, often very bare, and the few personal accounts and turning them into a coherent story. Its careful editing and frequent explanations of the operational context have contributed to this excellent account of the Service Battalions.

As an enthusiastic historian I have much enjoyed being involved with this project which has come at a time when the name of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment is in danger of fading from people's minds. This book will remind us all of the contribution to World War I made by young men from the West Riding.

Walking the ground where many of these actions, so well described in the book, took place one cannot but reflect on the qualities of the men involved. All those who rallied to join the Service Battalions in 1914 and 1915 were born in the reign of Queen Victoria and represented the values of the Edwardian era in which they grew up. Those values were related to strong religious beliefs, allegiance to the British Empire and duty towards both. To the two-and-a-half million young men who volunteered duty meant a debt to mankind without expectation of reward or gratitude. These notions are not as well understood today as they were then; so much has changed in society in the intervening years. The pages of this book describe in great detail what duty meant on the ground and it is humbling to read.

Today there is an increasing curiosity surrounding World War I and the children of today are encouraged to learn about the 'unequal sacrifice' that their great grandfathers made. They came from all backgrounds and professions driven by that sense of duty. Military life did not suit many but by that continuation of leadership and discipline they went forward to the trenches to defend or attack. A vast majority did not disappoint and it is this that surprises today's generation. How could it have happened that Battalions, Brigades and Divisions went over the top with the certainty that casualties would be more than every other man? Not just once but time after time.

It is also true that today's generation with different values but trained by an Army with a very similar understanding of what makes men fight is producing a standard of soldier that those veterans of the Great War would recognise. What we

see on our television screens in Iraq and Afghanistan bears witness to this.

This book, which is eminently readable, describes in a matter of fact way, the routine and the inevitable and frequently confused actions. The several well-drawn maps ensure that at least the reader is not confused. It is a fitting memorial, as the Duke of Wellington has pointed out, and perhaps I can conclude with two verses from Laurence Binyon's poem, *The Fallen*: one is familiar to us all; the other is hauntingly descriptive of the young men who joined the Service Battalions of The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against all odds
uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



**Private H. Kirby, 8th DWR,
on the Somme.**



MG Detachment 11th DWR, September 1915.

J. B. PRIESTLY

The acclaimed playwright and author served with the Dukes in the 10th (Service) Battalion in the trenches in WW1, and his letters, handwritten in pencil, were sent to his father, stepmother and sister in Bradford, describing the horrors of the conflict.

The Yorkshire Post on 15 November 2007 (with thanks to Major David Sugden who spotted it) quotes from one of his letters. "Every now and then bullets and shells come whizzing over our heads at night, it is very weird; we are all on the alert and star shells - like rockets - are sent up now and again making the place look light as day. The night seems to stretch out to eternity.

Rats and mice, wasps and gigantic bluebottles abound in the dugouts. I am afraid you would not recognise me if you saw me now. It is three days since I had a shave, two days since I had a wash. I am a mask of mud. My hair is matted and I resemble an Australian beachcomber. I am disgusted with my Company officers as a whole and the way in which our men are badgered and hampered by silly little rules which other regiments have not to submit to. In fact, I am so fed



up of being compelled to bully men to obey this or that ridiculous little order that I have been thinking of reverting to the ranks."

General Isles' book quotes from J. B. Priestly's account of his 1933 reunion dinner, and this is an extract. "Never have I seen a tavern stairs or a tavern upstairs so crowded, so tremendously alive with roaring masculinity, as I did that night. Most of the faces were strange to me, but here and there, miraculously, was a face that was not only instantly familiar but that at once was succeeded in recalling a whole vanished epoch, as if I had spent long years with its owner in some earlier

incarnation. We sat down jammed together, in a dining room that can never have held more people in all its existence. It was not full, it was bursting. We could hardly lift the roast beef and apple tart to our mouths. Under the coloured paper decorations, we sweated like bulls. The ale went down sizzling. But we were happy, no doubt about that. We roared at one another across the narrowest of tables."



THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

Fortune Favours the Brave

1 YORKS (Prince of Wales's Own)

1 Yorks recently converted to Light Role Infantry from their previous Air Assault Infantry role. Light Role Infantry battalions operate with minimal transport and sometimes almost entirely on foot. They are equipped with the full range of small arms, mortars, anti-tank weaponry and surveillance equipment. A Light Role battalion is a versatile organisation that can work in support of Armoured and Mechanised brigades to dominate urban areas or control mountainous terrain, deserts, forests and jungles. 1 Yorks recently used Snatch Land Rovers and Mastiff armoured personnel carriers for escort and patrolling duties in Iraq. The Battalion is part of 20 Armoured Brigade and moves to Munster, Germany in Summer 2008. It recently served in Iraq. Major Ian Crowley received the Military Cross (MC) for his contribution during that tour, his citation stating that "he inspired his company with his determination and courage throughout a relentless

tempo of operations resulting in the detention of eighteen high value targets, numerous militias and the recovery of substantial amounts of enemy weapons and explosives". In addition, Corporal Scott Arthur, of 1st Battalion, was Mentioned In Despatches for his contribution during the 1st Battalion's tour of Iraq on Operation Telic 7.

2 YORKS (Green Howards)

2 Yorks are currently in Afghanistan and are undertaking a range of roles including convoy protection using MiMIK Land Rovers and the Vector armoured personnel carrier. Light battalions are also used to train local forces in Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT). In UK they are part of 52 Light Brigade, and they return from Afghanistan in March 2008 and move to Cyprus in December 2010. In the current deployment the Battalion sustained one fatality, Sergeant "Judo" Johnson.

3 YORKS (Duke of Wellington's)

Battalion notes follow below.

4 YORKS

Territorial Army (Reserve) Infantry is an essential part of the Infantry as a whole, representing over 25% of its personnel. It provides everyday people with the chance to do something different with their lives - an opportunity to face new challenges, develop new skills, meet new people, have lots of fun and, to top it all off,

earn some extra money. TA Infantry are a fully integrated part of the order of battle. In addition, they have a key role in providing military assistance to other government departments. Reserve Infantry on mobilisation as part of 15 (North East) Brigade. Individual mobilisations to support current operations, such as Telic (Iraq), Oculus (Bosnia and Kosovo), and Herrick (Afghanistan). C Company notes are on page 27. 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the Territorial Army and will be celebrated in York on 14 June.

3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

(The Duke of Wellington's)

CO	- Lieutenant Colonel A. Pullan
2 IC	- Major C. J. Schofield
Adjutant	- Captain P. J. Smith
RSM	- WO1 S. D. Moroney

Commanding Officer's Report

Job done and job well done! At last we come to the end of the Land Warfare Centre Role and we move on to join 12 Mechanised Brigade. Statistics often prove nothing but it is worth noting that over the last thirty months we have averaged some 4.1 days per man per week deployed on exercise with a going rate of some twenty plus tasks per week. This has been an immense challenge with soldiers routinely coming off an exercise one day and deploying again the next. Sunday starts were also often the norm. As you read the company notes you will be drawn repeatedly to the Mission Rehearsal Exercises and the Wessex Warriors. This is not surprising as these were opportunities for free play and a chance to get our own back. Rarely mentioned are the majority of tasks - those repetitive and thankless tasks that men endured in small groups and which formed the filling between the challenging and rewarding major muscle movements. It is not surprising that there are now less of us in 3 Yorks than when we started this role!

To focus on the positive: the BG2IC, OC B Coy, the UWO, CSM B Coy, two platoon commanders, two platoon sergeants, four corporals, and a number of privates (including two snipers) have deployed to Operation Herrick - and the majority with 2 Yorks. Whilst this is good for the individual (and the Yorkshire Regiment) it is also excellent for those remaining; it has allowed them to step-up. Combine that with the many opportunities to fight other units as a free thinking enemy and you now get a unit that is more resilient - more 'crisis proof'. As Commanding Officer you get a certain pride out of watching corporals acting as platoon sergeants or platoon commanders and lieutenants or captains as company commanders and them giving the enemy a good thrashing. We are also a harder unit and one that is more ruthless and determined. What we baulked at several months ago as 'unsustainable' or 'unachievable' is now lodged in our muscle memory as

the norm and do-able. It has allowed us to take even greater risk, allowing us to sustain a constant drip of adventure training and sport, and even allowing the principle teams the chance to conduct short bursts of full time training. Already secured in the locker this season is the Army Rugby League title and the Army Football Sixes title.

Looking to the future: with effect from 15 March 2008 we are 12 Mechanised Brigade's Armoured Infantry Battalion. We celebrate the day by taking two weeks well deserved leave. On return we will start in earnest our preparation for BATUS. We are not daunted by only having fourteen Warriors (on a good day) available for the Battalion to conduct training with over the next three months. I am sure that we will achieve Collective Training Level 2 prior to Canada. If the Germans can achieve Blitzkrieg using only bicycles to train with in the inter-war years then I am sure that my plans to practice armoured manoeuvre using dismounted lads with coloured bids will be equally successful. For the Battalion the BATUS deployment starts in early July and the final elements recover in early November, on completion of support to the KRH. The majority of men will do about two months in Canada (many will do more), conducting their own Medman followed by a switch of sides to provide the Opfor.

Immediately post BATUS we will commence pre-deployment training. We have yet to be informed of the theatre but an educated guess is that we will go to Iraq or Afghanistan, or both! Wherever we go we will take our Warriors and this is good news. It provides me absolute clarity of purpose: over the coming months and at the expense of all else, we will focus on the development of our core skill - armoured manoeuvre to enable us to rapidly close with the enemy and then dismount to destroy him at close quarters. We cannot wait.

Lieutenant Colonel A. Pullan

ALMA COMPANY

OC - Major N. P. Rhodes
 2 IC - Captain D. Holloway
 CSM - WO2 R. D. Hollis

WSM - Colour Sergeant P. A. Bevan
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant J. F. Bennett
 Tech Colour Sergeant - Colour Sergeant J. Luscombe

1 Platoon

Commander - Captain T.R.J. Spillman
 Sergeant - Sergeant D.A. Bagnall
 Wr Sgt - Sergeant S. Plummer

2 Platoon

Commander - Lieutenant A. Ross
 Sergeant - Sergeant I.A. Perkins
 Wr Sgt - Corporal A.P.T. Kipling

3 Platoon

Commander - Lieutenant N. R. Spicer
 Sergeant - Corporal M.D. Sanderson
 Wr Sgt - Sergeant C. Adkins

The last six months have been extremely hectic for Alma Company. We have converted to Warrior and become an Armoured Infantry Company, whilst continuing to meet the many and varied commitments thrown at us by the Land Warfare Centre. Plenty of Mission Command, 'flexible' planning and hard (team) work ensured the Company has emerged bruised but unscathed.

The Company's fleet of 432 vehicles was handed over in August to be recycled into Bulldog variants. Although this requires the 432s to be stripped down, converted and rebuilt, in true Army fashion, the vehicles still had to be prepared to the highest of standards. Colour Sergeant Luscombe (Fleet Manager), Lance Corporal Johnson (Technical Corporal), and all the drivers worked long hours to ensure this was the case. With the 432 fleet retired, the Company took over a fleet of Warrior and focused on Armoured Infantry conversion.

Conversion started with selected personnel gaining the required qualifications by attending the various Commander, Gunnery and Driver Maintenance Cadres. Warrior is increasing in complexity, not least because of Bowman and the Battle Group Thermal Imager (BGTI). However, all the crews adapted quickly and many, such as Privates Kilburn and Tebbut, positively thrived on the experience of being at home amongst the oil and spanners.

The cadres were followed by a two-week tactics package on Salisbury Plain, organised by the 2IC. The package allowed the Company to reinforce the skills mastered on the cadres and to learn and practice Armoured Infantry doctrine, tactics and drills. The Company covered a lot of ground literally, both in terms of miles and in the understanding of the vehicles and their employment. Our current under manning meant we could only field three sections of dismounts. We therefore had to be imaginative and move the dismounted sections between platoons, to ensure platoons completed close combat tasks with a full Orbat. This ensured that we did not lose sight of the fact that the dismounted section, not the vehicle, is the most important element of the fighting system. There were other frictions; Bowman produced the usual frustrations and a few commanders found out the hard way that BGTI GPS is no substitute for a map. Nevertheless, by the end of the two-week

package the Company was both competent and confident.

In order to test the Company, the Commanding Officer selected Alma as the lead Armoured Infantry Company on Exercise Wessex Warrior against 45 Commando. The Company passed this test, proving that it could manoeuvre rapidly and execute the core functions against a thinking and determined enemy. Indeed bold manoeuvre, particularly by the platoons of Captain Spillman and Lieutenant Spicer, saw the Company punch through the Commando's defensive positions and strike throughout its depth on two of the three missions. BGTI proved to be a real battle winner, allowing vehicle crews to find and acquire targets quickly and accurately. The Company also learnt from a few of its own failures, particularly its vulnerability to Light Anti-Tank Weapons in close country.



A nervous Captain Spillman is briefed by Lance Corporal Johnson on what it is like to be on exercise.



The Dale brothers. Lance Corporal and Private on Exercise Wessex Warrior.



Private Woodhead conducting maintenance during a halt check on the Driving Cadre.



Alma Company Vehicle Crews on Gunnery Camp.

The next Exercise Wessex Warrior was against 2 PWRR. Although the Company was constrained to tracks because of wet weather restrictions on Salisbury Plain, we got the better of our adversaries. Bold manoeuvre again featured in our success with the Company smashing through the PWRR defensive positions. With the help of Recce Platoon, who had infiltrated earlier to disable the demolition charges, we crossed and captured the bridge 2 PWRR was defending. Although rightfully smug with that and our other exploits on the exercise, we also learned some useful lessons including that of situational awareness and combat identification.

The conversion process itself was completed by a two week Live Firing Gunnery Camp at Castlemartin. Unfortunately, our hectic programme prevented us from conducting any substantial preparation and it showed. The crews were rusty and inexperienced. Consequently the gunnery, in terms of drills and target effect, was poor. During the first week our progress was slow and the chance of even a Level 4 (pass) looked slim. With tempers frayed, the Warrior Sergeant Major, Colour Sergeant Bevan refocused our efforts by taking us back to the basics with some remedial training. This approach paid dividends and during the second week there was a distinct improvement allowing the Company to achieve a Level 5. Privates Roberts, Lee-Wordsworth and Kirk stood out as the best gunners in the Company and all achieved a Level 6. The Company was also able to assist 1 Lancers in their preparation for Operation Telic by incorporating their Warrior Platoon into our Gunnery Package.

Following a well-earned break at Christmas, the new year began supporting 16 Air Assault Brigade's preparations for deployment to Afghanistan. Exercise Green saw Alma Company fighting as the Taliban against 3 Para who proved to be capable opponents. However, with cunning, ingenuity and the help of Corunna Company, who were playing CIVPOP, we took the fight to them. Lieutenant Ross and 2 Platoon proved extremely effective at stalking and destroying

3 Para's armoured screen and Captain Spillman and 1 Platoon succeeded in infiltrating Imber village in force and attacking 3 Para's Forward Operating Base. The exercise culminated in 3 Para attacking the Taliban stronghold in Copehill Down Village. The battle started well, but as is the fate of Opfor, the Field Training Group are quick to constrain and reduce your combat power should you be doing too well. In this case the sudden 'defection' of one of our platoons proved our undoing.

For Exercise Kush Dragon, 16 Air Assault Brigade's Mission Rehearsal Exercise, the Commanding Officer, for reasons unknown, banished the Company to Sennybridge as a Taliban force battling against 5 Scots. The weather was terrible but worked in our favour. 5 Scots seemed reluctant to seek out and engage us, allowing the Taliban to dominate the ground and mount increasingly more audacious attacks. This culminated in the capture of some 5 Scots personnel, the conversion of their vehicle into a VBIED and the delivery of that VBIED to their main base location.

The other notable task for the Company during this period was the organisation and running of the equipment stand for the Fire Power Demonstration. Sergeants Bagnall and Perkins briefed Staff College students, Sandhurst Cadets and Cadets on the weapons and equipment found in the Armoured Infantry Battle Group. The Company also paraded as part of the Freedom Parade in York and a visit to the Underwater Helicopter Escape Training Unit, the 'Dunker', provided a welcome change to the Plain.

The end is now in sight, with our move to 12 Mechanized Brigade scheduled for April. We will be pleased to leave the LWC BG role behind. Meeting our tasks and commitments has at times been tortuous and ultimately, training other units for operations, without having that focus yourself, is soul destroying. Nevertheless, it has been interesting seeing the 'other side of the hill' and hopefully our experience will stand us in good stead as we prepare for operations in the future.

BURMA COMPANY

OC	- Captain C. Johnston
2 IC	- (gapped)
CSM	- WO2 K. Yeadon
WSM	- Colour Sergeant L. Roberts
CQMS	- Colour Sergeant G. Peacock

4 Platoon

Commander - Lieutenant A. Bond
Sergeant - Sergeant Higgins

Since the last edition Burma Company has, as ever, been in great demand whilst serving all aspects of the Land Warfare Centre role. Since a well-earned summer leave, the Company has been involved in several high profile exercises on Salisbury Plain. These have included numerous repetitive exercises (Wessex Warrior) and also the large pre-deployment exercises (Kush Dragon). Members of the Company have been experiencing what it is like to be at the other end of a fight with British soldiers, acting mostly as the Taliban. Although this is not conventional warfare, it is high value training for specific environments. Having the ability to operate in small teams allows soldiers at a very junior level of command to have a real effect on the battle space. The prospect of capturing a member of BLUFOR only adds to the excitement and challenge of acting as a very real and thinking enemy.

One of the main events in our year at the Land Warfare Centre is the Battlefield Capability Display (BCD). This year the job of the live firing element fell to Burma Company. This was an exceptionally challenging and rewarding time for the company. The build up training began well before summer leave and the company conducted a field firing camp prior to moving to Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire. There was glorious Welsh sunshine for the entire Warrior Gunnery package which made a welcome change to the dreary Plain. Being away from camp allowed the crews to really work on their turret drills and by the end of the week all were operating very smoothly. It also allowed some integrated live firing with the warriors and dismounts working in accord.



Captain Johnson telling the Multi-National Forces where to go.

5 Platoon

Commander - Lieutenant H. Stow
Sergeant - Sergeant Higgins

The camp also gave an opportunity to our newly qualified gunners to fire. It allowed them to get stuck in and get to grips with the workings of a Warrior Crew. This has been one of the priorities for the Company as we aim to create as many dual qualified troops as possible prior to BATUS and potential future operations. The reason for this being two fold; in one sense we gain greater depth, skills and knowledge within the Company, and secondly it gives the individual soldiers greater responsibility and qualifications to aid them with their military development.



B2 dismounts with casualties during the CAFD.

The demonstrations themselves went well and the Company came away from it with a real sense of achievement and self-satisfaction. It was an exhausting time for everyone involved but one which we all enjoyed. Due to the rapidly changing operational environment in which the British Army fights, the Battlefield Capability Display has had to adapt to show these changes. The greatest example of this came at the end of the Live Firepower Demonstration. Lieutenant Andrew Bond, acting as a Platoon Commander in a theatre similar to Afghanistan, displayed the sort of firepower he would have at his fingertips once in contact with the enemy. This crescendo of noise and explosions, as he coordinated all aspects of the Battlegroup's firepower, as well as aviation and air assets, proved to be a particular highlight of the day.

Once the hectic period of the BCD was over, the Company was swiftly thrown back into the routine demands of the Land Warfare Centre. These included a very successful Exercise Wessex Warrior. Lance Corporal Swindells (Junior) was heard commenting to a group of Guardsmen, in typical Yorkshire vocabulary,

about the Guards marching prowess prior to detonating a suicide vest. One - nil to 3 Yorks. The Parachute Regiment provided us with our greatest challenge over this period as we conducted their pre-deployment training for their tour to Afghanistan. The thought of having a go at the Paras and giving them a bloody nose gave the Company added purpose and we deployed with an even more determined manner.

It has not all been hard work with some members of the company getting away for some adventure training. Lance Corporal Swindells and Privates Dillon, Nakia, Dearden, Smith and Bannister are now summer mountain leaders. After a week in the Solent, Lance Corporal Armstrong and Kaye are now qualified competent crew. Corporal Shaw and Private Levitt joined in with the REME for some ski-ing in Bavaria. Private Levitt also attended a parachuting course at Netheravon with Private Hickling.

During this period the Company has said many goodbyes to people as well as a tremendous amount of hellos. The goodbyes have included the old OC, Major James Bryden, who had to leave us for Afghanistan with 2 Yorks. We look forward to his safe return. Sergeant Parsons has left us and is now the Yorkshire Regiment "shepherd" in the North East. With Major Bryden gone, Captain Johnston has had to step up to the plate and

temporarily takes on the role of OC. We have also said hello to a small number of new soldiers straight from Caterick. They have effortlessly blended into company life and breathed a very new and young feel into the company. We are also pleased to announce some greatly deserved promotions within the Company. These have included Privates Pugh and Bishop to Lance Corporal and Lance Corporals Armstrong and Robinson to Corporal.

I think it is fair to say we are all looking forward to the prospect of moving back to the Field Army and leaving behind the Land Warfare Centre role. Although it has exposed us to a lot of external units and allowed us to exercise ourselves in different ways, the prospect of getting back on the operational cycle is something that the Company is ready to take on. We are a long way from being ready but with the soldiers and NCOs that we are fortunate to have, the transition back to this more conventional role should be made with minimal fuss. The Company is more than ready for this next challenge in the Battalion's life. We are going to take it on with gusto so that when we deploy on operations in 2009, we are at the height of our potential and fully prepared for the challenges that we will face.

Lieutenant Stow



Soldiers of Burma Company working as CIVPOP in CDV.

CORUNNA COMPANY

- | | |
|------|----------------------------|
| OC | - Major Z. R. Stenning |
| 2 IC | - Captain M. Wade-Smith |
| CSM | - Colour Sergeant B. Sykes |
| CQMS | - Sergeant L. Seviour |

7 Platoon

Commander - Captain A. Whitaker
Sergeant - Corporal Winchurch

9 Platoon

Commander - Lieutenant I. Martin
Sergeant - Sergeant A. Jones

It has been another busy six months for Corunna Company; with numerous exercises on Salisbury Plain and the annual company dinner being examples of the busy programme the Company has been involved in. The Regimental Service and Freedom Parade provided

an ideal opportunity to celebrate the formation of the new regiment. Major Fin Bibby commanded the Company on parade on a glorious day in York. After a thought evoking service in York Minster the Company took to the streets parading past the Cathedral.

After a fantastic three weeks' leave, the Company found itself deployed on a series of exercises to prepare elements of 16 Air Assault Brigade for operations in Afghanistan. The Company deployed into Imber village and established a lively 'Afghan' community with all the trappings of village life. Markets, mosques and village elder meetings were all recreated to give the Parachute Regiment the very best training for their forthcoming tour. Notable highlights were the spoiling actions fought by Sergeant Jones and Lieutenant Martin; both of whom managed to pin down sizeable elements of 16 Brigade for a number of hours. For the rest of the Company, a nine hour fight to 'hold' Imber versus a determined attack by 16 Brigade and the Afghan National Army (replicated by Army Air Corps Bandsman) proved to be the highlight of the week. Visitors to the Company were many including GOC 6 Division, Major General Page.

In mid-February, the Company deployed on its final exercise, Lion Strike, designed to prepare incoming Company Commanders for command on operations. With 50 students on the course, the Company provided a Warrior Company for the first two days of the exercise enabling mounted attacks to be practised. Following this, the Company re-rolled to light forces and participated in a very successful Battlegroup attack. The presence of the incoming Company Commander, who was a student on the course, focused many minds (including his own!). By the end of the exercise, the Company had managed not only to conduct excellent tactical activity, but also earn the respect of fifty Majors who are about to take post across the Field Army. Given the high rate of operational tempo and future deployment of the Battalion next year, there is little doubt the Company will meet some of these officers on operations soon.

On the sports pitches, the Company has yet again excelled. The Company won the boxing final in November - a magnificent achievement, the third year in a row where the Company has taken gold. Special mentions must go to all the boxers: Privates Richardson, Marshall, Parrish, Shields, Lythall, Blackley, Wright, Hodgson, Naita and Evans, and Lance Corporals Shinn and Hearne. In addition Lieutenant Martin and Sergeant Jones continue to play Army level rugby and football respectively.

Postings in and out of the Company have been many. WO2 Stones was selected for RQMS and left the



Cpl Winchurch skirmishing as a foreign fighter.

Company just prior to Christmas. In addition Major Fin Bibby who held the OCs post for four months, was posted to Shrivenham to attend ICSC. We wish him and his wife Claire well. Major Bibby was replaced by Major Zac Stenning, who arrived from 1 Mechanised Brigade. Prior to Christmas, Private Robinson left for the Regimental Recruiting Team. In addition we said farewell to Privates Payne, Roche, Howden, Boot and Graham, all of whom were posted to Somme Company.

Promotions have abounded over the past few months; congratulations go to Lance Corporals Lawton, Shinn, Middlemiss, Page and Qaranivalu. Finally many congratulations go to the Company Clerk, Lance Corporal Saint Luce, who was awarded British Citizenship at Warminster Town Hall in January.

In closing, it has been another busy few months for Corunna. On the horizon lies the end of the Land Warfare Centre role and the joining of 12 Mechanised Brigade. The Company have a good run after Easter and are forecast to be in BATUS as part of the Kings Royal Hussars (KRH) Battlegroup, from September until early November 2008. All being well, the Company should have a good summer leave in August - a welcome opportunity to spend some quality time with family and loved ones.

SOMME COMPANY

OC - Major M.M.D. Stear
 CSM - WO2 Hallsworth
 CQMS - Colour Sergeant Walkinshaw

Mortar Platoon

OC - Captain M. Cataldo
 2IC - WO2 Burton

Platoon Sergeant - Sergeant D. Pepper-Rowlands

Javelin Platoon

OC - Lieutenant P. Dennien
 2IC - Colour Sergeant Nettleton

Recce Platoon

OC - Captain C.D. Armitage
 2IC - Colour Sergeant Goddard

Light Platoon (Drums & Snipers)

Sergeant Moore
 Sergeant Sykes

As I write this, 3 Yorks are about to hand over the role as the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group (LWC BG) and take on the fresh challenges under the command of 12 Mechanised Brigade. I am therefore in a position to look back fondly over the last few months knowing that those cycles of exercises and tasks have finally culminated and we are now in on our final rotation. It has been a testing role, but one I believe the Battalion has served admirably bringing excellence to the training environment. Whilst the pace of life has been intense, I have little doubt that the path ahead will be more gruelling and there will be times when some of us secretly wish for the life as it was in the LWC BG, even if it does mean another Lion's Strike.

Since the last edition there have been a number of promotions. Congratulations go to Lieutenant Dennien on his promotion to Captain, Colour Sergeant Goddard selected for promotion to Warrant Officer II, Lance Corporals Brennan and Roberts promoted to Corporal, and Privates Lawton and Tompkins for their promotion to Lance Corporal - well done to all and fully deserved!

Also of note are the Iron Duke awards: the Battalion has an award scheme for valour and/or endeavour for activity whilst on exercise or in barracks. It is an internal award not recognised outside the boundaries of 3 Yorks, but is an acclaim to great achievement. Recently Iron Dukes have been awarded to Corporals Baker and Hamer and Lance Corporals O'Hara and Roberts, and Mentions in "Dukes" also made to Corporal Carty and Private Watkinson.

However, if there is anything the Company can be more proud of (a note of irony) is that we not only stood out, above all others, in the Officer category for the annual Ruperts award but also for the Andy Capps too. Congratulations to Captain Armitage and Sergeant Garbutt. To briefly explain how the award is decided; the Warrant Officer's and Sergeant's Mess vote on who amongst the officer cohort has made the biggest blunder in the year; the officers do the same for the Sergeants' Mess. As the leaders of the premiere platoon in the Battle Group (Recce) our winners were a little embarrassed. Colour Sgt Goddard showed disappointment on the night too, but I am not sure if that was his Recce pride or the fact he came a close second to Sergeant Garbutt!

Turning now to the Inter-Company Competition, Somme were crowned the Champions after a hard-fought

and exciting event. The leaders board at one point had four companies equal at first place. We won two of the six events (orienteering and the march and shoot - core infantry skills), but it was our strong consistency that gave us a comfortable lead into the final event and subsequently the title.

The detail of what we have been up to is in the Platoon notes, but I will mention the final two Exercise Wessex Warriors of 2007. They were both very successful and where the ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting, Acquisition & Reconnaissance) Group, principally made up of Somme Company, played a major part in the early defeat of the enemy. The Royal Marines were found hiding in the woods as simulated mortar rounds landed all around them, cued by the ISTAR Group. As for the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, they were initially sent into a spin by



Private Tyas, our only boxing finalist, picks up the Champion Company Winner's shield, and below a very proud CSM and OC.



a very active Reconnaissance Screen and later found asleep as we counter attacked, driving and walking through Company defended positions. To me these exercises were true indicators that the Company is getting stronger and better. It is with performances such as these that I am confident we can step to the mark come March and our role change and embrace the training year ahead and build from this platform to be ready for whatever is thrown at us, and ultimately for an operational tour.

It is difficult sometimes to get a good work and play balance, but Christmas above any time, gives good reason to tip the balance in favour of the play aspects. There was certainly a lot going on and it was sometimes difficult to find a free evening. The Company had our Christmas bash in the Warminster Services Club. It was a fancy dress event with the theme being anything related to the letter 'S'. As expected this stretched the imagination to the limits as most made the effort with some really great costumes. In fact they were so good

we wore them for PT the next day and we were still wearing them a week later on a Battalion run.

In January 2008 we had twenty-four soldiers join Somme Company from Alma, Burma, Corunna and Hook Companies. This is an annual requirement to maintain sufficient Company manpower levels; whereas the Rifle Companies receive new recruits at various times in the year, the Support Company must recruit from within the Battalion, usually once a year. This inflow has brought the Company nearly up to full strength. They have just completed their initial four week cadre which has trained them in their new specialisation and are now fully integrated in their respective platoons.

So we look back fondly over the last few months; the Company has a lot to be proud of and has demonstrated a clear aptitude for the LWC BG role, achieving a level which I am sure 3 Mercians will find hard to follow. As we change role I can report we are in good order.

Major M. M. D. Stear



Somme Company after the Battalion run.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

The Reconnaissance Platoon returned from summer leave suitably refreshed and ready to take on a new bout of exercises in support of Field Training Group (FTG) and the numerous requirements of the Land Warfare School (LWS). Any thoughts that the summer 'silly' season of back-to-back exercises were over, was soon quashed with another deployment onto Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) in support of Exercise Lions Strike, a confirmatory exercise for the Combined Arms Tactics Course (CATAC) for Sub-Unit Commanders. The exercise is one of a few that gives the Recce Platoon an opportunity to practice low level light role skills which are often skimmed over when in the armoured role.

The following weeks were taken up with providing the usual support to the Reconnaissance Division of the LWS, which meant fully supporting their confirmatory exercises with manpower and vehicles. Although this is

useful for keeping atop of any issues with the CVR(T) Scimitars, the constant use means that the ageing fleet spends a good deal of time back in the REME Light Aid Detachment (LAD) workshops. The Platoon also welcomed a new addition in Sergeant Gordon Hill who was posted across to us from 1 Lancs. He immediately made a positive impression, having come from an extensive recce background.

The real focus of the autumn was the Recce Skills Week during 19 - 26 November, where the platoon could get away from the constraints of the role in Warminster. We went to Okehampton Camp in Dartmoor for a week of low level skills and a degree of team bonding thrown in. The emphases of the week were on patrol skills, navigation, and fitness, much needed by all. There is not a better training area in the country to test your navigational ability than the Dartmoor National Park when the fog sets in.

The weather tested the patrol teams on the culmination of the training week, as they prepared for a Close Target Recce (CTR) of one the many abandoned farmhouses in the National Park. The concept of not being caught with your face stuck to the window must have passed Lance Corporal Anthony Runciman by, as he found himself being chased around the 'target' by one of the 'priority Bravos' (Colour Sergeant Chris Goddard, dressed in a very fetching dish-dash). Despite this, the exercise achieved its aim, and the junior commanders leading the patrol teams can be pleased with their efforts. A great deal of confidence was gained by all, in some of the worst weather any of us had experienced.

However Land Warfare Centre (LWC) commitments forced us to return to Warminster where the platoon was tasked to provide small light role complements to a number of the larger Battle Group tasks such as Exercise Wessex Warrior and Mission Rehearsal Exercises for the Field Training Group. This included a number of notable victories for the Battle Group. It also resulted in the CO presenting Corporal Gavin Hamer with an Iron Duke for an audacious act of infiltrating a well defended enemy position.

Despite the quantity and frequency of the taskings, the platoon was still able to get a number of people away on courses including:- Lance Corporal Matt Frere on the Regimental Combat Medical Technician course (a five month course, and of note, the first of 3 Yorks Recce soldiers to do so allowing the Recce Platoon to have their own integral medic on Operations); Lance Corporal Trevor Brennan and Private Jamie Oldham on

the Sniper course (in fact Corporal Brennan actually ended up instructing on the course in Brecon); Private Mark Hodge on the Regimental Signals Course (seven week course based at LWS) and on the Potential NCO course based in Catterick with 1 Yorks; Lance Corporal Michael Hillery on the Section Commanders Battle Course based in Brecon; Corporal Mark Lightowlers on the Light Role Commanders Reconnaissance Course (seven weeks based at LWS); and Sergeant Lee Garbutt, Corporals Gavin Hamer and Stephen Lynch on the All Arms Counter-Surveillance Course.

Furthermore, the platoon provided Lance Corporal Joe Kennedy, Privates Gareth Jarvis, Matthew Lawton, and Daniel Symons for a six week period so that they could represent Somme Company in the culmination of the Inter-Company Sports Competition, the Boxing Event. Their hard work and perseverance paid off, as Somme Company won the Inter-Company Competition.

January saw a huge change in the platoon with the start of the internal Light Role Reconnaissance Cadre. Colour Sergeant Chris Goddard and Sergeant Lee Garbutt set about instructing eight new hopefuls to the platoon. Meanwhile Corporal Andy Barma (posted to the Army Youth Team in York), Lance Corporal Lorima Guana (posted to 1 Yorks), and Private Mark Cooper (internal posting to the Mortar Platoon) left us. Finally congratulations to Colour Sergeant Goddard who will be promoted to Warrant Officer in the summer; Lance Corporal Trevor Brennan who promoted to Corporal; and Private Matthew Lawton who promoted to Lance Corporal.

Captain C. D. Armitage

LIGHT PLATOON

The Light Platoon has had a busy few months supporting Battle Group activity and sending people away on career qualifying courses. In November five men from the platoon attended the ten-week sniper course at Brecon. It was a very testing course with some harsh weather and only one (Sergeant Moore) was badged. However, the remainder will have benefited immensely from the experience - and two just need to prove themselves in one competency to get badged. The sniper course has now changed with part 1 (which is the marksmanship phase) taking place at Brecon and part 2 (the field craft phase) conducted in the Battalion. On completion of both phases they are then classed as badged snipers.

Sergeant Moore, as a badged sniper, also completed a two and a half week sniper platoon commander's course at Brecon. Corporal Oxley and Private Keeble attended the internal four-week reconnaissance cadre, where Private Keeble was awarded top student on the course. Private Allert also passed the Assault Pioneer Course.

This course runs for six weeks and covers all the basic training of a combat engineer. Each week is a different subject and it starts with basic power tools, waterman ship, mine warfare, demolitions and water supply. Essentially, an Operational Handyman.

The drums side of life continues with an active programme of events and displays. From January 2008 we have started to try get all the platoon up to a good level of drumming and bugle competence.

We have sent two snipers to Afghanistan in support of 2 Yorks. Lance Corporals Macauley and Williamson flew out at Christmas and will be out there for a few months. We wish them well and await their safe return. The platoon lost a very good soldier, drummer and friend at Christmas when Private Agyei left the Army. He is now in full time education training to be a doctor. In addition, Private Slater is soon to leave the Army in order to seek employment in telecommunications.

Drum Major J. Sykes

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

The Javelin Platoon returned from summer leave and quickly settled back into its pattern of life. The platoon conducted a Warrior driving cadre and Privates Curr, Jones, Mitchell and Rogers all passed with flying colours. This was due in no small part to the excellent

tuition from Lance Corporal Roberts, fresh back from his Driver Maintenance Instructors Course.

With the Firepower Demonstration looming in October it was also important to get the platoon current with the Javelin Weapon Handling Tests. Due to the

huge expense of Javelin Missiles (around £65K per round) a sophisticated Indoor Trainer is utilised to train on. This adds the realism, complexity and effects of firing a live missile, without incurring the massive expense of using live ammunition. The Firepower Demonstration allows the LWC BG to fire more live rounds than a usual infantry battalion. With this opportunity and the prospect of firing live, the platoon trained hard and the best gunners were duly selected.

For the Demonstration itself, we had one live round to fire on each of the four days. There was no chance of a practice round and so when we fired it was for real it was in front of a packed stand of spectators. We had also acquired a new target to engage so we could see the effect the round would have. All four firers, Corporal Lane and Private's Jones, Loseli and Rogers, scored direct hits on the target. Seeing the missile launch, arm and soar through the air to strike its target was incredibly impressive and proved a popular part of the demonstration. On seeing the damage caused to the target, after the demonstration, it was agreed that it is far better being on the firing than receiving end!

Later that month the platoon found the opportunity to let off a little steam! We were tasked to support the NATO Fighting In Built Up Areas (FIBUA) Instructors course at Copehill Down village. We enjoyed an afternoon spent hurling rocks, ammo crates and beer barrels at people cowering behind riot shields. It was great unless you were holding a shield. The small, female RLC Sergeant, holding her shield, was not the only student who must have been intimidated by the sight of Corporal Tuikoro standing tall and brandishing a beer barrel above his head.

With Javelin being one of the army's newer purchases there is always a lot of interest in it from visiting dignitaries and civilians. November saw the platoon demonstrating the JAVWES system to a visiting Ukrainian General, a large group of potential infantry officers and some civil servants from the MoD. We were also out on the plain testing the Royal Marines on Exercise Wessex Warrior. The platoon again put on a sterling performance. A special mention must go to the platoon commander for withstanding several hours of

intense interrogation after capture, without submitting any valuable information!

We were back out on Exercise Wessex Warrior in December, but this time against the PWRR. Working predominantly from sub surface Observation Posts in temperatures reaching well below freezing, the platoon performed exceptionally well. We repeatedly identified the enemy's avenue of advance and harassed them with a combination of direct and indirect fire. Special mention goes to Lance Corporal Roberts and his detachment for conducting a number of snap ambushes against company-sized groupings and managing to achieve significant delay on their advance. For these actions Lance Corporal Roberts was awarded the Iron Duke, by the Commanding Officer.

On the day we fell out for Christmas leave the platoon got a further boost with the announcement of two promotions. Lance Corporal Roberts was promoted to Corporal and Private Tompkins was promoted to Lance Corporal. Both promotions are very well deserved and congratulations go to both individuals.

Returning from Christmas leave early was Private Tyas who joined the 2 Lancs JNCO cadre up in Catterick. At this time, he is performing well on the cadre and we wish him all the best and expect a strong pass in a few weeks. With a busy final few months in the LWC Battle Group role and a Javelin Cadre on the go, the platoon hit the ground running in January.

The cadre saw Corporal Harrison, Lance Corporals Clarkson, O'Hara and Roberts, and Privates Foster, Payne and Riley join the platoon. They had to complete a challenging four-week cadre that will introduce them to this new weapon system and its tactical deployment. The culmination of which is a final exercise on the plain.

At the time, the remainder of the platoon were supporting the 3 Para, Exercise Wessex Warrior and the 16 Air Assault Brigade MRX, Exercise Kush Dragon. The platoon embraced their role as the Taliban and got stuck into the exercise. Some people got more stuck-in than others, as Private Jones found when he realised Peugeot 205's do not go through puddles quite like a Warrior!

Colour Sergeant D. A. Nettleton



MORTAR PLATOON

Over the past two years the Mortar Platoon has benefited from a close relationship with the Mortar Division at the Land Warfare Centre. The role itself means that the platoon has fired an extraordinary amount of ammunition for a Battalion not deployed on operations. These two factors have meant that the platoon is healthy and skilled at its trade with ten standard qualified JNCOs, five advanced trained and four platoon commander/2IC qualified within the hierarchy.

However, the platoon has sought to broaden training and skills in several areas. After summer leave the platoon deployed on a three phased battle camp. Some apprehensive mortarmen deployed on Salisbury Plain Training Area as a light role platoon. For a week they went back to basics and revised routine, patrolling, quick attacks and general 'bread & butter' infantry work. The following week was spent on field firing ranges. The mortarmen practiced four-man contact drills, section attacks and carried out a platoon attack on an enemy mortar line.

The final phase was spent adventure training in Snowdonia, North Wales. The platoon rotated through climbing, canoeing, mountain biking and walking, but was not as keen on the walking as 'The Boss' but generally had a fun week. The delights of Bangor

were experienced and several 'Northwalian' ladies succumbed to the charms of South Yorkshire mortarmen.

The combined arms firepower demonstration went very well. However, the enormous headache of senior RCO was bestowed on OC mortars - a curse that should not be inflicted on ones worst enemies!

Since then the most significant event in the platoon's diary has been the mortar platoon cadre. The platoon received a further ten private soldiers but unlike previous cadres, there would be no selection process. Those who attended would come to the platoon whatever. The calibre of candidates was very high. Every man was a keen volunteer which made training and incorporating them into the platoon so much easier.

The platoon is now healthier than it has been for quite some time. Mortar Platoon now consists of some forty-two mortarmen who are now concentrating on BATUS and looking forward to future operations. When not occupied with LWC commitments, the platoon is busy training drivers, signallers and more MFCs for the summer and beyond.

No doubt the 12 Brigade will be just as busy, but a change is as good as a rest. Mortars are looking forward to rejoining the Field Army and the challenges that it will bring.

Sergeant D. Pepper-Rowlands

HOOK COMPANY

OC	- Captain J. L. Pearce
CSM	- WO2 Wood/Colour Sergeant Conley
CQMS	- Colour Sergeant Benson
QM	- Major A. Pigg MBE
QM(T)	- Captain P. McNeil
RQMS(T)	- WO2 Carter
MTO	- Captain N. Wilson
MTWO	- WO2 P. Crump/Colour Sergeant C. Rutter

Since the last edition of the regimental journal it has been an extremely busy period for Hook Company and the Battalion alike; even the regimental pioneers have deployed as Taliban in the 3rd Battalion's Jihad against 16 Air Assault Brigade. The exercise commitments have been coupled with the handover of the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group role to 3 Mercians.

Since October's instalment of the regimental journal Hook Company finished the Company competition in a respectable third position, due to dogged performances in the March and Shoot and Inter Company Boxing. A special mention must go to Private Matshaya who as the Company clerk competed in all but one of the events, and in the boxing ring resembled a young Tommy Hearn - winning the middleweight competition. Unfortunately the Company has been too busy to start the department of steel competition again. However the CIS Platoon is practising its dodgeball skills in eager anticipation of their defence of the title.

The usual postings in and out have occurred; namely the deployments of Major Paul Fox as SO1 Equipment

Capability in Afghanistan and Sergeant D. C. Wyeth and Captain Mally Birkett in support of 2 Yorks. Unfortunately we have had one forced posting when Company Sergeant Major Wood fell ill over the Christmas period. He is well on the road to recovery and has been sighted in Warminster keeping an eye on the Company. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back to normal soon.

Prior to Christmas leave the Company fared well in the promotions boards. Privates Dunn and Grimes both promoted to Lance Corporal. They are both now attending the necessary course to prepare them as Signals Detachment commanders. Both have made a seamless transition into command appointments and have shown potential for successful careers. More recently Colour Sergeant Rutter picked up on the promotions board to WO2. This is great news and hopefully the appointments board will deliver all he expects. Naturally 'time' was called for some and they moved onto pastures green, or in some cases were put out to graze. WO2 Crump and Colour Sergeants Barclay



Corporal Max Atherton from G1098 stores reinforces 3 Yorks Taliban.



Hook Company soldiers working as CIVPOP.

and Hutchinson all moved on after a full twenty-two years' colour service. We will be seeing just as much of Colour Sergeant Barclay as he has joined the local MPGS - he always did enjoy guard! Also a stalwart of the pioneers, Private "he could build a ark" Inglis left after twelve years to become a cabinet maker. We will miss his fantastic creations for the annual Rupert's and Andy Capp sets.

The forthcoming leave will give us time to reminisce about our time as the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group. Admittedly Hook Company does not deploy into the field as regularly as the Rifle Companies but we have been busy providing the life support - whilst the

duck is working hard above the water its legs are paddling like crazy. At times the role has been enjoyable but we look forward to being responsible for our own training rather than providing support to others.

So what of the future and Hook Company's training? Hook Company can expect some excellent training in BATUS to prepare them for potential deployments to either Iraq or Afghanistan. This is fantastic news. Having witnessed some of the training footage from last year's BATUS season, Hook Company will be working hard to ensure they are as capable as the forward echelons in executing their core competency as Infantrymen.

OFFICERS' MESS

PMC - Major M. M. D. Stear

From September through to the dawn of 2008 the Mess has continued to flourish with a rich programme of social activities. Our return from three weeks of summer leave was softened by the Elm Hill street party, which, due to commitments, had been moved from a warm summer's evening to an autumn night. However, it still encouraged a good attendance. This was a joint affair with all officers and families in the Warminster Garrison. It was supported by a strong contingent from the Dukes' Mess leading on the barbecue and alcohol consumption. The Dukes of Hazard party followed in early September. It took little persuasion for a number of Officers to don hotpants-styled, cut off jean shorts and crop tops in a bid to find the new Daisy Duke. As for the décor, the mess went to town with hay bales and other farm style furnishings. All of which doubtlessly caused no end of grief for the cleaners in the weeks that followed. But by far the most impressive feature was the home designed and painted General Lee standing proud outside the Mess; this was an old wreck of a car that the Mess acquired of which I am now led to believe is actually serviceable and running (thanks to the support of the REME).

To the more formal occasions, we hosted the Regimental Colonel, amongst other Regimental personalities from RHQs old and new, for the first time since becoming the Yorkshire Regiment. Also in September, a couple of tables' worth of Officers and

wives attended the Yorkshire Regiment Ball in York following the Regimental Service and parade. In December we hosted the ladies to thank them for their continued support and tolerance over the past year. As always, this was a very successful night which was helped by a generous allowance from the CO to keep the personal cost down. As a first for the Dukes' Mess all were able to bring a guest. Such was the occasion that Captain Mike Wade-Smith proposed to his now fiancée Caroline; congratulations to them both as they plan for their wedding. Congratulations too to Captain Si Farley and Alex who announced their engagement before he departed to Afghanistan earlier last summer.

With the continuation of monthly happy hours, combined with general social activity and nights such as the boxing finals, the Mess was in need of some drying out as we broke for Christmas leave. However, this was not before though the infamous Ruperts and Andy Capps! The annual football event was a spectacle with the Officers' side dressed as super heroes. At one point I counted forty-two players on the pitch! Despite these super powers and extra numbers the game was again lost to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. At 2-1 it was a respectable score, if there is such a thing for a Dukes' Rugby Mess. At the final whistle the games truly began with Officers hosting the seniors' Mess and then visa versa. I was impressed by the amount of preparation the Officers had put into the skirts.

Gone are the days with hasty fag packet scribbles pulling something together the previous night; the sabbies were preparing scripts well back at the start of November and produced some excellent entertainment on the night. Congratulations to Captain Chris Armitage who as OC Recce was navigationally embarrassed during Somme Company's adventure training earlier in the year. He was the proud recipient of the 2007 'Ruperts' award.

We have a number who have escaped the slog of the Land Warfare Centre and deployed to Afghanistan as individual augmentees: Acting Lieutenant Colonel Paul Fox is in Kandahar; Major James Bryden deployed to backfill 2 Yorks; Captains Si Farley and Doug Nelson and Lieutenant Craig Dawson are also with 2 Yorks. Even the Families Officer, Captain Mally Birkett, has deployed. All are due back around April time and we wish them a safe return.

As ever the Mess continues to ebb and flow. We have said farewell to: Scott and Kelly Richardson who are posted to the United States of America; Rob and Julie O'Conner; and Finlay and Claire Bibby, both posted to the Defence Academy, one as Directing Staff and the other a student. Also Captain Chris Adair has moved on to HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade and Captain Ben Redshaw to the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

PMC

Given the tempo of commitments towards the latter end of the year, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess still managed to deal with a packed social calendar. The Mess hosted the Inter Company Boxing Finals on 4 December, with many Officers and SNCO's staying until the small hours. The pond in the garden received its fair share of new-found swimmers, mainly the youngest subaltern(s).

In December we said farewell to RSM Snaddon and his wife Heather; the Mess wish them both well and all the best for the future. Congratulations to RQMS Moroney on his promotion to WO1 and his appointment as the new RSM. By the time this goes to press we will have formally dined in the new RSM and his wife Shaz, in the form of a ladies dinner night.

The success of the Summer Ball increased the pressure for producing an equally successful Christmas function. This task fell into the very capable hands of WO2 Keith Yeadon and a small team of hand-picked committee members. To say the least, the committee produced one of the best functions ever to be staged in the Mess. There were, however, a few panic moments. One to note was when the band pulled out five days before the main event due to compassionate reasons. It was at this panic stricken stage that WO2 Yeadon thought he would have to call upon the Mess's own band. 'Take That Thee', and request the delights of their musical and singing abilities. Thankfully, he managed to get another group in the nick of time.

Having been given the pleasure, the honour, (the stress) of running with the Rupert's and Andy Capp award, the pressure was well and truly on: to produce a poor effort is unthinkable and I could potentially be the

Finally Captain Mark Crawford has left for pastures greener on his pursuit of life outside the Army - we wish him and Emma every fortune. As for the additions, we welcome Nigel and Liz Rhodes; Zac and Sarah Stening; Lieutenants Martin and Spicer, and Second Lieutenants Davies, Fitzgerald and Goucher.

So, the Mess is in good order. Silver and property have all been re-valued and electronically recorded with both picture and description. We still await decisions at the Yorkshire Regiment level to decide upon how it is all to be held and insured, but that is expected soon. The resting place for our old colours has been decided with the Regulation Colours going to the DWR Chapel in Halifax Parish Church (once repaired) and the old Honour Colours going to RHQ Yorks. As I write this I am about to go with the gardens member, Lieutenant Andrew Bond, to inspect some new and more sturdy garden furniture as our existing sets are in desperate need of replacing. I hope that anybody visiting the Mess this summer will benefit from this endeavour. A busy year lies ahead for the Battalion as we ultimately prepare for operations. To that end, I hope to maintain a steadier Mess social diary to allow us to catch breath between activities; the judge will rule in the next edition!

- WO2 M. Stones

talk of the Mess for some time. With that in mind, I gathered the usual suspects to entertain the two Messes and set about the task. Trying to get the cast together with all the commitments is easier said than done. However, a few night time rehearsals soon had the cast bonding and performing like budding thespians. The day kicked off with the annual football match between our bitter rivals, the Officers' Mess. Not even Captain America and all the other super heroes could stop the Sergeants' Mess winning 2-1. Now to the important stuff, five minutes before "curtain up" a small technical problem was encountered and unfortunately delayed the start. Not to be deterred however, we brought on the delightful WO2 Stones, who kept the audience occupied with twenty-five minutes of "head, shoulders, knees and toes". The night was a great success although commiserations go to Sergeant Garbutt who was the eventual winner of the Andy Capp award. Deep down I'm sure he was pleased to be an honoured recipient of such a prestigious award.

Over the festive period the Mess said farewell to WO2 Pete Crump who had arrived at his 22 year junction. He was presented with the traditional silver Duke on horseback and promises to give it pride of place. WO2 Crump's departure paves the way for other Mess members to have a chance at winning the annual golf competition. We wish Pete all the luck in 'civvy' street. There have been a lot of new faces posted in and we welcome them all into the Battle Group mess.

Looking to the future, with the new role nearly upon us, the engine room will continue to rise to any challenge set.

Colour Sergeant Conley

RUGBY

- OIC Rugby - Captain J. L. Pearce
 CSM Rugby - WO2 Hallsworth

This season has been the second in a two year plan which has witnessed a real change in rugby within the 3rd Battalion. This revolution was initiated by Major Finlay Bibby and WO2 Lee Flitcroft and now the mantle has been passed onto me - hopefully I won't drop the ball. With support from the CO the team has been able to train regularly. The daytime sessions have been bolstered with early morning fitness sessions with the Army Sevens conditioning coach Sergeant Lee



The 1st team rugby training.

Southernwood. The difficulty has been finding fixtures, many Army sides won't play us and to be fair the majority (less the other premierships sides) won't put up much of a fight. So the team has had to go native and play some of the local sides which has provided us with some gritty south-west style rugby. The team has played Cleve, Dings Crusaders, Rosslyn Park, Lydney and Bridgwater and Albion. It also stepped up to the mark to play as the Infantry against the Artillery. We have developed a good relationship with the REME corps side although we have beaten them twice this season. The Artillery game was our only loss since Christmas and was more of a result of returning from leave two days before the match than the team's ability.

The team has adopted a smarter approach to training. It has risen to the challenge and is now training intelligently and putting into place the lessons learnt from video analysis.

The future continues to look bright. The sevens season is on the horizon and the team will aim to retain its Divisional and Army Champions status. We will also travel up to the Pocklington Sevens on Good Friday and try to retain the title. The club will also be holding a tens tournament on 14 June which will see local teams vying to be the inaugural Wellington Tens Tournament champions. One week later the team will embark on its tour, playing ten games of tens in ten different countries in ten days (got it ?!). This will be a fantastic way to round of the season.

ARMY CUP SEMI-FINAL - Brigadier Michael Bray writes:

We lost 36-26 to 23 Pioneer Regiment Royal Logistic Corps. I wonder if the Army is operating a selection process that puts all the super-size Fijians in the Logistic Corps and the normal ones in the Dukes.



The 3rd Battalion Rugby Squad.

Our opposition consisted of fourteen Fijians who had a big weight advantage both in the scrum and in the outsidies and they ran well, scoring five tries. The Dukes put up a sterling performance, particularly in the second half when we pulled back from 17-3 down to 17-16 and

really looked as though we might pull it off. Our pack scored three tries and were well organised against the weight odds. Twice the Pioneers pulled away and we caught up, so it was an exciting game but we were never in the lead and cannot really claim that we were robbed.

FOOTBALL

As I sat to write of last season's exploits, I couldn't help but think that the second season for every successful team is always very difficult. As such I was prepared for disappointment in the season ahead. With success comes the feeling that it has all been done, and to start climbing that hill again was going to be difficult to sell to eleven 'already done it' players. I needn't have worried as the eleven concerned are quite a different bunch of players from the usual teams you will meet.

The opener for the season is always the sixes competition held at Pirbright. This competition is a hotly contested affair and is the occasion from which the Infantry officials pick their Corps side for the season ahead. This year the contest featured some twenty teams, the Dukes amongst them. As Infantry champions we were watched with curious eyes by many as they tried to weigh up whether we were worthy or not. The competition started well for us and got better as the day went along. We brushed aside all teams in our first league and followed this up by a powerful demolition of the Army sixes champions in the second round. The semi-final saw us pitted against our Infantry Cup final opponents, ITC Caterick, and again, much like our last encounter, this was a close match where we would prevail through pure determination. There was a sense of relief having reached the final as we had missed out in the semi-final two seasons previously. I believe this time we had won many fans across the Infantry sides due mainly to our style of play in the sixes. Colourful is one way to describe the style, perhaps Brazilian is stretching things, but we were certainly entertaining people who watched and frustrating teams we played against. The Army champions had not been able to touch the ball throughout our match and were beaten by three goals to nil. They stayed with us throughout the closing rounds as supporters and this would help in the final.

The final was billed over the tannoy as the war of the roses - Dukes v Kings (Yorks v Lancs in new money). We took the lead early and had the upper hand throughout. Our opponents did not respect this style of play at all and became quite physical. One individual was shown a red card and he wasn't even playing - he was on the bench! Nevertheless, we won the encounter and were grateful to receive the Crowe Cup and quieten the doubters. The season had not even started and we had won some silverware. In addition Corporal Gill was given the player of the tournament award. He richly deserved this

accolade and was supported by some outstanding performances by Corporal Collington and Sergeant Jones. Also deserving of mention are Private Reynolds, Lance Corporal Shaw and Private Shinn who all kept a good scoring record on the day.

Our first senior game of the season was against the AGC Depot at Worthy Down. After a tricky start, we won the encounter 15-nil (not a typo, it does say fifteen). Private Shinn achieved a new club record of six goals on the day. In the league, things continued from there but we set our sights on the Army Cup after last season's success in the Infantry. The Army Cup for Infantry Battalions is something of a pipe dream. It is almost unachievable in this day and age when there are Corps sides of stacked Signals, Engineers, REME and RLC. Last season we went out in the first round, losing to an Artillery side. This season we set out our priorities placing the Army Cup at the top. Things looked grim on our side of the draw. In excess of 100 teams had entered the competition and our knock out stage featured the current champions, last year's champions and three other former winners along with the hotly tipped favourites, 1 RSME. If you are to win the Army Cup you must beat them all and so we set about our task with that in mind, knowing full well that only one team could progress from this stage of death! Our first Army encounter was against 25 Field Support Regiment in Deepcut resulting in a 6 - 3 win. Next came former Champions, 4 Logistic Support Regiment and another win 3 - 0, followed by another former Champion in 3 RSME which we won 4 - 0.

Having had the hardest route of anyone so far in the Cup we might have expected some respite in the quarter-final draw - not so. We were drawn against 1 RSME away at Chatham in Kent.



The team playing against the LWC.

This year's Army Cup favourites had destroyed their opposition so far and were hotly tipped to cruise easily past us to the semi-final. 1 RSME host the Corps team and it was this team that we would face. They scored early, sixty seconds on the clock in fact. Perhaps they believed that we would roll over much like everyone else. They were wrong. We came back at them in front of their huge crowd and forced our way back into the tie, drawing level just after half time. When we eventually took the lead they were in shock. When the final whistle blew they were absolutely astounded. They had not lost a game over the whole season and could not blame a lack of desire for the result. The game

was perhaps the best sporting spectacle I have seen in years. To put this in perspective, the Infantry Corps side played against the same line up a week later and lost 2-0.

The semi-final draw was held live on BFBS TV and much like the previous rounds would see us pull a difficult tie. We are pitted against the champions of the Germany side of the draw and will play the semi-final in Germany. By the time you read this you will know if we were successful or not. But at the time of writing, we sit at the Army semi-final and Infantry semi-final stages of both competitions. Not a bad haul. I hope to report mission success by the next issue.

WELFARE OFFICE - EXERCISE VIRGIN'S FOLLY II

UWO - Captain M. Birkett/Sergeant P. Sutcliffe

On a bitterly cold November weekend, wives and girlfriends of 3Yorks soldiers, reported to take up the challenge of Exercise Virgin's Folly. One of the recruits was Private Liz Rhodes and here is her story.

Thirty-nine WAGs (wives and girlfriends), some from as far as Catterick, assembled on the parade square in Battlesbury Barracks to await their orders. The mission they had chosen to accept was Exercise Virgin's Folly II. Once issued with weapons, bayonets and magazines (not 'Hello') and after a bumpy truck ride, the girls arrived in one of the leafier suburbs of Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA). For some the adventure had started already - one truck got lost on the way!

The intense training started immediately. Lessons taught the recruits how to "cam up" using cam cream and local vegetation whilst remembering not to blend - "it's not foundation". Three instructors demonstrated too much, just right, and too little camouflage - which was a little embarrassing for the soldier with too little camouflage. Further instruction ordered the ladies to "bomb up", and to set up camp for the night. Home was a sleeping bag under a poncho.

The WAGs had been split up into four sections and the first mission was to ambush the enemy in the dark. Each section was positioned around the wood and they waited in silence (quite difficult for girls!) for the enemy to approach. Suddenly, rapid firing was heard, smoke and flares were launched and the girls opened fire. With the enemy defeated, our troops returned to their harbour and a camp fire was lit. It was a chance to relax for a while, sip some wine (I gather not usually done on exercises) and enjoy some chocolates (thanks Lieutenant Colonel Pullan!). Suddenly a Land Rover pulled up. Out jumped the girls from Arfa's, the UWO café, with rations of pie, peas and chips. However, it was the gallons of hot chocolate with squirry cream and marshmallows that were really welcome. The surprise



Sergeant Jones briefs his new section.

was not over for Private Julie Hollis, who was taken aback when her husband appeared, out of the gloom, with a huge birthday cake!

The ladies retired early (under orders) which was a good job too as, after a 0530hrs wake up call, they were ambushed by the returning enemy. The enemy was repelled but at 0800hrs the recruits began bayonet training. This was hard and arduous training. The girls were "beasted" by Sergeant Liam Seviour and his hardened instructors. A chorus of "What is a bayonet made of?" ... "cold, hard steel", and "What's it used for?"... "to kill, kill, kill", could be heard across the Plain. However, soon the new recruits got the hang of it and, like a synchronised swimming team, were reacting swiftly to the orders of "On Guard" and "High Port".

Once fully bonded as a fighting force, the WAGs spent the rest of the day training and rehearsing for the final attack on the enemy - a platoon attacks using Warriors. This was absolutely brilliant and really produced the adrenaline rush the girls needed! Tired and exhausted, the WAGs posed for a team photograph and headed back to Battlesbury Barracks. They were greeted by relieved families and delighted children.

The ladies handed in their weapons and, in recognition of their achievement, were issued certificates in the shape of ID cards. All that they had to do then was go home, have a quick wash and 'deploy' again to the garrison bonfire. The bonfire was another excellent event and was an ideal end to a perfect thirty-six hours with 3 Yorks.

The WAGs really enjoyed the whole experience. The huge amount of time and effort that was put into the planning was obvious. The instruction and care of the WAGs was second to none throughout and all the recruits were extremely grateful to the UWO and his team for a great little exercise. Thank you.



Sergeant Sutcliffe AUWO helps to feed the hungry soldiers.

SAHARA RACE 2007 - 'RACING THE PLANET' IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

'Racing The Planet' is an adventure race company, which bills its races as the hottest, driest, windiest, and coldest ultra-marathon races in the world. All the races are over 150 miles (or 250 kilometres), self-supporting, and take seven days to complete. The Sahara Race, unlike its more famous cousin, the Marathon des Sables, is competed in the Egyptian Sahara Desert (the MdS is competed in Morocco). They are both run in temperatures well above 40°C, having to carry all your own kit, except for water which is rationed out at specific check-points.

In the summer of 2006, Mark Crawford (Captain, IO 3 Yorks) and I conjured up a plan to test ourselves to the limit, by competing in some form of ultra-marathon race. The MdS seemed a suitable and rather ambitious starting point, but we soon realised that a three-year waiting list for the waiting list didn't seem to fit our plans; who knew where we would be in three years! Instead we settled for the lesser known Racing The Planet company.

I had nurtured a desire to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support ever since my mother passed away from breast cancer in the spring of 2005; and felt that if ever there was an event that would motivate people to give to charity, then this challenge would be it. To make it harder we decided to run as a team, which needed one more person. I made a cold call to my best friend in London, a civilian by the name of Geoff Wappett. It would be an understatement to say that Geoff is a big man. At 6'4" and over 18 stone, he is every bit the ex-professional rugby player he would appear to be. I expected an immediate rebuttal to my rather bleak proposition, but to my total astonishment he said he would happily join the team (not, as I presumed, out of mis-guided loyalty to me, more so in remembrance of his surrogate-mother throughout his adolescent years). We were three rugby players, with absolutely no experience of distance running, proposing to run 'the toughest footrace on the planet'. Our objective: to raise £15,000 running as Team Macmillan.

There were fourteen months before the race started, and therefore, apart from the odd bit of fundraising we remained physically dormant for the first six months. We thought that a robust training package over the final six months would stand us in good stead, but having one of the team living in London, whilst the other two were either in Bath or on Salisbury Plain didn't help develop our cohesion. We did manage several training weekends, but they were few and far between, and it was only a month prior to the event that we were able to complete our first marathon. We had better results with the equipment, and were benevolently supplied 'through the system' for things like Camelbaks and rations.

The outline was to meet the RTP team at a hotel in Cairo a day prior to the start of the race. From there, we would be bussed out into the middle of the Western (White) Desert, a good seven hours drive from Cairo, where we would spend the first night in a tented camp, before starting the race on the morning of Sunday 28 October 2007. Six stages and seven days later, which included the 'long stage' of 56 miles (94 kms), would hopefully see us back in Cairo finishing at the pyramids at Giza for a photo finish.

Arriving at the hotel felt like the first day at a new school, and we commented on some of the unlikely candidates dotted around that might be racing, before realising we looked pretty unlikely ourselves. There were seventy-six competitors from sixteen countries, ranging from El Salvador to a large group from Korea (who looked more like they were on a package holiday!). We linked up with the other competitors who we would be sharing the dromedary tent with. They seemed like a good bunch, and were able to pass on advice and tips. I was quite surprised by how many had done previous events; in fact, new competitors were in the minority. The other striking fact was that the average age of the competitors was 41 years. Apparently, in the ultra-distance world, the older you get, the better you are at developing stamina, although

it was a bit strange to see a 57 year old Korean with the body of a twenty year old.

The race organisers called for the official weigh-in of kit at the hotel prior to travelling out to the desert. This was a rule of the race to ensure you (a) weren't carrying too much kit, and (b) had all the mandatory safety kit needed. We soon realised that we were woefully unprepared for the event when we noticed other competitors had specifically designed kit. We met a Canadian man who had won two previous events (and was the unofficial tip to win), who had managed to pack all his food, clothing and medical kit in a rucksack that weighed 14 lbs. I noticed a disparaging look from Geoff, as he had just returned from the scales with his rucksack weighing 21 kgs.

The journey out to the desert was long and laborious, but as we approached our initial campsite I began to understand why people returned to run this event time and again. The scenery was out of this world, quite literally; it could have been the surface of the moon. We spent a very nervous first night under a canopy of stars, probing some of the race veterans for useful tips that would belay some of the impending pain in the days to come.

The first stage was scheduled to start at 0700 hrs, and at a mere twenty-one miles, was classed as a good warm up distance. We were expected to finish four hours and twenty minutes later, apparently enough time to get out of the real heat of the day. The race was started to a cacophony of Bedouin drums at the top of a sand dune. The 'specially designed' silk gaiters we had bought to stop any sand from getting in our running shoes lasted all of forty seconds, an ominous start. An agonizing seven hours later we passed the finishing post of the first stage. The course was not a flat, sun-baked land, as one expects the Sahara Desert to be, there was nothing but hill after torturous hill, which held the softest of sand. Six people failed to make the finishing line, which nearly included me. Trying to get the body to acclimatise to that level of heat, whilst working at full capacity was very difficult, and took a toll on my body. Thankfully this was my worst day.

The second day held much of the same as the first but slightly longer at twenty-four miles. Thankfully all the veteran racers admitted this was the hardest start to a desert race they had encountered, which buoyed our spirits slightly, and encouraged us to keep going, at least everyone else was hurting as much as us. We later found out that the course designer, a little Frenchman who designed over 80% of the world's ultra-distance races, had said this was the hardest course he had ever set; needless to say he wasn't bought a drink at the end of race party! Geoff had a very bad day, with horrendous blisters, and the final five kilometres of the day took us three hours to complete. He spent two hours in the medical tent, where the lead doctor, an American expert of wilderness injuries, told him he had three race-ending blisters, and if he continued he was very likely to develop serious septicaemia (a competitor had to be airlifted to Cairo during the previous year's race due to this). It shows the character of the man that he spent the rest of the race in excruciating pain, the effects of which took him well over a month to recover.



Day three. Mark and Chris on the sand dunes.

The third stage was surprisingly only nineteen miles although the last eight were the dreaded sand dunes. There were some pretty horrendous stories circulated about 'the dunes day'; some of them reaching 300ft high and stretching for miles. All the stories mentioned that no matter how you went about attacking them, it always resulted in two steps forward, one step back - a continuous slog. Unfortunately for Team Macmillan, we hit a problem before getting anywhere near them and it was Mark's turn to suffer. The first ten miles of the stage were across a very flat, barren patch of desert, and by about 11:00 am the temperature had hit 45°C, whereby Mark suddenly, and violently, started to vomit and couldn't stop. All the fluids and vital electrolytes that he had managed to consume that day were poured out on the desert floor. We eventually managed to get to the checkpoint where Mark was immediately put on a drip; he had classic heat stroke and was slowly starting to cook! The checkpoint doctor was overly concerned and decided to end his race, but somehow Mark managed, over a period of two hours, to talk him round to letting him continue (albeit in a pretty debilitated state). The next eight miles were torturous for him, and it took a huge amount of willpower to battle up some of the dunes only to see countless similar ones ahead. We eventually crawled into the camp after dark, to be greeted by the other competitors, who all displayed extreme kindness in our despair.

I enjoyed the dunes day as I had begun to acclimatise and started to notice the beautiful surroundings we moved through. Unfortunately we now found ourselves in a predicament. The rules of the race stated that no one team member could be more than 25 metres apart from any other team member, therefore we had to travel at the slowest persons pace. This became an agony, as Mark needed to travel quickly in the first couple of hours of

the day, before the sun rose too high and the heat started to sap his strength; whilst Geoff and I could only go at a snail's pace for the first two to four hours, before the blisters, tendonitis, and leg strains slowly warmed up to a bearable level. Conversely Mark often had to stop in the heat of the day to cool down, when Geoff and I were moving well. All the other competitors were running as individuals, free to travel at whatever pace they liked, whilst we were bound to each other. Catch 22. From this point onwards the race ceased to be a race against other competitors, and became an exercise in pain management and perseverance. The challenge was to finish.

Stage four simply compounded our problems, and whilst several of our fellow competitors were dropping out, our goal was to get to 'the long day' on day five. We focussed on the fact that if we started this stage then there was only one hurdle left, and we would be on the downward slope. Unfortunately stage five was almost 40% of our total distance, and a thoroughly demoralising thought. The race rules allowed thirty-six hours to complete the stage, which would seem ample time for fifty-six miles.

For all the officers who have experienced Exercise Long Reach at Sandhurst, stage five was the mother of all long reaches. The first forty kilometres were physically the hardest time I have had to endure, as we progressed with agonising slowness up a continual incline to the top of a plateau. We also had to contend with the searing temperature of over 40°C, and a wind that sand-blasted every part of our bodies at over forty miles per hour, and in the back of the mind we realised there was still a further fifty-four kilometres to go. By this point I had worked out exactly how and where I was going to bury the little Frenchman in the desert, without anyone finding out! Willpower was tested to the maximum during these agonising hours, but even though we travelled as a team, we also had the company of some of the other racers for long periods of

time, coaxing, cajoling, and motivating each other along. There was a true sense of sportsmanship. The long day took us thirty-one hours to complete, with only an hour's sleep, although we did have to stop twice for Geoff to receive minor medical surgery, and Mark once, to recover from overheating. The final ten kilometres brought us down from the plateau into a relatively picturesque oasis, where the stage finished. We spent the rest of the day recuperating at the oasis before being bussed back to the outskirts of Cairo in the early hours of the final day.

We had been led to believe that we would be running 250 kilometres back into Cairo, but the reality was that we spent 246 kilometres out in the Western Desert, before completing the final stage of ten kilometres in the Cairo suburbs, finishing at the Giza pyramids. This was concerning for two reasons. The first was that we would be completing 256 kilometres. Although it passed the race organisers by, the last thing someone wants to do after completing 246 kilometres, is a further ten kilometres, when four would do! Secondly, Egypt has the worst case of RTA's in the world, fact. Running through the streets of Cairo was a recipe for disaster.

The final stage started at 0800 hrs, and I cannot imagine what the locals must have made of fifty-two men and women dressed in running kit, stumbling through the streets. We, somehow, got to the pyramids, but to give an indication of the physical state we were in, it took Team Macmillan one hour forty-two minutes to finish. We were met by family and friends, and a little Egyptian brass band playing the James Bond theme tune, at the foot of one of the pyramids, a more surreal moment I have never had.

We were bussed back to the hotel, to a reception gala, where Geoff consumed his bodyweight in food. We were able to catch up with the other competitors and share stories, and injuries from the week. We were also presented with the Team Award, being the only team to finish.

I will never forget our week in the desert, the camaraderie amongst the competitors, the beauty of the desert, and of course the pain. I can understand why people go back to have another go, and why they seek similar races in other parts of the world. I am in awe of Mark and Geoff for finishing the race in the manner they did, and despite their injuries. We were able to raise £27,964.77 for Macmillan Cancer Support, which was well worth the blood, sweat, and tears.

Captain C. D. Armitage

If you are interested in this race, or any that Racing The Planet organise, then take a look at their website: www.4deserts.com



Day seven. Chris and Mark at the finishing point (Yorkshire Regiment).

4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

C COMPANY (HUDDERSFIELD & KEIGHLEY)

OC - Major S. A. Routh
 2IC - Captain J. M. Hunt
 CSM - WO2 N. Mallas

SPSI - WO2 C. A. Gent
 PSAO - Captain B. Hey

C Company overview

2008 started for C Company with a much anticipated "Bowman" conversion course over two days at the BOWTAT training wing in Catterick. Although crucial for our future training the weekend was well attended as it is a prerequisite for deployment to the USA on one of our annual camps in 2008. The dry subject matter and overall weekend training was made bearable by Colour Sergeant Wiz Wyrill Signals PSI (1 Yorks) during the Bowman course and a company night exercise (modelled on "Dog Soldiers") around Newfoundengland Farm.

We said goodbye to Corporal Kenny Kenyon who left for New Zealand to become a sky diving instructor and Private Will Campbell Ricketts to Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, both of whom left their expensive goodbye gifts behind, much to the consternation of Permanent Staff Admin Officer Captain Barry Hey, who has them in his safe, should they wonder.

Four potential new recruits for Company Sergeant Major WO2 Nick Mallas and Corporal Peter and Lance Corporal Elaine Hastings, Lance Corporal Chris Wood and Private Goshawk in the shape of four baby girls, were welcomed. However, this led to disappointment for our recruiting team, who were hoping for boys to increase our bayonet numbers within the company.

Our Officer Commanding, Major Simon Routh, has been supporting 1 Yorks in South Africa for the last ten weeks during their exercise in Africa, and has been keeping us updated with his experience. "Beer cold, sun hot etc." during his absence.

Operationally we have ten soldiers ready to deploy to Afghanistan in May 08 for a composite force protection platoon alongside the RLC and our Macedonian allies, which for many will be their first taste of operations in support of the Regular Army.

Captain Jason Hunt

C Company Triathlon

Additionally as part of 4 Yorks continued support for the Army Benevolent Fund, each company was set the challenge of organising its own event to raise funds for this deserving charity. Several options were considered before opting to set up and run a sponsored sprint triathlon consisting of a 750m swim followed by a 20km cycle and then a 5km run. The aim of this was of course to raise money for the ABF but also to develop individual fitness through fitness training.

On the morning of Saturday 1 March, after several months of planning and preparation by the company 2IC - Jason Hunt, myself and the rest of the company command team, twenty-five officers and soldiers assembled at Catterick Garrison pool ready to take part

in the event. Some had entered to complete the triathlon individually whilst others were working as members of three-man teams. To some it was a competition with individual challenges being set, for others they were in it to push and test themselves both physically and mentally. All, however, were keen and ready to do their bit for the ABF.

At 1000hrs, with a little nervous anticipation of the task ahead we literally dived in at the deep end to words of encouragement from CSM Nick Mallas and with the clock ticking made every effort to complete the swim in the fastest time possible. To some it was relatively easy, to others it was tougher than first anticipated. That said, everyone gave maximum effort and special recognition has to go to Lance Corporal Geoff 'Father' Wilkinson, perhaps the oldest L/Cpl in NATO, who completed the allotted distance in a very respectable time.

From here it was a quick change to dry kit and straight to Somme Barracks, to 1 Yorks' gym for the cycle under the supervision of PSI - Sergeant 'Dunc' Sims (1 Yorks). To complete 20km on the road is challenge enough but to complete this on a static bike in a gym challenges you mentally as well as physically. To combat the mental aspect it was on with the generic MP3 players loaded with adrenaline fuelled tunes, but to complete the physical side we could only look to ourselves to dig deep and pedal hard to cover the distance in the fastest time possible.

With racing hearts, sweating brows and tired legs it was then on to the athletics track for the final phase of the triathlon - a gruelling twelve-and-a-half circuits of yet more punishing leg work whilst keeping the prospects of cramp at bay. SPSI - WO2 Chris Gent (2 Yorks) was on hand to count down the laps and to keep us going. With 5km completed we had achieved our goal. We had, for the majority of us, completed our first triathlon with Lance Corporal Jonathan Carter taking first with the fastest combined time. For some, they gave that extra effort and found the strength to push themselves harder and, in having set out to complete just one of the events, by the end of the day they too had completed a sprint triathlon and for this they can be very proud.

In summary, we achieved our aim and £1600 was raised for the Army Benevolent Fund. Furthermore, a fantastic day was had by all and personal achievements made. It provided a great opportunity to develop team work and planning as well as physical and mental fitness and stamina.

From this it is hoped that we can develop it further into an annual event within the company.

Captain Jason Hunt and Lieutenant Steve Jones

D COMPANY (BARNESLEY & SHEFFIELD)

OC - Major A. Cooper
PSAO - Captain D. Morris

CSM - WO2 Yates
SPSI - WO2 O'Neill

The pace of life in the Battalion and D Company remains high. The Company's support to operations is still constant with Sergeant Fitchett, Corporal Dolan and Privates Robson and Worthington presently supporting the 2nd Battalion on Operation Herrick. We look forward to their safe return shortly. A further six soldiers are being mobilised for duty in the Force Protection role in Kabul from May 08, and Lance Corporal Abu Qaoud volunteering for United Nations duties on Operation Tosca later this year. I am sure that there will be one or two more who feel the need to escape on a tour over the next few months.

The training focus for the company has been on individual and low level skills - this has partly been to prepare soldiers for forthcoming promotion courses, and also to put the onus on Junior NCOs to do the instruction. The majority of training weekends have been conducted at Leek, which certainly lives up to its reputation for being bleak!

The individual skills training has paid off with a winning performance from a D Company team in a Battalion Fireteam military skills competition in October of last year - congratulations to Corporal Wall, Lance Corporal Brown, and Privates Abu-Qaoud and Matu.

Fitness plays a big part on the company training programme, with Colour Sergeant Burton and Lance Corporal Gaz Williams successfully completing their intermediate PTI course and Lance Corporal Surgey due to run the London Marathon. A number of charity events (Sheffield Half Marathon and Mallastang Horseshoe and 9 Standards Yomp) are being arranged by the company for the coming year.

Congratulations to WO2 (CSM) Yates and WO2 Johnson, upon the presentation of their Lord Lieutenant's certificates. Both awards are well deserved. Congratulations also to Corporal Baldwin upon successfully completing his Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course at Brecon, and to Lance Corporals Clegg and Surgey who completed their Section Commander's Battle Course. We have also had several soldiers recently pass their Combat Infantryman's Course at

Catterick, two of which - Privates Matu and Turnball, are presently in the Falklands with the 1st Battalion. As this publication goes to print we have a number of soldiers preparing for their Potential Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre and Combat Infantryman's Course at Catterick. Good luck to all.



Looking ahead, we are entering a very busy few months supporting Brigade events and TA Centenary celebrations, as well as normal unit business including conversion to Bowman. D Company is the lead for Exercise Glow Worm in the USA, following a very successful recce in February. It is hoped that by the time the company deploys in July the temperature will have increased from the -14°C experienced at the time. The

company is also planning to send teams to overseas competitions in the Netherlands and Germany, it is anticipated that we will retain the Reserves and DCCT title for a second year!

As a final note I would like to thank the SPSP, WO2 'Chopper' O'Neill for all his hard work and dedication during his tour and I, along with the rest of the company, wish him well in his transition to civilian life.

H.M.S. IRON DUKE

RETURN TO FLEET AND PREPARATIONS FOR DEPLOYMENT

The recent months have proven to be extremely busy and productive for HMS Iron Duke, as all efforts are focused on the achievement of capability as an operational warship, following an extensive maintenance period last year during which the ship was temporarily taken out of the Fleet and became the responsibility of Fleet Support Limited.

Having completed the maintenance programme, it was necessary for the ship to pass a Fleet Date Inspection conducted by the Commodore of Portsmouth Flotilla, Commodore Cameron RN, who was also accompanied by Captain Thompson RN. The inspecting Officers took many factors into consideration, and were particularly interested in assessing the material state of the ship. Iron Duke was accepted back into the Fleet on 9 November 2007, an achievement reflecting the determination and diligence of the Ship's Company.

Since returning to the Fleet, Iron Duke has continued with an extremely busy schedule. The ship has been conducting major sea trials to ensure that, having completed Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST), she will be capable of succeeding in any operational environment at short notice. BOST itself, which will take place between March and April 2008, will assess and develop the ship's ability to react to various scenarios ranging from conflict to disaster relief.

The majority of January 2008 was taken up with engineering trials to ensure that the ship's equipment is fully functional. Marine Engineering trials tested the

abilities of the ship to react and manoeuvre in a variety of different situations, such as machinery breakdown and steering gear failure, or in the event of a man overboard, fire or flood. The winter weather made these trials all the more challenging. There were also weapon engineering trials, and the ship had the opportunity to fire a Seawolf missile - the close range missile defence system, as well as the 30mm close range gun.

There were also live firings from the 4.5" gun, which can fire over twenty-six rounds per minute. The 4.5" gun can be used against surface and shore targets, as well as for Naval Gunfire Support, in assistance of troops landed ashore.

In February 2008, Iron Duke sailed through the stunning scenery on the west coast of Scotland to carry out noise-ranging trials in Loch Goil and Loch Fyne. As an Anti-Submarine Warfare platform, the ship must be able to operate in as quiet a state as possible in order to acquire enemy submarines at the greatest achievable range without risk of detection. The facilities available at Loch Goil and Loch Fyne reduced noise levels significantly, and assisted in the rectification of the ship's small number of noise-related defects.

Not all of the progress made by members of Ship's Company has been onboard. During November, some took the maintenance period as an opportunity to undergo further professional training. The Warfare department spent a week carrying out Command Team Training alongside personnel from HMS Chatham.



4.5 Gun.



White Ensign in Scotland.



The HMS Iron Duke rugby team.

This involved spending time in a simulated operations room, carrying out a variety of peacetime and wartime exercises under the supervision of staff provided by Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST). The Officers of the Watch also took time off the ship for continuation training, spending time in HMS Collingwood's Bridge Trainer. The Bridge Trainer uses modern computer technology to simulate various ports and scenarios, and is a fantastic tool that allows the Officers of the Watch to practice difficult or unfamiliar evolutions in a safe and constructive environment.

In addition to achievements in training and upkeep, the ship has also been active in cultivating strong links with affiliates. The Commanding Officer, Commander Newland RN, and Officer of the Watch four, Lieutenant Trevethan Royal Navy, were fortunate enough to attend a regimental mess dinner at Battlebury Barracks hosted by Lieutenant-Colonel Pullen and the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment. The evening was extremely well attended, and all guests were given the opportunity to witness the proud history and traditions of the Battalion, including a spectacular display by the corps of drums.

In November 2007, Lieutenant-Colonel Pullen and five Captains from the Battalion were invited onboard by the Commanding Officer for a brief on the capabilities and plans of the ship. Following a buffet lunch in the Wardroom, a tour of HMS Victory, Lord Nelson's Flag Ship at the Battle of Trafalgar and oldest commissioned ship in the world, was undertaken, along with a tour of Iron Duke. It was remarkable to observe the difference between living conditions on the two ships, and the impact that technology has had on today's weapons and communication systems. However, it was refreshing to observe that time and progress have not

eroded the core values, traditions and doctrine that lie at the heart of the Royal Navy.

Naval tradition was observed further onboard during the festive season, when the Wardroom provided hands for the Dining Hall Party, and the Commanding Officer carved the turkey, while the rest of the Ship's Company sat down for Christmas dinner. Families of the Ship's Company were also invited onboard the following day for a carol service conducted by Reverend James Tabor RN, which served as a most fitting conclusion to the year.

On the sport's field, the ship's rugby team recently enjoyed competitive action when the team visited Betws, the hometown of leading physical trainer Gavin Rees. Although the ship's team suffered defeat on the pitch, the excursion was an invaluable team-building opportunity for the entire team.

There have recently been some significant changes to the personnel onboard. In December 2007, the Executive Officer, Lieutenant-Commander Gurr RN, left to join the Principal Warfare Officers' training team at HMS Collingwood. He was superseded by Lieutenant-Commander Dean Bassett RN, who joins Iron Duke from Joint Force Headquarters in Northwood where he was Staff Officer to the Joint Operations Organisation. Also in December, the ship welcomed Lieutenant-Commander Ed Sutcliffe RN as the new Logistics Officer, who joins after serving for the NATO Maritime Component Command in Naples as Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Staff.

The ship has now also been joined by 815 Naval Air Squadron, headed by their Flight Commander, Lieutenant Alex Sims RN, and Pilot, Jim Frazer RN. The flight will remain onboard for the duration of BOST and the following deployment. They bring with

them the Lynx Mk 3 helicopter, whose primary roles are Anti-Surface Warfare and Anti-Submarine Warfare. The aircraft can engage a target with Sea-Skua missiles, or provide over-the-horizon targeting for harpoon missile engagements. When dealing with targets beneath the surface, the Lynx can perform searches using its variety of sensors, and engage submerged targets with Stingray torpedoes or depth charges. The Lynx can also provide a search and rescue capability as well as vertical replenishment, load lifting and spotting for Naval Gunfire Support.

THE DUKES IN HONG KONG 1968 - 1970

1 DWR arrived in Hong Kong in 1968, a short time after some serious civil disturbances in the colony arising from the turmoil of Mao Tse Tung's revolutionary activities on the Chinese mainland. The forces available to C in C Land Forces consisted of a Gurkha Brigade based in the New Territories, two UK infantry battalions, one in Gun Club barracks, Kowloon and the other on the Island, at Stanley Fort, an artillery regiment with light guns and a number of supporting units.

The role was an interesting one, consisting of formal manning of defensive positions along the border with China at Sha Tau Kok, Man Kam To and Lo Wu, patrolling the remote areas, mostly on the many islands that made up Hong Kong, and preparing to act in aid of the civil power in the event of unrest. Many "hearts and minds" projects were undertaken: the construction of the Stanley Nulla, a village school facility on Lantau and a basketball pitch at Tai Po come to mind. In the course of the tour, companies or sub units went to the UN Honour Guard in Korea, Jungle Warfare School in Malaya, training exercises in New Zealand and, in the case of the rugby team, Japan. Although everyone was always busy, the programme contained

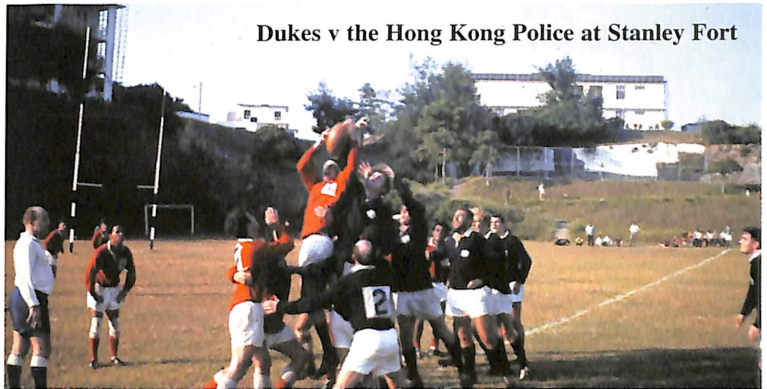
Upon completion of BOST, Iron Duke will have a short respite in the form of a Fleet Time Support Period, before deploying at the end of May for Atlantic Patrol Tasking North. This six-month deployment will include anti-drug patrols with the United States Coast Guard as well as disaster relief where necessary. The ship will represent the UK with various visits to West Africa, the Caribbean and the USA. This will be a demanding and fulfilling six months, and the ship will remain ready at all times to be called to action whenever needed.

'FORTUNE IS THE COMPANION OF VALOUR.'

plenty of sport and recreation, and with the USA and its allies deep into the Vietnam War not far away and sending substantial R&R parties to Hong Kong, the whole region, not to mention the bars and restaurants of Wanchai on the Island and the equivalent areas Kowloon side, was buzzing.

Battalion HQ, Alma, Burma, Corunna and Hook Companies were based at Stanley. Somme Company, with its anti-tank, mortar and recce platoons - the latter equipped with six ferret scout cars - at Lyemun, at the eastern end of the Island.

Hong Kong was a very different place to the Hong Kong of today, or even of ten or twenty years ago.



Dukes v the Hong Kong Police at Stanley Fort



New Territories, near the border

Refugees from the purges in China flooded in, and as often as not were sent back, but there were many shanty towns on the hillsides of the Island, and on the fringes of Kowloon. The New Territories were largely paddy fields on the low lands, and wild hill and mountain sides elsewhere, with large empty tracts in the islands and the Sai Kung Peninsula. Cricket was played (on what is now Statue Square) under the banner strewn China Bank old building, and the wonderful old Hong Kong Hilton was built whilst we were there, both buildings were demolished many years ago.

Most of the photographs of Hong Kong that accompany this article are slides taken nearly forty years ago, and recently converted to jpg; the quality is not as good as it might be, for which apologies, but they show a place at times barely recognisable to today's traveller.

Opposite: the old China Bank, rumoured home to legions of Chinese spook agencies working against the colonial rulers.



James Hayes, a national service officer with 1 DWR in Korea and Gibraltar, and a civil servant in Hong Kong whilst the Battalion was there, takes up the story.

In 1953-54, I was a National Service subaltern with 1 DWR in Korea and Gibraltar. In 1968-70, during the Battalion's two-and-a-half year tour in Hong Kong, as a member of H.M Overseas Civil Service, I had been serving there since 1956, continuing until my retirement in mid-1988. This article, to include a "snapshot" of Hong Kong as it was during the Battalion's tour, and some of my own connections with it, may re-kindle some personal memories of those now far-off days.

Looking back to 1968, Hong Kong was still thoroughly colonial. The dignified buildings of the central business district, old and new alike, personified the by then rather misleading but still powerful lien which The Bank (Hong Kong and Shanghai, of course) and major British trading firms like Jardine Matheson's and Butterfield and Swire's had upon the direction of the Colony. Decade after decade, they had provided appointed Members to the Governor's Executive and Legislative Councils. On the social round, the senior

officers of the Armed Forces could expect to meet their heads ("Taipans", after the Cantonese for "great managers") and all Hong Kong's other leading lights, including its most senior officials, the Consular Corps, and the large number of rich Chinese who had also been part of the action for as long as anyone could remember.

The people at large, many with vivid memories of the China they had been leaving since the advent of Communist rule in 1949, had supported the colonial government during the recently concluded, and locally-inspired, Communist Disturbances of 1967-68, but it was more through expediency than enthusiasm. For most, life was hard, and they expected to fend largely for themselves: but despite a good deal of petty corruption, they valued the opportunity to work and bring up their children in Hong Kong's law and order environment. Over a million of them now lived in the Spartan, but fire and storm-proof, seven and eight-storey housing blocks built under the government's resettlement housing

Looking across the harbour from the island towards Kowloon side



programme, begun in 1954 to provide accommodation for the very large numbers of people being displaced by development. Yet the unceasing flow of immigrants from the mainland meant that large numbers were still condemned to live in flimsy squatter huts on sometimes dangerous hill-sides, in dangerously crowded old tenements, or in old boats drawn up on the foreshore by the hundreds, as at Aberdeen.

In the midst of much privation, Hong Kong island was still beautiful, especially on the south side, where there were idyllic beaches to tempt expatriate families and the Chinese middle class. Much of it still untouched by development, the then largely rural New Territories was even more so, though many of its young men were now working in Chinese restaurants in Britain and western Europe. Only urban Kowloon, beyond the shopping district that lay behind the cross-harbour Star Ferry, was less attractive, and was indeed the most crowded and unlovely part of the colony. However, it was also home to the old barracks and mosque which had housed the Indian regiments which, pre-war, had formed part of the Hong Kong garrison (today's Kowloon Park) and to the recreational area of King's Park, with Gun Club Barracks and the well-patronized United Services Recreation Club (the USRC) nearby. Further afield, at Boundary Street - named after the old boundary fence which had run along its length after South Kowloon was ceded to Britain in 1860 - were the playing fields of the Police Recreation Club, which with other sporting venues must have become well-known to the Battalion's sportsmen.

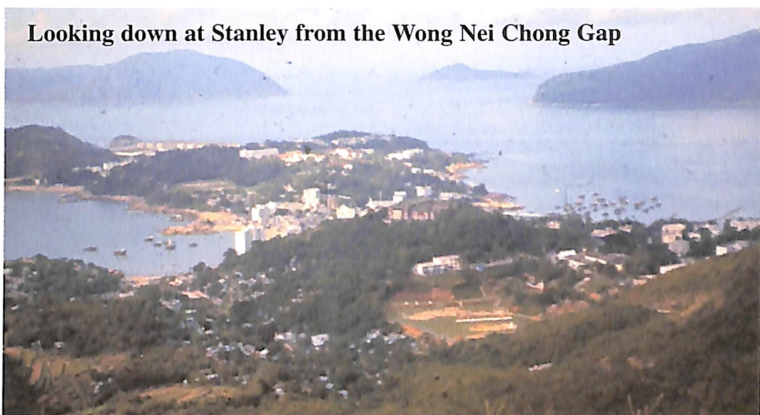
There was still no cross-harbour tunnel, though tenders for one had been called at the end of 1967. In that year, there were one million registered vehicles, and there had been 4.5 million vehicle crossings of the harbour. I am sure many readers will recall waiting to board a vehicle ferry at peak hours, in the broiling sun and high humidity of the Hong Kong summer. The tunnel was scheduled for completion in 1970.

One could well say that the Battalion's tour had coincided with the end of an era. Despite the lessons provided by the disturbances, some of us thought that the government had been slower to react than was required. It was left to the then Governor's replacement, Sir Murray Macle hose (the first British diplomat to be appointed instead of a Colonial Service officer) to pick up Hong Kong by the scruff of its neck, and move it firmly forwards. He had a vision of a better future for all its people through much needed, and above all speedy, social reforms in housing, education and leisure facilities,

Aberdeen Harbour



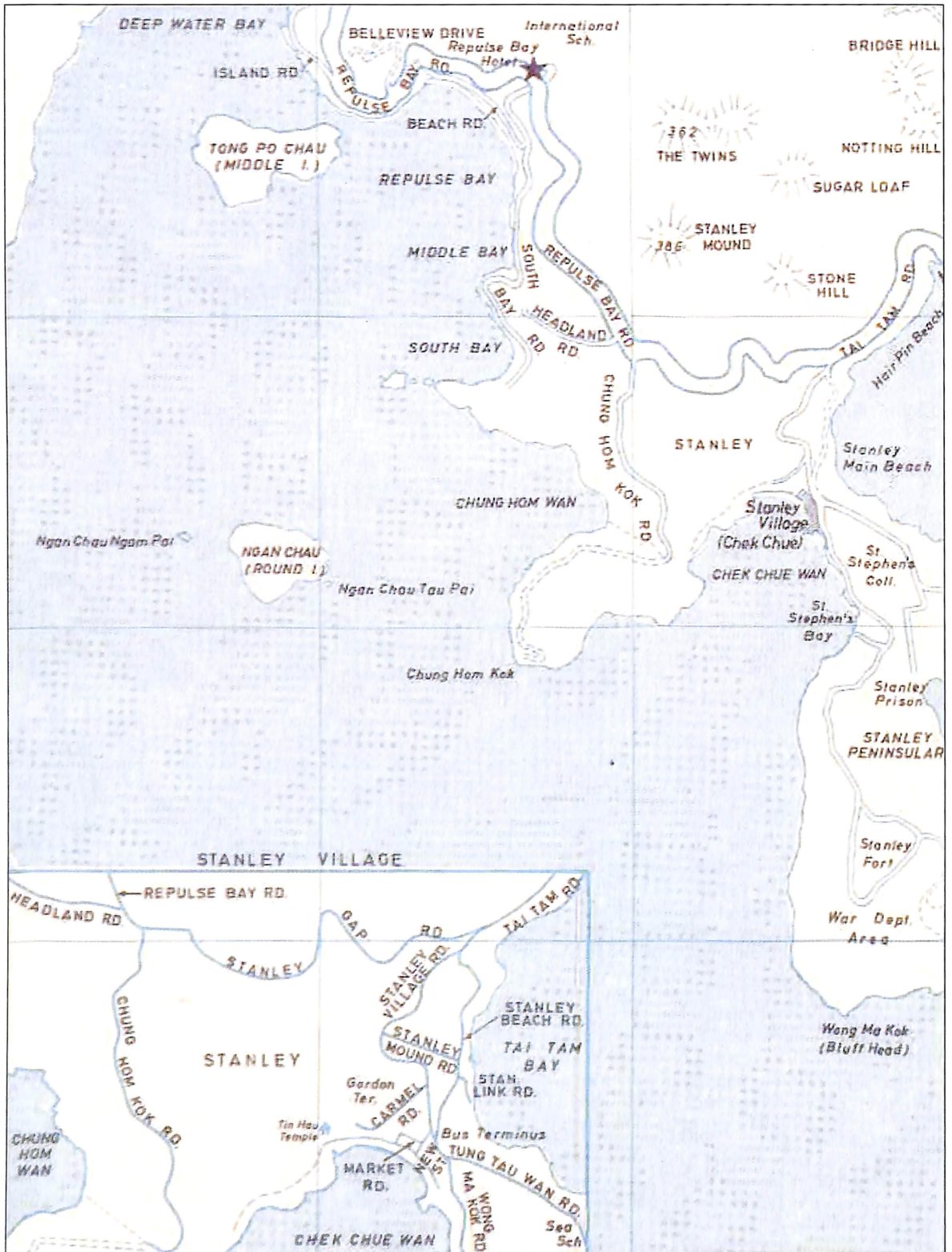
Looking down at Stanley from the Wong Nei Chong Gap



as well as continuing the infrastructural improvements at which Hong Kong excelled. The 'New Towns' programme and the Mass Transit Railway, along with the "Country Parks" scheme and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) were notable examples of his initiatives. The Civil Service was an efficient instrument, but it was Sir Murray who provided the drive, and ever wielded the stick. Later on, he also introduced political change through providing for more representative government, both at the centre and in the districts. Widely known as "Big Mac", he would govern Hong Kong successfully for the next twelve years (1971-1983).

But back to 1968. With some friends still serving in the Battalion, I was delighted to see 1 DWR again. Moreover, since my post in the newly-created City District Officer Scheme took in liaison with military units and police as well as civil duties, I would have a legitimate excuse to see more of them.¹

This I promptly did, arranging a lunch in the Volunteer Officers Mess and inviting as many members of the Dukes' Mess as their duties, and our Mess table, would permit. On this, more anon. Walter Robins recalls that I gave an introductory talk on Hong Kong and its people to the Regiment. Naturally, I was ready to give any help I could, when required. This included taking distinguished guests around the island from time to time, and thereby hangs another tale.



Stanley Fort and Peninsula 1981.

But first, you may be reminded of Stanley, where the Battalion and its married families were mainly accommodated.

Keen to spread knowledge of the Regiment among members of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, I arranged for us to visit Stanley Fort, as it was called, one Saturday afternoon, as part of a coach trip to places of local interest in the eastern part of Hong Kong Island. This took place on 18 October 1969, and the visit notes, reproduced from the Society's annual Journal for 1970, may be of some interest today.

"Stanley Fort

This peninsula was set aside for military use in the 1930s and the barracks date from then. The parade ground was formerly the site of the village of Wong Ma Kok, from which the peninsula takes its Chinese name. The inhabitants were removed to Stanley Village where a row of red-brick houses (still standing) was built for them by the Hong Kong Government. This village was the scene of the spectacular murder of two British officers in 1949 (see John Luff's book *The Hong Kong Story* (Hong Kong, South China Morning Post, 1959) chapter 8).

The barracks are at present occupied by the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the old 33rd or 1st Yorkshire West Riding Regiment of Foot, raised in 1702 for the War of the Spanish Succession. It is one of the last surviving regiments of British Infantry to retain its individual identity. The CO, Lieutenant Colonel. D. W. Shuttleworth, the well-known Army and England Rucker International, has very kindly allowed us to take tea in the Officers' Mess where the Colours and some of the Regimental Silver will be on display. Some officers of the Regiment will be on hand in civilian clothes to act as hosts, to explain the Silver and to answer visitors' questions."

But back to our distinguished visitor! The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Robert Bray, then Deputy Supreme Commander SHAPE, visited the Battalion. He accepted my offer to show him around Hong Kong Island, and we set off in my Austin-Healey 'Sprite' mini sports car. Just before depositing the General back at the Mess, I caught sight of some new married quarters some distance off the road, and decided to let him see them. Unbeknown to me, the narrow access road went down and up, and there were some narrow, very tight hairpin bends en route. At the lowest of these, I was just about to change gear, when the General suddenly said, "I bet you make a cock of it!"

And now back to that lunch in the Volunteer Centre. With memories of our leisurely life in the Gibraltar garrison still fresh in my mind, I was taken by surprise when, at around 2pm, lunch over, and led by the Colonel, all my guests rose from the table and made

their courteous departure. Being for me rather a special occasion, I had been expecting a relaxing half-hour or more over coffee and a few more drinks, and had told my office not to expect me back until mid-afternoon.

As I renewed my acquaintance with the battalion, it became obvious that many things had changed in the Army since those days in Gibraltar.

In 1957, a government "White Paper" had heralded the discontinuation of National Service from 1960, and the transition to the smaller, better equipped, more mobile army that was deemed to be more appropriate



**Presentation of new Honorary Colours by the C in C, General Sir Basil Eugster, with General Sir Robert Bray, Colonel of the Regiment.
The mist was so thick as to make the parade all but invisible.**

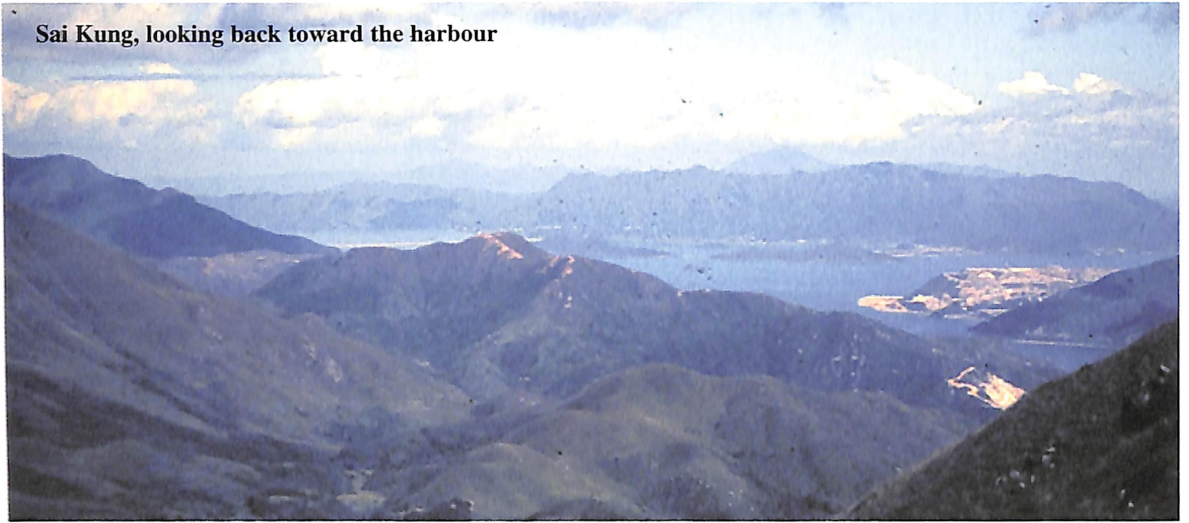
for the times. The planners were perhaps influenced by a remark attributed to the then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, to the effect that whatever else it had achieved, conscription had just about killed the British Army.²

But there was more to it than that. By 1968, Britain no longer had an empire, and we were well into the Cold War. My two years' National Service had been one of those moments in time, just before a shift in fundamentals, at which powerful influences from the imperial past were still operating strongly. If I am not mistaken, they had provided a glimpse of the old British Army, before the major changes which affected it in the 1960s. For a person like myself with a sense of history and an interest in the British Army, being able to share in the old was memorable, and indeed precious.

There was now a greater professionalism, a distinct modernity, with a clear sense that time was precious and should not be wasted - and of course National Service, which had met the manpower needs of the early post-war years but had otherwise stood in the way of these changes, had long since been dispensed with.

Sadly, I knew few of the senior NCOs and WOs who came to Hong Kong with 1 DWR. This was partly because, in the closing months of the Korean War, one knew few persons outside one's own platoon or company, but also because there were few regular soldiers in the rifle companies at the time, the great majority having been National Servicemen.

Sai Kung, looking back toward the harbour



I was the loser thereby, because I had been impressed with the WOs and Sergeants with whom I served. But, after all, it was fourteen years since I had left the Battalion.

I do not know what impression the Hong Kong of those years left with the Battalion. My working life there was far from humdrum. I grew to love the place and its people, and found my work thoroughly congenial, never more so than in successive postings

to the district administration, New Territories, the Colony's once rural adjunct. There, over several decades, my work involved me (among other things) in the removal and re-siting of old villages and the clearance of tens of thousands of early post-war settlers and their various commercial undertakings from land needed for development. Inevitably, this process was not devoid of drama; but there was nothing quite matching those early experiences with 1 DWR.³

Dragon boat races in the harbour



¹ My newly-created post of City District Commissioner, Hong Kong, was part of a new organization designed to strengthen the government-people link in the urban areas of the Colony, after the 1967 Emergency had revealed some alarming shortcomings in this important area of administration.

² Cited in Lieutenant Colonel J.C.M. Baynes, *The Soldier in Modern Society* (London, Eyre Methuen, 1972), page 75. Baynes' most interesting book describes and analyses the changes which had come about in the post-conscription, volunteer, Army in the intervening period.

³ I have described my life in Hong Kong in *Friends and Teachers: Hong Kong and its People, 1953-1987* (Hong Kong University Press, 1996).

David Tooley remembers Friday night in “the Wanch” (the Wanchai district of Hong Kong, which was at its height to accommodate the urgent needs of US servicemen on R&R from Vietnam).

One Friday night four of us were walking down the Wanch when we were stopped by the RMP who, in their normal friendly manner, said “ID cards now”. I said, “we’re in the Dukes”; he said “you are still on border duties until Monday”. I said “we have been relieved early and we all have a weekend pass and we’re heading for the China Fleet Club”. He turned ashen and spoke on his radio to his superiors informing them of the “good news”. The boys were back in town. This meant several long nights were in store for the RMP and they certainly would not be uneventful.

We then moved on to the China Fleet Club where we consumed copious amounts of a substance called Tiger beer, known to the boys as “rocket fuel”. Then came the highlight of the night - the game of “Traffic Light Dominoes”. Six of us, and a neutral observer from another Company, would take a taxi to the busiest traffic lights in the Wanch and wait until the traffic built up. Then traffic was 90% cyclists. As the lights turned green a big Yorkshire hand would come out of the taxi

and push over the nearest Chinese cyclist (seven stone wet through). He would then knock over the next cyclist and so on, causing a domino effect. We then sped off to the next junction leaving mayhem in our wake with Chinese insults ringing in our ears. The neutral observer was busy counting how many fallen cyclists there were. On returning to the China Fleet Club this number would be put on the notice board. Any team could have a go at a cost of fifty dollars, and the team with the most downed cyclists took the money. At the last count Coronna held the record with thirteen cyclists down.

Yes! Hong Kong was a very good place to be a British soldier. When you were posted there they gave you LOA (local overseas allowance) non taxable. There were fourteen Hong Kong dollars to the pound a beer was one dollar a go (or two dollars if you were a Yank). Hong Kong; a wonedrgul place to be posted to.

(This “game” may not have been entirely in line with the CO’s hearts and minds policy! - Editor)

Three Dukes’ JNCOs, Lance Corporals Miles Darcy, James Louth and Paul Hutchinson, and a civilian Miss Jill Stevenson, sailed into trouble when they entered Chinese waters in the sailing club sloop Peta Ann. Paul “Twiggy” Hutchinson recalls the events.

A TRIP TO CHINA

There are some things in our life times that we do with the impetuosity and naivety of youth, the memories of which stay with us for a long time.

I remember very little of how the four of us decided that it would be a great idea to sail the club folk boat ‘Peta Ann’ from Stanley on Hong Kong Island to Tai Po, on the mainland. I guess the challenge was there and we accepted it and even today I’m still drawn by the odd adventure.

Anyway on Saturday 13 December 1969 we set off. Miles (Mick) D’Arcy, James (Bomber) Louth, Miss Jill Stevenson and myself, Paul (Twiggy) Hutchinson. The yacht was ill equipped for such a trip and our navigation equipment consisted of standard Ordnance Survey maps and a prismatic compass. We had three days’ rations, plenty of water and a full tank of fuel. We also had very little idea of what we were doing.

It all sounded so simple: leave Stanley Bay turn left and follow the Island coast, then head due north-east following the mainland, turn left into the Tai Po channel. No problems! It wasn’t that far and the weather was set fair, so off we went.

Things did in fact go according to plan, at least until it got dark. The plan was to see the channel in daylight but we didn’t and to this day I have no idea why. Plan B; use a light on a headland marking the channel. It turned out that we found a different light and at about 0200 found ourselves in a bay with no idea where we were. The solution was to anchor for the night and sort it out in the morning, great.

No sooner were we settled, than we heard the distinctive sound of one or more junk engines, thinking

we were in the way of fishing nets we shouted at the junks, that we could now see, to bugger off till day light. A very bright search light appeared destroying our night vision which was accompanied, in very bad English with instructions for us to put our hands in the air and stand still.

Things then got very confused as we were boarded and herded below. Realisation that we had crossed into Chinese waters was slowly beginning to dawn. Our captors were a bunch of local militia armed with very large rifles, this had the desired affect and all sat still with a terrified look on our faces.

After a short trip under power, we were led ashore and found ourselves in some sort of communal building. Here we were introduced to their leader (I know very corny but true). After initial questioning as to why we were there, we were left alone. Knackered but too scared to sleep we discussed our position. Only a couple of weeks earlier a crew of Americans who had done a similar thing, had been released after six months of captivity!

Sunday 14 December

We did eventually sleep, but not for long. The questions started again but it was obvious that they were waiting for something. This turned out to be regular soldiers and then it got a bit more serious. We claimed to be tourists, thought it would go down better. The day slipped by and we were given our food from the yacht and treated really quite well. We slept in the communal room all four of us on this huge bed! Gill could not sleep with the light on so Mick turned it off.

The door burst open and a rather ugly youth with an automatic weapon and a torch appeared, very angry, and turned it on again. I can still sleep with the light on.

Monday 15 December

Read Chairman Mao's little red book, aloud to each other. The left hand page was in English, the right in Mandarin. Our instructor could not understand the fits of laughter as Mick D'Arcy read "Political power comes from the barrel of a British gun".

Just before noon the leader came in, to our surprise he accused us of being soldiers, shock, who us no sir not us. He then smiled and switched on his little transistor radio. RTE News "three soldiers and a girl missing in the yacht "Peta Ann". The afternoon passed with questions about troop dispositions in Hong Kong. We knew nothing anyway.

Tuesday 16 December

More of the same, no food left so the Chinese Peoples Republic decided to feed us. Fish heads, rice and cabbage, as they were so poor and we were of course rich we had to pay. A hundred dollar bill was the smallest we had, no problem but as foreigners we could not have Chinese money! Not to worry we will tell you when it is spent, thanks. Late afternoon we were photographed, and asked to sign a statement, in Mandarin. We were told that it said we were sorry for entering Chinese waters and that we had been well treated, were sorry for causing so much trouble and that we promised not to do such a thing again. No state secrets no problem.

Wednesday 17 December

Rudely awoken at 0400 and told to pack quickly. Not long after dawn we were blindfolded and put back on the yacht, the windows were painted black and our ever present guard ensured that we saw nothing. All our possessions were returned including our hundred dollar bill, thank you. Eventually the yacht was towed out of

Chinese waters and we were allowed on deck. The direction of the Tai Po channel was indicated and the Chinese crew recovered. Unfortunately during this process the junk crashed into our cabin roof causing substantial damage. We were alive and free.

By early evening we were motoring towards Tai Po with very little fuel and no wind, when we came across a minesweeper, HMS Hubberston. Maybe they would let us have some fuel? No they would not, but since they had in fact been involved in the air and sea search for us, they would be delighted to take us onboard and tow the yacht back to Hong Kong. The best laid plans and all. Never mind the captain was very pleased to entertain us with steak, chips, peas and a couple of pints. Gill was the centre of attention!

Thursday 18 December

I went on deck about 0800 to observe as we entered Hong Kong harbour, magnificent views. A press officer had boarded and now told us what we could and could not say, whatever just glad to be back. A press conference had been set up in HMS Tamar. Fame at last, we trooped out the story, smiled for the cameras and really enjoyed the attention.

As Gill was headed off to get on with her life, the three soldiers were carted off to see the intelligence services. The Chinese were pussy cats compared with our lot. We went through the ringer. "What did you see" "Bugger all they kept us inside". And so it went, finally after three separate interviews we got back to barracks about 2100. Bomber and Mick were charged with absence, I happened to be on leave. The charges of course were dropped.

The yacht "Peta Ann" was repaired and Punchy (Major Peter) Hoppe, the Sailing Officer sent us the bill. I can't remember if we paid it or if the club covered it. We got the piss taken out of us for a while and eventually life returned to normal.



Lance Corporal Miles Darcy gives the thumbs-up, Miss Gill Stevenson and Lance Corporal Paul Hutchinson hold the pennant of the minesweeper, HMS Hubberston, which returned them to Hong Kong, and Lance Corporal James Lowth wears a big smile.

There were two things that I promised myself though. Firstly to write to my mother every week, she and my father were very worried when the telegrams arrived. Secondly I vowed to learn how to navigate at sea! I kept to both, always keeping in touch with my parents wherever I went, and yes I learnt to navigate. I now work for the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre Gosport, my duties involve teaching service

personnel to sail and better still I get to skipper large sailing yachts in exotic parts of the world. Yes I still have a bit of adventure in my life.

If you fancy a nice trip on a yacht get in touch, e.mail: vicman@jsastc.org or visit our website: www.jsastc.org. Fair winds.

Paul "Twiggy" Hutchinson

INTELLIGENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

In our last edition, Colonel Alistair Roberts MBE related the intelligence story of the Battalion's 1971 Belfast Tour. Now, Major Donald Palmer MBE moves the story on to the later seventies, starting in Ballykelly, where 1 DWR were posted for a two year permanent garrison tour.

Culture clash - no longer an outward bound instructor - now Battalion Intelligence Officer.

Common denominator - no uniform.

These were interesting times in the world of clandestine intelligence acquisition and exploitation. Brigadier (later General) Kitson's covert surveillance outfit, the Mobile Reconnaissance Force (MRF) was being disbanded to be replaced by the more sophisticated and SAS trained detachments of 14 Intelligence Company. The Northern 'Det' of '14 Int' was to occupy the former MRF compound within the disused airfield where the Dukes were headquartered BUT there was to be a three month gap between disbandment of the MRF and deployment of the 'Det'. As a stop gap, IOs serving with resident battalions in the three brigade areas were fortunate enough to undergo specialist training alongside former MRF and serving SAS operatives at a spook's paradise 'somewhere in England'. I was privileged to be one of them.

Apart from supporting the Battalion and the then Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) the Duke's Int Section was to provide operational intelligence continuity for the newly formed Northern 'Det'. This was to be a unique relationship between a regular army unit and officers and men serving at 'Special Duties'. Thereafter direct access to the 'Dets' was to be denied to regular troops. The liaison duties were to be undertaken by their own LOs.

I was blessed with an outstanding Int Section and, for the time, excellent facilities - with the exception of our 'Q' car. The clapped out Morris Minor estate - even then a museum piece - could barely climb the speed bumps in camp let alone the Glenshane Pass.

To be honest, the sole providers of intelligence on which successful operations could be mounted were our friends in the RUC's Special Branch (SB). The section's task was to assess and process the information we gathered and disseminate it upwards to 8 Brigade HQ and downwards to the Duke's company and platoons deployed in County Londonderry. The Duke's company deployed to the Brandywell in Londonderry was served by the Int Section of the roulement Battalion whose HQ was collocated with the 'Derry RUC HQ in Strand Road.

Our Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) overlaid 'Police Division O' which was effectively County Londonderry. Because the PIRA, INLA, UDA and RHC had no cause to worry about TAORs and Police Divisions we had to maintain close liaison with 9th Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment (9 UDR) in neighbouring 'Police Division P' - County Antrim.

RUC O Division's SB HQ was in Coleraine with a permanent SB presence in Magherafelt RUC station, where the Duke's company HQ was collocated. Also accredited to SB in Coleraine was a slinky sleuth under the appointment title of Military Intelligence Officer (MIO). This British Army cavalry officer, nicknamed 'Snake Hips' by the section, soon became a familiar face as he brought information to us, often accompanied by his SB colleagues, on which we were to mount operations. His task was to liaise directly with the Brigade commander and his staff, the Dukes, the Northern Det, the intelligence staff at HQNI and his Intelligence Corps boss at RUC Headquarters in Knock, Belfast. 'Snake Hips' became so popular with the intelligence chiefs in HQNI that he was posted to a desk job in the closed corridors of power.

I was therefore flattered when the late Detective Inspector Ernie Allen, head of O Div SB, asked me if I would like to join his team in Coleraine as his MIO. 'Career Foul' said my CO, Colonel Peter Mitchell. He wasn't wrong! But being wrapt up in the job I followed my nose and was posted to the Special Military Intelligence Unit (SMIU). Following further specialised training, at Repton Manor, then the Int Corp's specialist training wing at their Ashford headquarters, I was appointed MIO O Div and moved in with my SB friends at their Coleraine office.

I was now privy to highly classified intelligence, which although focussed heavily on terrorist activity in O Div provided me with a much wider understanding of the NI intelligence community and their Province wide activities. My invaluable experience as Battalion IO meant that I already had the trust of my SB colleagues and an intimate knowledge of County Londonderry. I also had under command an excellent Field Intelligence NCO (FINCO) stationed with Ernie Allen's men in Magherafelt. (FINCO's were then selected Senior NCOs from the Int Corps).

Apart from the liaison duties previously explained, my role involved assisting with the interrogation of suspects (this was conducted at Police Office Two - PO2 - also at Ballykelly), recruiting of agents, coordinating meets with informants and preparing Interim Custody Orders (ICOs) for approval by the Secretary of State for NI or his Under Secretary. An ICO was based on 'source information' and was not permissible in a court of law. Nevertheless, under the Special Powers Act, a signed ICO was the suspect's passport to imprisonment in the H blocks of the Maze prison. I was assisted with the tricky task of writing ICO applications by the lovely Judith Cook, the Secretary of State's special advisor 'on loan' from the Foreign Office. Judith was to meet an early and tragic death when she was later blown up by the PIRA with the British ambassador to Dublin, Sir Ewart Biggs.

If Judith and I could not cobble together a sufficiently convincing ICO application, Ernie Allen and I would jump aboard a helicopter at Ballykelly and fly to Stormont Castle to convince the S of S that he needed to sign the ICO. Judith was normally on hand to lend support. With a signed ICO in hand it was always rewarding to let the 'applicant' hear that he would be exchanging his temporary cell in PO2 for more permanent accommodation in the Maze.

It was rumoured in some circles that there was a rift between the RUC's SB and CID which was detrimental to efficient law enforcement. This revolved around 'source protection' - protection of informants and super grasses. However if it was ever possible to bring evidential criminal charges against a terrorist that could be approved by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the suspect would be prosecuted, tried and hopefully sentenced. If such a sentence could secure a longer term of imprisonment than internment, SB would hand the case over to the CID. I soon learned how closely SB and CID co-operated and how ill-founded the rumours of a rift between the two departments were.

SMIU used to hold its monthly meetings in HQNI attended by the Commander Land Forces (CLF) or one of his senior staff officers, the Assistant Chief of Staff (Int) and a senior SB officer. As many MIOs and FINCOs as possible would attend the meeting and each would give a brief on his police division. The meeting was chaired by the Senior Military Intelligence Officer (SMIO) a Lieutenant Colonel Int Corps who took station with the visiting officers at the head of the rectangular arrangement of tables. Opposite him, at the other end of the rectangle, sat the guy I really envied, the only Regional MIO, MIO Belfast, flanked by his office staff, two divisional MIOs and his team of FINCOs from the individual police divisions within the Belfast region.

Working with the SB team in O Div was hard but rewarding work and returning to the Battalion and donning uniform permanently for the first time in five years was another culture shock. However it was not long before I was back in the Province, this time as OC Hook in Strand Road, Londonderry, where I was pleased to meet my old chum Ernie Allen who had moved to Londonderry on promotion to Detective Chief Inspector. Commanding Corunna Company in North Howard Street Mill, West Belfast, a few years later I was to meet Ernie again. He

had been posted to Castlereagh, the RUC's Belfast HQ. He often visited Springfield Road RUC Station which was in Corunna's TAOR. I was delighted then when the CO, Colonel Dick Mundell paid a visit to the Mill and presented me with my posting order - MIO Belfast!

By 1980 the intelligence world in the Province had changed dramatically. Former Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) supremo Maurice Oldfield had imposed his considerable influence on the internal squabbling between the numerous intelligence agencies - civil, police and military. 14 Int had established itself as an outstanding covert surveillance unit with its own liaison officers, the Army's Force Research Unit (FRU) had honed its agent handling skills, the SAS were in full swing, the RUC had its own Hereford trained surveillance teams and its Special Support Unit (SSU) for the 'wetter' end of the business and Tasking Coordinating Groups (TCGs) had been established in the major RUC stations. The TCGs were commanded by a police Detective Superintendent supported originally by an SAS officer and Warrant Officer. The SAS officers were eventually replaced by former 14 Int officers but the Hereford Warrant Officers remained.

The inevitable and much needed evolution of the intelligence community, supported by a significantly increased budget meant that the original role of SMIU was fast becoming obsolete. I found myself and my dejected staff relegated to a portacabin in the Castlereagh RUC Station car park.

This was not good enough! With the support of the SMIO and 39 Brigade Commander I decided to put up a fight. By rattling the cage I ended up in front of the CLF who made it abundantly clear to me that SMIU and my seemingly redundant post would remain intact as they were viewed as important 'political' appointments so why did I not take the situation lying down and play golf for two years. Attractive as this offer might have been to others, to me it was a poke in the eye. This I did not disguise and was offered the possibility of going to 8 Brigade in Londonderry as DAQMG - no thank you! Ernie Allen joined my crusade and with my powerful team of supporters we were able to persuade the late and great Detective Chief Superintendent Blair Wallace, Head of SB Belfast Region to let me back into the building. (Blair was later to become Assistant Chief Constable to the famed Chief Constable, Sir Ronnie Flannagan). My efforts were really well rewarded. I was given my own office adjoining that of my Int Corp staff. I was located next to Blair's office and immediately opposite the Belfast TCG offices and Ops Room. Furthermore I was equipped with a fast and reliable car. Long gone was the old 'Ballykelly Banger'.

Relocation reinvigorated the whole team and working alongside a highly professional and very senior group of SB officers, TCG, FRU and the Belfast Det made for an exciting and rewarding time. Liaison with the various military units deployed throughout the region was demanding but with a team of FINCOs covering the patch co-ordinating visits was made easier. We were also able to assist the SAS squadron with a bit of training acting as the 'enemy'.

As only a small cog in a big machine I like to think that we, as a team, were able to make a contribution to the more substantial peace that now exists in the Province. We were part of an evolutionary intelligence process that today has seen 14 Int develop into the recently formed Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR) which now, along with the SAS and SBS, is part of the special forces directorate. The directorate and its units take care of all their liaison duties. The RUC, controversially, is now the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Many of the loyal, old school 'coppers' are unhappy about losing their 'Royal' title but the force continues to increase its number of Catholic officers which is a significant advance and their sophisticated operational capability is probably the envy of many other police forces.

The experience was to serve me well after I left the Army because some of the skills I assimilated and practiced could be adapted to the private security industry. I also built up a network of fascinating, successful friends and associates.

I am especially proud to have worked for and alongside some outstanding and incredibly courageous RUC officers. For them there were no four month or two year tours.

Footnote

Other Dukes' officers involved in the operational intelligence theatre during my time in Ulster were:

- General Sir Charles Huxtable
he was not the CLF who invited me to play golf for two years!
- Colonel Wilf Charlesworth
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Drake
- Lieutenant Colonel Peter Andrews
- Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Roberts, whose excellent article appeared in the last Iron Duke, was G3 Int to Brigadier Kitson, then 39 Brigade Commander, who created the MRF based on his experience of fighting the Mao Mao in Kenya.



MERRY
XMAS.

Christmas comes but
once a firkin,
And when it does
we're firkin working.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

From



and his



The above is a Christmas card produced by the Int Section in Ballykelly in 1973. Dangling from the tree are Captain Donald Palmer, IO; Lieutenant Andrew Meek, Assistant IO; Snowy Marshall, Windy Gale, Nosh Cowburn, Billy Nuttall, Colour Sergeant John Walker, and three others that we can no longer recognise.

CHINA GILL'S 27 YEARS IN THE DUKES

In the last edition we left China on the beach at Dunkirk on 31 May 1940, where he discovered that there were no boats to take 1 DWR, which had withdrawn all the way from Brussels, mostly on foot, off to safety. Dawn was approaching, and rather than be caught out in the open the men were ordered to return to the sand dunes and take cover.

I was now accompanied by Bandsman Alton and we made our way to the houses on the outskirts of the town. Nearly all buildings were damaged, and chose one already bombed hoping it would not be hit again. Daylight came and we walked along the coast road looking in the abandoned vehicles hoping to find some food. All we found was a tin of condensed milk. Then we came across an isolated café, undamaged and full of troops, mostly French. There was no food and all they had to drink was grenadine. We did not know what it was like but I bought a couple of glasses and we went back to the dunes.

Six Stuka dive-bombers came over at regular intervals, but luckily they kept bombing a naval vessel that had been hit and beached a few days before, and had already been stripped of anything of use, also of food. We saw an occasional British plane, but realised the RAF was fully occupied intercepting German forces and supplies.

As dusk approached troops again lined up on the mole, when suddenly two shells hit the head of the line of troops. This scattered everyone, as it got darker the troops approached the mole again. Two ships entered the harbour and the first, a naval vessel, tied up. It was soon full to capacity and sailed off. The second ship came in, it was a pre war cross channel steamer. Reg Alton and I boarded, we were ushered below and told to occupy the wooden berths, two on the bottom one, one on top. Before the ship left we were both asleep and woke up when someone shouted "Dover".

Going ashore we were given tea and sandwiches then boarded a train and off we went. A few hours later we pulled into Aldershot Station, lorries then conveyed us to North Camp, taking us to the first barracks on the left, perhaps Guadeloupe or Albuera Barracks. We had not met any Dukes since splitting up on the dunes at Dunkirk.

We handed in our weapons and ammo, anyone who required a fresh battle dress was fixed up. We were fed, given some pay and put in accommodation. We were told that when more Dukes arrived they would be assembled for onward transmission and it would be a couple of days. Hearing this, the next morning Alton and I, both living in Portsmouth/Gosport went to Aldershot Station. I asked for two returns to Portsmouth and was informed no tickets could be issued beyond Petersfield. I bought two returns and as soon as the train arrived at Petersfield, dashed to the booking office and bought two returns to Portsmouth. Thus we both had about five hours with our families and returned to Aldershot in the evening.

I think it was only a couple of days when we were taken to Aldershot station and met a number of Dukes who had been billeted at other barracks. Our destination was Sheffield. On arriving there we were taken to a large house with acres of ground. We found our QM's staff already settled in. Quite a number of Dukes assembled and after checking in civilian policemen arrived, each one taking a batch to various housing estates. Alton and I were taken to Homefield Road in Sheffield Lane top area. Starting at No 1 the policemen said "one here" meaning one soldier to be billeted there. He repeated this at various numbers on his list until he came to No 33, he said "two here" so Alton and I jumped at the chance to be together. The occupants were Mr and Mrs Knowles, a charming couple just passed middle age. He was a boiler maker at a steel mill, they had a daughter of 18 years. The whole battalion was billeted in private houses in Sheffield.

Alton and I were treated as sons of the family, every evening going to their local club. Luckily Tug Wilson was in a nearby house and was able to join us. The following morning everyone had to attend at Battalion HQ for a roll call. I was told to assist in the QM's offices as they were receiving replenishments also indenting for additional clothing etc. We heard that Captain Strangeways and about twenty-two men had found a Thames sailing barge a few hundred feet out, they swam to it and discovered there was no-one aboard, they boarded her, found she contained water and food then managed to sail her to Dover.

We were given slips of paper to hand to our hosts requesting them to call at the town hall where they would be paid a billeting allowance. Mrs Knowles said she could not take any money for looking after soldiers from France. It took us a few days to explain that everyone else was being paid, eventually she agreed and drew her allowance. Her family had certainly earned their share.

The good life could not last; after a couple of weeks we moved to Lincolnshire to meet up with our 3rd Infantry Brigade friends the KSLI (Kings Own Shropshire Light Infantry) and the Sherwood Foresters in the Horncastle-Spillsby area. Here we received reinforcement including a number of emergency commission officers.

1 DWR then spent the next nearly three years in the UK, at first in Lincolnshire, then to Nottinghamshire, to Norfolk, and finally up to Forfar in Scotland. China Gill was promoted to Lance Corporal, Corporal then Sergeant, with the very important job of Rations NCO. In January 1943 Lieutenant Colonel Armstrong DSO MC took over as CO from the East Surreys with Major Webb-Carter as Second in Command. On 23 February they left Crieff with all equipment and were taken by troop carriers to Avonmouth. "I had ordered 800 scotch pies to be collected on the 24th, but was ordered not to cancel them because of the secrecy of the move". The next day they arrived at Avonmouth and embarked for an unknown destination.

The ship was the former P&O liner "Moreton Bay". How often had the 1st Battalion seen this ship between 1935 and 1937 sailing past Malta to the Far East and her return voyage some months later. On board were also 3rd Infantry Brigade HQ and 2nd Field Regiment RA. The convoy then sailed out of the Bristol Channel into the Atlantic. Our course took us west, well into the Atlantic. It was a few days before we turned to port and passed through the straights of Gibraltar during the hours of darkness. I believe by this time we had been told our destination was Algiers.

The journey was quiet and pleasant. Having the Battalion together again was unusual, having my old mates for company every day. Our group consisted of Sergeants Tug Wilson, Blondie Williams and a number of mates I had seen only occasionally during the times in Lincoln and Norfolk. Observing the officers and senior NCOs I realised how many of the Dunkirk survivors had left the Battalion. Most had been posted to the TA battalions to add experience and strength. Of the officers on board I can only recall Captain Sills and Captain A. Smith from Dunkirk days.

We were not intercepted by enemy planes or submarines, except for rumours it was like a peacetime voyage. The troops had now exhausted their supply of English cigarettes and were now smoking the disliked "Cape to Cairo" brand available on troop ships. I was a very light smoker and still had my box of English Rothmans, so with Sergeant W. Hayes organised a raffle at 6d. a time. This proved popular, we made about £10 each. We immediately raffled £10 and made another £5 each, profitable but nowhere to spend it.

We arrived at Algiers on 9 March, disembarked and marched to an old airfield and spent the night there. Next morning we were told that the 1st Army had pushed forward, we would re-embark and sail to Bone. We sailed on the HMT Empire Pride arriving at Bone on 17 March. There was a terrific air raid on the harbour. AA guns and RN Ships fired incessantly. I have never seen the sky so black with AA shells. Late afternoon the Battalion disembarked and marched a couple of miles south up the hilly and rocky country.

The QM arrived from a CO's conference. We had heard that the new CO had the DSO and MC and that he was a fighting CO. Confirmation of this came from the QM. He told me that the CO had said "some sergeants were doing jobs not on the establishment, the sergeants were to join a rifle company. The men in question were Sergeants Race (who was an exceptional vehicle fitter attached to the REME LAD), Warner - the PRI Clerk, and myself. Sergeant Race went to A Company, Warner to B Company and myself to D Company. Within an hour I was with D Company 12 Platoon. The change did not worry me. The Battalion went forward, taking over from London Irish Rifles who had suffered heavy casualties. The German lines were some distance away, but a patrol including a sergeant from Irish Rifles went on a recce and suffered casualties, the sergeant and Private Whitely (D Company) were killed.

The next few days there was incessant rain, we all sat with our gas capes covering us. D Company moved to another position previously occupied by the (Sherwood)

Foresters. Despite having slit trenches Lieutenant Turnbull insisted we dug our own. The Brigade Commander came on a visit and queried the number of slit trenches, stating in the event of a night attack, the troops would be liable to fall in one of them. He ordered all future reliefs would take over positions already in existence.

Here I went on my first patrol, I had to take two sections forward in early morning, downhill to a place overlooking the plain and check on a deep ravine for traces of the enemy. We arrived at the ravine and I was at a loss as to how to carry out the right procedure. Should I lead the men some way or send a couple forward, the area was covered with huge rocks cover for the enemy. I finally told the men to cover me as I went forward warily scanning all likely places for enemy concealment. There was no contact, so I returned to base submitting my report stating NTR.

My next patrol was with Sergeant Hall, a listening patrol, a short distance into no man's land, again NTR. My third action was to watch out for any enemy, there were two slit trenches facing the open plain. About 0200 hours there was heavy rifle fire to the right. This scared Company HQ as the sound appeared to them to be coming from our position. Sergeant Goldsborough and two men were sent to check. Finding that we were alright they returned to HQ.

Another move was made; I don't know if the other companies moved around as well. We seemed to be moved with more purpose now. Again I was definitely told there would be no British troops in front of us. About 0130 hours we observed some movement, half a dozen figures emerged from the shadows. I alerted the section when some doubt crossed my mind, probably due to the way they were approaching. I told the section "hold your fire". I then challenged the group. One replied "we are British", I told one to come over, he was a Royal Engineer Corporal. He said "we are REs and have just been forward to build a site for the Divisional Commander, in the next push". I passed them on to the Company HQ. Our next operation proved this to be true.

Unknown to us our moves were part of Brigade orders concerning the KOSLI and the Foresters. To cover these moves the Battalion sent out patrols to farms in front of our line. Three patrols were made, then the fourth patrol was sent to a carrier farm on 2 April. Then on 5 April a strong patrol comprising a few men from each company set out. Lieutenant Colonel Armstrong despite being ordered otherwise by the Brigade Commander, accompanied them.

The patrol killed about twenty-five and captured three. Withdrawing through a wadi the patrol was hit with enemy MG and mortar, the CO was wounded. My old mate, Sergeant Bailey of the Carrier Platoon was awarded the Croix de Guerre as we were under French command. Lieutenant Colonel Webb-Carter took over the Battalion.

The Battalion then moved to the Medjez el Bab area. The 8th Army had taken Sousse, we knew that the final attack to take Tunis was approaching.

We will return to China's North African campaign memoirs in the next edition.

THE 33RD FOOT RE-ENACTMENT UNIT

by Simon Love

I hope this article will raise awareness of a dedicated and highly respected group of re-enactors representing the 33rd Regiment of Foot at the time of Waterloo (later named the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in honour of its most famous commander).

As a re-enactment unit we depict the life and times of a soldier towards the end of the Napoleonic wars between 1812-1816. Those who served in the Army may be interested to know that their experiences of life with the 'Dukes' may have had surprising similarities with the life of a Napoleonic soldier nearly two hundred years earlier.

The soldiers in 'Wellington's Army' would have spent a large portion of their day cleaning and polishing their kit, drilling in squads, company or Battalion drill sessions. On home duty much of the soldier's kit was expected to be polished like 'Japan' (a black bright shiny lacquer), thus the boots, peak of the cap, scabbard and cartridge box was bulled using blackball (made with a combination of charred ivory and beeswax). The white cross belts and musket sling was whitened using pipeclay which was brushed or sponged onto the belts (made from china clay, bluing and water and not dissimilar to Blanco). All the metal work was cleaned to a gleaming finish (including brasses, bayonet, lock and barrel of the musket) by use of emery paper and a combination of brick dust and oil (works very well and every bit as good as Brasso!).

On active duty however the Duke took a very pragmatic approach to the soldiers' appearance and as long as their muskets were well cleaned, in good working order and each soldier had sixty rounds of dry ball ammunition in his cartridge box he cared little with their overall appearance. We know all this due to the continuing research by members and our invaluable links with the Bankfield Museum.

As John Spencer (one of those founder members and still active in the unit) recalls; "We wanted to set up the unit and get it right, so having access to a number of original articles such as buttons, cap plates, caps, and cloth was invaluable in ensuring we got the basics right. We researched and sourced material for the uniforms as well as manufacturers for the caps, belts and other accoutrements. All the equipment is produced by the same supplier and the company tailor produces all the uniform to ensure total uniformity within the unit. As a result each 'soldier' has a museum quality uniform and accoutrements to match".

The foot and arms drill of the time bears little resemblance to that of modern day drill except that the movements were precise, included

regimental timings and were practised until they became second nature. Fortunately several original drill manuals have survived which not only give us an exact picture of the various arms positions and how to move from one to another, but also how the evolutions and formations of the battalions were performed. Drill is an essential part of our public displays so a lot of time is spent getting the unit and soldiers to drill correctly.

During a re-enactment event we recreate a structured day including inspections, parades and their preparation, drill (including demonstrations of firing with black powder) and recreation including sports and pastimes of the period. The unit has a reputation for playing cricket and as long as the sergeant isn't looking cards and dice games are often seen down the street of tents. The women of the unit give an important interpretation of the life of women following the army. Cooking with simple ingredients they work wonders producing edible and remarkably flavoursome stews and puddings which would have been the staples of the time. They also produce an ample supply of havercakes. The 33rd was known as the Havercake Lads in recognition of the havercake, a staple part of the diet in large parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire.

When the public is present at events, no items are allowed which would not have been worn or carried at the time and members are expected to act their part as either soldiers or camp followers. Many of the members have developed characters which they portray. They have their own history including their age, parents occupations, their own occupation before enlisting and reasons for enlisting which helps us to engage with the public speaking in the first person. The unit has an assistant surgeon who is a world authority on Napoleonic injuries and their treatment. His talks and



Working with the Dukes.

displays are very well received by the public who are treated to blow by blow accounts of a wide range of traumatic injuries, all manner of surgery including amputation, and treatment of fractures and venereal disease!

In the recent past the unit has worked for organisations such as the National Army Museum, Apsley House, Bankfield Museum and many National Trust and English Heritage sites. We have good contacts with The Dukes and participated in the 'Havercake march' and their Tercentennial celebrations in 2002.

We regularly work with other 'redcoat' units to form larger units and have participated in battles at Waterloo, Malta, Holland, France and Spain. Battles can be large - there were over two thousand participants at Waterloo last year. As one older member recalls: "One of my first re-enactments was a large battle in Hastings. I remember standing in line and seeing through the smoke a large French column marching towards us up a hill. Our sergeant was behind the line shouting "Steady boys steady" as the French were getting very close. It seemed an eternity before the officer finally gave the orders "Company will give volley fire...make ready...present...fire". Our line was enveloped in a huge cloud of smoke and I could just make out several 'bodies' on the floor at the head of the French column which faltered and retired backwards down the hill. In those moments I had a glimpse of the experience of fighting as a Napoleonic soldier and there was a feeling of huge elation along the line. This didn't last long as the sergeant was soon barking orders to "dress the line" as we prepared to advance forward again."

Last year the unit was charged with helping to defend the North Gate of Hougoumont at Waterloo and had



The Camp set up

a wonderful vantage point of the whole battle from a firing platform next to the gates. Masses of French infantry supported by artillery and swarms of cavalry assembled for the attack. Later as the French attempted to storm the gates we were called on to prevent their progress into the farmyard and although it was a close run thing all concerned were proud to report that no French passed through the gate!

The unit is very proud of its heritage and shares a determination to appreciate the life of an ordinary soldier in a period of our history that we should justly be proud. We hope we succeed in educating those who want educating, and enlighten those who already know a little and allow others to experience the life of a soldier in 'Wellington's Army' first hand.

If any of you reading this want to put on a redcoat, handle a musket and enjoy a bit of drill with a group determined to keep the memory of the British Napoleonic soldier alive please contact us through our website at: www.33rdfoot.co.uk



Working with other units

THE 'DUKES' MUSEUM

Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax, HX3 6HG

Reopening of the Regimental Museum's World War I display

The World War I display in the Regimental Museum was reopened by Alice Mahon and Councillor Geraldine Carter on 4 February in front of a group of sixty pupils from the Holy Trinity Senior School, Halifax on a school visit to the museum. Alice is the recently retired MP for Halifax and is now museum trustee; Alice has strong family connections with the Regiment through both her grandfather and an uncle who served in the Regiment. Councillor Geraldine Carter is the Deputy Mayor of Calderdale, she was also Mayor in 2002 when she joined us for the Tercentenary celebrations in Osnabrück and is a strong local 'Dukes' supporter.



The new display is part of the ongoing redesign project for the Museum being led by Brigadier Dick Mundell, Chairman of the Museum Trustees. Funding for the redesign is being provided primarily through the Heritage Lottery Fund but with considerable support from Calderdale Council as well as much volunteer effort and time, not least from Dick. The first phase of the redesign, called 'Through Soldier's Eyes' was completed in 2005. The second phase, called 'Forgotten Voices', of which the WWI display is the first part, will be complete by November this year. A full reopening ceremony is planned for 11 November to coincide with Armistice Day.

The Mons Drum and the Reninghelst Cross

In the last edition two photographs appeared under 'The Dukes Museum' heading but without explanation. The images are reproduced again here with the following information.

The Mons Drum, now a battered brass shell, was already a veteran in 1914 and it is a survivor from the first, hectic days of WWI. Acceptance stamps indicate that it was made by Henry Potter & Co in 1885 and was

later renovated "and heraldry added" (presumably the newly acquired Battle Honours for the South African War). Carried by Drummer L. W. Mellish of the 2nd Battalion, it was left behind at St Ghislane during the retreat after the Battalion's stand along the Mons-Conde Canal and Wasmes, 23/24 August 1914. The Belgian woman to whom it was entrusted buried it during the German occupation and it was returned to the Regiment, somewhat the worse for wear, in 1919.

The Reninghelst Cross originally stood in the graveyard at Reninghelst Church, some six miles west of Ypres. This memorial to officers of the 2nd Battalion who fell at Mons, during the later fighting around Ypres and in the attack on Hill 60, 18 April 1915, also commemorates Sergeant C. Haigh DCM of the 9th Battalion who was killed on 2 March 1916. After the establishment of military cemeteries by the Imperial War Graves Commission the Cross was returned to the Regiment, those named on it being remembered at Hautrage Military Cemetery, Hospital Farm Cemetery and the Menin Gate. Most evocatively it still carries the faded remains of silk poppies.



The names on the cross are:

2 DWR - Major P. B. Strafford
 Captain and Adjutant CO Denman-Jubb
 Captain H. M. Travers
 Captain E. R. Taylor
 Lieutenant D. F. de Wend

2 DWR - Lieutenant J. H. Thompson
 Lieutenant L. E. Russell
 Lieutenant R. H. Owen
 Lieutenant F. R. Thackeray
 Lieutenant C. Elrington
 9 DWR - Sergeant C. Haigh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From General Sir Charles Huxtable

Dear Editor,

I write in the interests of accuracy concerning two matters mentioned in the recent edition (Winter 07) of the Iron Duke.

In his otherwise excellent article, "Cyprus 1957", Corporal Neil Cairns says that on joining the Battalion in April 1957 he was interviewed by the "OC Signals Platoon", Captain Mike Campbell-Lammerton. He is mistaken. I was Regimental Signals Officer (RSO) throughout our tour in Cyprus and continued in that post well into our subsequent Northern Ireland tour. Mike was a Platoon Commander in Cyprus, indeed it was while practising abseiling from a helicopter in Cyprus that he fell and injured himself so badly.

Coincidentally, on the same page, Colonel Alistair Roberts, when recounting his experiences as Intelligence Officer, cannot remember whether we did any specific training before our 1971 Northern Ireland tour, other than box formation riot drills. Indeed we did. Box formation drills were practised against rioters, made up of the Battalion's families (not difficult for some) but so too were snatch operations, searching, of ground, buildings, individuals and vehicles. My family still speak with some pride of their ability to smuggle guns through VCPs in Catterick!

Neither matter is of much importance but if the Iron Duke is to be a publication of record we might as well try and get it right.

From Richard Ward

Sir,

You may not be aware that there are two former Dukes involved in the strategic management of the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), John Barkshire and myself. John is Chairman of the Trustees whilst I was Chairman of the National Fundraising Committee until January and have now taken on the Chairmanship of the Revenue Committee instead. I first became involved when CEO of Staffordshire TEC when we funded YTS to help with the difficult task of landscaping the old gravel pits. The Dukes have a row of trees each of which commemorates our members who were killed in Northern Ireland and I like to wander among them from time to time - it is very sobering.

On 12 October 2007 HM the Queen, accompanied by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, HRH the Prince of Wales and HRH the Duchess of Cornwall dedicated the Armed Forces Memorial (AFM) which has been built at the NMA. John and I were privileged to attend as guests.

What we did not know until we read the programme was that 2nd Lieutenant C. Kirk of the Dukes was one of the names to be commemorated on the day and that his brother and sister, Michael and Sheila, were invited to attend and met Her Majesty in front of Ernest's name on the Memorial. John and I attempted to seek out Michael and Sheila at the lunch following the dedication, but sadly neither of us could find them among the very large gathering.

As Britain prepared to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 2nd Lieutenant Kirk was killed in action in Korea on 29 May 1953. He had just turned 21 and was the eldest in the family and about to return home. Instead the young life of a handsome, gifted and personable young student and athlete was ended. He died heroically, commanding a forward platoon in the devastating Battle of the Hook, just prior to the Armistice being declared. Latterly his parents, who were devastated by his death, emigrated to Australia.

As you will appreciate the NMA and the AFM will take on more and more significance as the Second World War veterans pass on. The AFM commemorates all those who were killed on duty in the Armed Forces since 1948, including all those who died in Palestine since that particular campaign started prior to 1 January 1948. It is expected that the AFM will become an icon of remembrance, eventually taking on where the Cenotaph leaves off. Around it there is the wonderful maturing landscape of the NMA with its many differing memorials. There is also the unending problem of raising the funds to run and maintain it for which I have the unenviable but rewarding task.

I hope that some of those who read this will take time to visit Alrewas, near Lichfield in Staffordshire, home to the NMA and AFM and consider how they and/or their organisations might make a contribution to their upkeep.

A. J. Stacpoole OSB MC also wrote to remind us that the Battle of the Hook coincided not just with the Coronation but also with the ascent of Everest by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing, and how extraordinary it was that these three amazing events should occur at the same time.

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, West Yorkshire, HX3 5QB.

Huddersfield: 8.00pm last Friday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess; TA Centre, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield.

Secretary: Mrs P. Harley, 11 Wain Park, Berry Brow, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 7QX.

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 20 April, 22 June and 20 September (AGM).

A/Secretary: John Greenway, 35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7AT. Tel: 01252 514786
 E.mail: jbk gandjg@aol.com

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.

* * * * *

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

DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT - ASSOCIATION AND OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

1. **Background** The Duke of Wellington's Regiment amalgamated on 6 June 2006. Such an event clearly has a dramatic affect on the structures and ethos of Regimental Associations and Officers' Dinner Clubs. It is now eighteen months since that event and it is evident that there is amongst the 'Dukes' a strong feeling to preserve the ethos of the Regiment. The Dukes' Association and Officers' Dinner Club will continue in some form for the foreseeable future, although it is inevitable that over time membership will dwindle. At the same time resources to run these two organisations are restricted by the reduction of RHQ staff in Halifax. Both the Association and the Dinner Club are anxious to maintain their activities and ensure their existence for as long as possible. This paper sets out the purpose of these organisations and proposes a logical programme of events that will stand the test of time over the medium term.

2. Purpose of Association and Officers' Dinner Club

Although these two entities are different in character they both promote the values of the Dukes through comradeship and reunion. In the past the emphasis will have been on supporting 1 DWR with comradeship being of secondary importance. To reflect the changes

in structure today these organisations are probably more driven by the desire to meet and foster comradeship than by a need to support 3 Yorks, although CO 3 Yorks believes that the Association adds real value to the ethos of the battalion. It is evident that both are still relevant today, but for reasons of loyalty these drivers are reversed. In short the Association and Dinner Club are in existence today to:

- Foster the values and ethos of the Dukes through comradeship and reunion;
- Support ethos and regimental fabric of the Yorkshire Regiment via 3 Yorks.

3. **The Regimental Association** The Association will continue in its current form maintaining branches in the West Riding and London as before. In broad terms Association events will continue as before with the Halifax office providing most of the support. However it is not yet clear what amount of support these events will attract so there is a degree of taking matters as they occur. Nevertheless a plan looking at least two years ahead is required. The following events are being planned:

a. **Annual Service** Usually held in the spring alternately between Halifax and York. When it is held in York the Officers' Dinner Club hold their dinner on the night previous. There is no intention to change this arrangement thus:

2008 York, 17 May
 2009 Halifax
 2010 York

There has been much discussion over the arrangements after the Annual Service in York. The options are an all ranks affair in a nearby school or an officer's only lunch in St William's College to allow wives to attend with their husbands. It is proposed that this latter format is readopted in 2008 although the lunch will have to be held in the Royal York Hotel. There will be no change to the arrangements at Halifax. Popularity of the York lunch will determine whether this format is continued in future.

b. Association Dinner This is a more controversial event since the formal style of the Dinner in Bradford is not attractive to a group of loyal Dukes who prefer to meet for a drink in more informal surroundings. In 2007 an alternative event was held in Halifax on the same day as the Dinner. There is a clash of approaches both of which promote the values of the Dukes and comradeship. Efforts should be made to combine the event/organisation or at least de-conflict. To that end it is proposed that an informal group get together to resolve as much as possible the areas of difficulty. The following questions need to be answered:

(1) Is it possible to continue the two differing approaches in a venue other than the Bradford Hotel?

(2) If so, what are the options?

(3) If not, then how can the two approaches/events be de-conflicted to mutual satisfaction?

The informal group to include interested parties will be selected and arranged by the President in April. It should aim to have a plan for 2009.

It is too late to change the 2008 event substantially because of hotel bookings etc, so de-confliction may be the best that can be achieved in 2008. Since 3 Yorks are exercising the freedoms of Halifax and Huddersfield on 25 October it has been decided to hold the Annual Dinner in Bradford on that evening. The Bosnia tour of 1994 will be the theme for the evening and Brigadier David Santa Olalla has agreed to attend and to make a short speech.

c. Association Visit to 3 Yorks This is regarded as an important event which will keep both the Association and 3 Yorks in touch with each other. Such a visit must be seen to add value to the Yorkshire Regiment by the mutual cohesion between heritage and today's Regiment.

Unfortunately it is not possible to arrange this visit in the autumn of 2008 and it has therefore been postponed to the early spring of 2009.

d. Other Events It is planned to continue the battlefield tours which have taken place every two years. The tour in 2009 will take place in Spain.

e. Website Consultation It is heartening to see that members are organising a variety of events not mentioned above through the medium of the website. There is a need to explore what members want and what ideas there are for a future management structures. The hard work

done by Colonel Charles Cumberlege and Jono Wood on exploring the way ahead for the OCA is very helpful. It is strongly recommended that the website is used as a vehicle to conduct a web consultation.

4. Officers' Dinner Club Now that we no longer have our own battalion, which periodically organised excellent events that brought together officers and their families, it is proposed to expand the activities of the Officers Dinner Club. The traditional annual dinner will continue, as shown in the attached plan, and David Harrap has agreed to continue running it for the moment. The officers' lunch after the Regimental Service will continue to be run by the Halifax office, subject to an assessment of its viability after this year's lunch. Michael Bray will run events in the south and is setting up a version of the Halifax data base so that he can run the whole process. If there is a desire for more events in Yorkshire, we will need a volunteer to run them.

5. Organisation of the Association

a. To reflect the reduction in the Halifax office, we need to find a volunteer to help with the running of the Association. This person is needed to ensure that the President does not need to be involved in too much detail and to run events, which are beyond the capacity of the Halifax office. He will need to work closely with the Halifax office and will therefore probably need to be living in Yorkshire. In addition to the mailing of this letter, its contents will be put on the Regimental website. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for this post, or recommend someone for the task, should contact Bob Heron at the Halifax office.

b. The residual Regimental funds of the Dukes are managed by the Trustees. It is proposed that concurrent with Trustee meetings those involved in running events for both the Association and the Officers' Dinner Club should meet to decide on plans on a six-monthly basis. Crucial to this will be the presence of the Regimental Webmaster, any new appointment and the Editor of the Iron Duke. In this way a coherent plan can be made on a rolling basis. Other interested parties could also attend. The next meeting of Trustees is in London on 4 April and Regimental Webmaster and Michael Bray have been invited to attend.

6. Conclusion The Association and Officers Club are at a crucial stage and several views are being proposed. This document seeks to canvass a large proportion of opinion and make a plan for the medium term. All concerned wish to perpetuate the ethos of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment but several different and parallel approaches will diffuse the effort of all.

Kedyn Webb-Carter

19 Feb 2008

President of The Regimental Association

	Lead	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Association						
Dinner	RHQ	Bradford 25 October	tbc	tbc	tbc	
Service	RHQ	York 17 May	Halifax	York	Halifax	York
Battalion Visit	RHQ	-	April	-	to be planned	
Battlefield Tour	RHQ	-	Spain	-	Crimea?	-
Officers						
Dinner	(DH)	York 17 May	RMAS	York	Warminster	York
Officers & Wives Lunch	RHQ York (MB) London	York 17 May	London	York	London	York
Officers & Wives Battalion Lunch	(MB)	Warminster tbc	-	Warminster	-	Warminster
Officers & Wives Rugby	(MB)	RMAS tbc	RMAS	RMAS	RMAS	RMAS

(DH) - David Harrap (MB) - Michael Bray

OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

It has been decided to expand the activities of the Officers' Dinner Club and all officers should have received a letter from General Webb-Carter on this subject together with one from Brigadier Michael Bray, who has volunteered to run events in the south of England, seeking officers' views on a menu of events. If you have not received this letter, please telephone RHQ on 01422 361671.

Brigadier Michael Bray

LONDON BRANCH NEWS

On 8 November 2007 the London Branch, represented this time by John and Judith Greenway, did its best to set up the Regimental Plot at Westminster Abbey, in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. Sadly, the up line to Waterloo had been blocked by a fatality, and Jennifer Greenway had to be mobilised to nip from Tooting to the Abbey and persuade the British Legion to part with the Dukes' batch of crosses for insertion in the plot in time for the Duke of Edinburgh's walkabout at 11.00 am. Luckily John Kelly's arrival coincided with Jennifer's and they made a good team. However, before the official Greenways got there, the President of our Association had felt it prudent to photograph the stranger rootling in the Regimental Plot, as possible evidence of vandalism.

In the event, Jennifer did a good job and we are able to reproduce General Evelyn's photograph (opposite) as evidence of that. Jim Paine, the Auketts and the Dowdys also attended and we were glad to be joined by Don and Matt Palmer.

On Remembrance Sunday itself we had our smallest gathering ever, with only Eveline Jagger and the two Greenways present. So this provides an opportunity to remind all Dukes that they might enjoy a visit to Parliament Square on any Remembrance Sunday.



The traffic is halted just before 11.00am and all is peaceful as Big Ben strikes, bugles are sounded in Whitehall and guns are fired in Hyde park. After our own Act of Remembrance we tend to watch the great and good leave Whitehall, before repairing to a local hostelry for a warmer or two. Come and join us.

DUKES LONDON GROUP

The Convenor, Simon Morgan, assembled the Dukes London Group on 20 February 2008 at the Special Forces Club "somewhere near Harrods". In their customary dozy way members were slow to advise the Convenor that they would attend, but a late rush of emails brought nearly 30 to the gathering, a good turnout. Among the attendees were Don Palmer, our host at the Club (which has looked after us very well on a number of occasions, for which we are suitably grateful), the Editor, feebly calling for copy for the next edition of the Iron Duke - as he does - Michael Bray, Matt Palmer, Charles and Jonathan Cumberlege, Alex Liddel, Rob Preston, Toby Smart with his father Bill (not the circus chap surely?), Stuart Dick, Andy Shand, Andy McNeilis, Paul Rumball, Richard Holroyd, John Bailey and Adam Wheatley, the last two named after a long absence. Welcome back, and welcome to new members Mark Crawford and Tom Spilman.

In addition there were several guests from other regiments and even an ex policeman - indeed the evening was something of a spooks' benefit night.

The next meeting is on Monday 23 June at the BT Tower Restaurant.

NEW ZEALAND VISIT

RV in Queenstown, New Zealand

Where better for 'old Dukes' to meet than in Queenstown, New Zealand. Here (Brigadier) Dick Mundell makes contact with the Jenkins' brothers in February. Both were short service officers in the 1970s, when Dick was a Company Commander and 2IC of the 1st Battalion.

Philip in the centre recalls his service in Burma Company from 1975 in Northern Ireland and Germany; and thanks the Dukes for putting him in charge of Exercise Snow Queen for two winters in Bavaria, where he 'honed' his skiing skills. He now manages a prestigious hotel in New Zealand.

Mike on the right served before his brother from 1972 with Alma Company in Catterick, Aldershot, in Northern Ireland and on the Cyprus UN tour; remembering the escorting of the Turkish refugees north. He much regrets that Michael Cuss kept him out of the 1st XV! He now runs his own company in Bermuda.



Left to right: Donald Palmer fails to impress the Chairman; Biddy Dowdy (back to camera) chats to Judith and Jennifer Greenway; while Mac Dowdy (in hat) tries to pick up the joke being shared by Colin Aukett and John Kelly (in beret).



Keeping Queenstown beautiful!

THE 'LOST' PHOTO

On page 102 of the last issue you were asked to identify who, when and where.

The photo was taken at Jungle Warfare School, Kota Baru, Malaya in 1969. It shows a section of the Recce Platoon, and from left to right: Paddy Dunne, Dick Price, Bob Heron, Jock Lang, Ron Barlow (on the roof of the vehicle) and Eddie Sharp (visible through the window). There is one other figure almost entirely concealed behind the vehicle whom we are unable to identify, but we think it might be Rod Coates.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS / *NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mr J. S. Bailes, 70 Malines Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 7RS.

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

Mr D. H. Cole, Church Farm House, Crambe, York, YO60 7JR.

Captain R. J. M. Pugh, Cedar House, Rectory Road, Oakley, Basingstoke, RG23 7ED.

Mr T. J. Thompson, 48 Braithwaite Drive, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 6HN.

* Mr Don Campbell, First Company Solutions, 223A King Cross Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 3JL.

* Mrs M. Lister, 54 Leyland House, Parkwood Rise, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 4RF.

* Mrs F. Loynes, 5 Hawthorn Drive, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6QG.

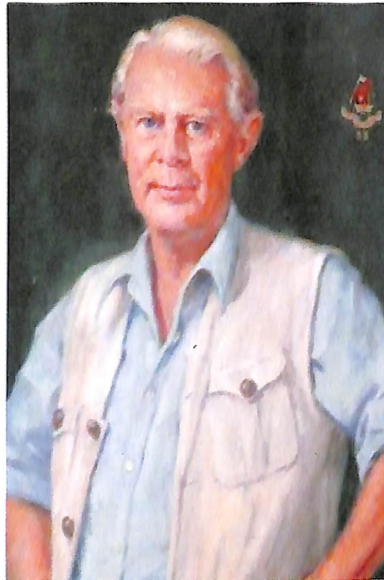
Obituaries

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

Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege

Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege died on 22 October 2007 in Easingwold, North Yorkshire after a short illness. He was born to Colonel C. R. T. 'Dick' and Constance Cumberlege on 13 June 1934 whilst his father was Adjutant of 2 DWR in India. He was the brother of Charles and uncle of Jonathan, both of whom served in the Dukes.

His early education was at Bedford School (the 'Inkey') and St Neots in Hampshire before going on to Bradfield College in Berkshire. He was a high grade athlete throughout his time at school, but excelled at cricket both at school and later. After leaving school he joined the regular army and, following initial training at Winchester and Eaton Hall, he entered RMA Sandhurst in 1953. Having reached Senior Under Officer of Blenheim Company, he was commissioned into the Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar in 1955. Colonel Peter Mitchell writes: "...he joined with a glowing reputation. He



immediately played in the Battalion (cricket) side which was very strong at the time, with Charlie Grieve (Oxford Authentic), John Raybould (Oxford Blue in 1960), Jim Faithful (Cambridge Crusader), Mike Hardy (Army and Combined Services), David Gilbert Smith (Public Schools XI), myself and others." He went on to play for the MCC, Berkshire, Yorkshire Gentlemen, Free Foresters, the 5 Cs, Nigeria and Ghana and later became a lifetime member of the Kenya Kongonis. He played for the Army against the TA in 1957 and 1958.

His early Army service included commanding the Mortar Platoon and being Adjutant of the 1st Battalion in Colchester which included the 1961 five month tour in Kenya. Major-General Donald Isles writes of Jeremy at that time:

"I mostly remember him as Adjutant to Tony Firth when he proved himself to be a strict, but fair, disciplinarian and most capable of handling paper and having, importantly, an excellent relationship with the senior

Company Commanders in the Battalion. The detail of running the battalion - Quarter Guard mountings, saluting, Regimental Police, etc were, under his influence and direction, invariably of a high standard. At this time as OC 'D' Company, he and I had a valuable accord and I received much wise help from him. To my mind he was a thoroughly good Adjutant in the best tradition of those worthy Dukes who had preceded him. Later, as CO, I remember well Jeremy commanding Alma Company during an exercise in Denmark, where on one occasion Jeremy's inspired grasp of mechanised infantry tactics saved the Battalion having to withdraw in an unplanned and disorderly retreat."

Jeremy's other Regimental tours included commanding Burma Company in Hong Kong, Catterick and Northern Ireland. His CO at the time, General Sir Charles Huxtable, writes: "He was a splendid Company Commander, in a very strong team at the time which also included John Greenway and Dick Mundell. As CO, I knew that any task given to his Company would be completed as required; he was totally reliable and gave me great confidence in his Company's ability to achieve what they were asked to do. His and his Company's domination of the New Lodge Road area of North Belfast in the summer of 1971, especially after the internment operation, was most impressive. I certainly missed his company and his thoughtful ideas when his spell as a Company Commander came to an end".

After attending the Staff College at Camberley in 1967 he became a member of the Directing Staff (DS) in Ghana, the first of his three tours with overseas Staff Colleges. He went on to be GSO 2 Ops at HQ4 Division in BAOR, an instructor at the School of Infantry, two years as a DS at the Nigerian Staff College before commanding 7 UDR (City of Belfast Battalion) from 1977 to 1979. After postings as GSO1 Trg at HQ NE District, York, and Ex Director at HQ British Forces Hong Kong, he began his last appointment in Kenya as Chief Advisor to the Kenyan Staff College in 1983.

He retired from the Army in 1986 and having fallen in love with Kenya, worked there until 1997 in a safari company which planned and guided overseas visitors on professional wildlife safaris all over the country. For his last four years in Kenya, he specialized in bird life and became the resident ornithologist/naturalist at the Windsor Golf and Country Club on the outskirts of Nairobi. During this time the late Lord Deedes often stayed at the WG & CC. After one such visit he wrote in his weekly column in the Daily Telegraph "Our guide Colonel Jeremy Cumberlege ... explained some 1100 bird species in Kenya to us. ...He claims that bird watching is only a hobby, but confessed that he had spent something like 500 man hours in the primary forest through which he now led us. For twenty minutes we sat on upturned logs talking in whispers. The smaller the bird, the longer its name. He told us that the eye of the Vulture was equal to reading a copy of the Daily Telegraph from five miles up'.

Jeremy retained his ties with Kenya even after he and LizAnne had left the country in 1997 to settle in Yorkshire.

He represented Kenya on the Commonwealth Council of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League 1997-2002, and was a member of the Overseas Forum of the Royal British Legion. He had already been for nine years the Chairman and later President of the Royal British Legion in Kenya. He is remembered by a friend in Kenya: "Jeremy was one of those now rare breeds of Englishmen - upright, honest, straightforward and essentially kind - a Pukka Sahib in every sense. We both feel privileged to have been among his friends. He will be very much missed ...by so many whose lives he has touched over the years. As this next Remembrance Day draws near, we will think of, and picture him, standing to attention, impeccably dressed, with his bowler hat, laying the wreath for the British Legion."

Jeremy had a variety of interests and hobbies of which ornithology was perhaps dearest to him. But the clear hallmark of his interests throughout his life was that if it was worth doing at all, it was worth doing properly. Whether that be gardening in his married quarter where his vegetables were something to behold; or his study of the Peninsular War (notably the Lines of Torres Vedras) the results of which now merit being in an official record office. He applied the same fastidiousness to his fishing, knowledge of wine and photography; and indeed to his duties as churchwarden to his beloved St Peter's Church, Dalby in North Yorkshire.

A man of high ideals and tradition with a strong faith, Jeremy was in some ways not an easy person to get to know well. He held a certain reserve, even shyness, which concealed a kind and caring nature which became all too apparent during the few final weeks of his illness.

There is no doubt that the last three years of his life were blighted by a degree of misfortune, amongst which included a vicious assault by a burglar in his own home, and LizAnne's prolonged health issues. Throughout all this Jeremy kept his sense of humour and the way in which he coped with his own illness, which could only ever have had one outcome, was an example to the many who visited him in hospital.

He married LizAnne (nee Leahy) in 1960. They have two sons, Marc now living near Winchester, and Peter who lives in Sydney, Australia, and five grandchildren.

Major S. H. Kirk MBE

Sidney Kirk died in hospital in Goole on 10 January 2008 aged 78 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. A funeral service and burial took place on 18 January at St David's Church, Airmyn, attended by a large gathering of family, friends and ex members of the Dukes and Green Howards. A tribute was read by Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robins and there were other readings by his son Robert and by grandsons Tom and Michael.



Sidney Kirk was born and brought up in the Goole area but decided in 1947, age 17, to join the army. He did his initial training at the Dukes Depot in Halifax and later at the Yorkshire and Northumbrian Brigade Training Centre at Catterick. In December 1947, on completion of his training, he joined a draft for the 1st Battalion Green Howards in the Sudan, moving later to Egypt and then on to Malaya where the battalion was engaged in operations against the communist inspired insurgents. Having been promoted to Lance Corporal in the Regimental Police shortly after joining the battalion, he later received further promotion and whilst in Malaya became the Provost Sergeant. On completion of this three-year overseas tour he joined 1 DWR in January 1951 in Chisleton.

In December of that year the battalion moved to Minden as part of 6 Armoured Division but very shortly after arrival were warned for Korea. In Korea Sid was a Platoon Sergeant with C Company and his first Platoon Commander was Second Lieutenant, later General Sir Charles Huxtable. An extract from a tribute by General Charles reads as follows:

"I first met Sid in 1952 when I joined the battalion at Pontefract, pretty well straight from Sandhurst prior to our departure for Korea. Sid was then Platoon Sergeant of 9 Platoon and I was to be the Platoon Commander. As a just-hatched 2nd Lieutenant, I could not have been more fortunate than to have Sid as my Platoon Sergeant. He was a very experienced NCO, with a real understanding of what made a platoon effective. He made it quite clear to me that he knew what we were about even if I did not but he did it in the most discrete fashion. To put it simply he taught me all I ever knew about being a proper infantry soldier. He was highly efficient, he paid great attention to all the details of platoon life, he had a very fine tactical sense and, in addition to all that he was great fun to be with. If anyone taught me to be a good soldier it was Sid."

After a year in Korea Sid moved with the battalion to Gibraltar to complete the then routine three-year overseas tour. It was here that he met and married Joan, who was an Army nurse.

In 1955 the battalion returned to the UK again based at Chisleton but the following year, at the start of the Suez Crisis, were flown to Malta at short notice. It was whilst in Malta that Sid, now a Colour Sergeant, received news that Joan had given birth to their twin boys, Richard and Robert. On the abrupt end of the Suez operation the Dukes as part of 3 Brigade were moved to Cyprus where they spent a year on operations against the EOKA terrorists.

On return to the UK in late 1957 the battalion was based in Palace Barracks, Northern Ireland. Whilst there Sid was promoted to WOII and became CSM of 'B' Company. A move to Colchester in 1959 was followed by unaccompanied six-month tours in Kenya in 1960 and again in 1961. With the end of National Service 'B' Company became the first all regular Company, with Sid as the CSM, ready for deployment on a nine month unaccompanied tour in British Honduras in August 1962. Major, later Major General, Donald Isles, was the Company Commander at that time. An extract from a

tribute by General Donald reads as follows:

"Although I first met Sid in Gibraltar in the early 1950s it was not until the battalion's second tour in Kenya in 1961 that Sid and I came together as a team. In my opinion there was no better man than Sid to be CSM of this new, all regular Company. He was a strict disciplinarian but also a very kind, scrupulously fair, understanding and sympathetic man, respected by officers and soldiers alike. His influence pervaded the whole company and it was in great measure due to him that the company's tour in British Honduras was so successful. I was indeed, very lucky and fortunate to have such a splendid CSM. Every task was carried out in just the way he wanted it and he always sought after perfection. He was a great man and a great Duke."

In August 1963 Sid was promoted WOI and became the RSM of the 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. An unaccompanied tour in Swaziland followed shortly afterwards and after a spell in the UK a move to Cyprus as one of the resident battalions. On being commissioned in 1966 Sid returned to the Dukes in Osnabrück, completed yet another unaccompanied tour in Cyprus as part of the UN Force in 1967, moved back to the UK with the battalion in early 1968 and on to Hong Kong later the same year. He commanded the Recce Platoon in UK and became the Motor Transport Officer in Hong Kong.

From March '71 to August '77 Sid again served with 1 Green Howards in BAOR, UK, Northern Ireland and Berlin. When Quartermaster of the Battalion his Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel, later Field Marshall, Lord Inge, a very able but demanding officer. Sid was significantly awarded the MBE at the completion of this tour in recognition of his outstanding service.

From August '77 to August '81 Sid, now a Major, was on the Staff of HQ 2 Division in BAOR and later, until his retirement in March '84, was Quartermaster of the King's Division Depot at Strensall. On leaving the regular Army he became a Permanent Staff Admin Officer with the 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers in York until final retirement in September 1989.

This summary of his service covers a very long and distinguished military career of over forty years, with service in three of the regular battalions of The Yorkshire Brigade, in a wide variety of overseas stations and with an exceptionally large number of unaccompanied emergency tours plus a final tour with The Yorkshire Volunteers.

Sid Kirk was a diligent, reliable and conscientious man who gave of his best no matter what role or rank he held and he expected the same from others. There were no half measures with him, but an occasionally stern and demanding manner was tempered with a fair, firm and sensible approach. He was a devoted husband and a caring father who took great pride in the progress and achievements of his sons Robert and Richard. In recent years he has struggled bravely with his illness and he fought hard with dignity, great courage, and without complaint right to the end. He was highly respected by all who knew him and will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Arthur 'Robbie' Burns DSO, OBE, QPM, CPM

Robbie Burns was awarded the DSO for his valour and leadership when commanding A Company 1 DWR in the final assault on Monte Cece, as the 8th Army fought its way up Italy. The Dukes' attack on the feature on 6-7 October 1944 had stalled short of the crest, with the two leading companies pinned down by intense spandau machine gun fire. By dawn, A Company was dug in 250 yards from the crest, while B Company was withdrawn under an artillery smoke screen.

The CO, Lieutenant Colonel F. P. St M. Shiels, decided to renew the attack on 8 October from A Company's position on the western approach with C Company - hitherto in reserve - in the lead. The attack began at 1530 but C Company's commander and the CO were wounded, the latter fatally. Captain Burns took charge, reorganised both Company positions then led an assault by two platoons of his own, with close fire support. In this extraordinary action Private Burton won the Victoria cross, and Douglas Emery (see below) the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The Germans counter-attacked twice, but Burns and his men held the crest.

He served with the Dukes until the end of the Italian campaign and accompanied the Battalion to Palestine where the end of the war in Europe had sparked the Jewish terrorist campaign against the British authorities governing under League of Nations mandate. On demobilisation in 1946 he went back to his police career, pounding the beat in Derby. By the early 1950s he was the Detective Inspector in charge of Derby CID; in 1956 he was seconded to the Colonial police to be an Assistant Commissioner in Cyprus during the EOKA terrorist emergency, for which he was awarded the Colonial Police Medal. After his return in 1958 he was appointed Deputy Chief Constable of Norwich and worked his way up to Chief Constable of Suffolk, retiring in 1976. His service also brought him the awards of the OBE and the Queens Police Medal.

He died on 19 February 2008 aged 90.

Douglas Emery DCM, BEM

Douglas Emery died in Southend on Sea on 11 March 2008, aged 89. He enlisted in the Essex Regiment in October 1930 and served in Palestine until February 1942 before becoming in one of a large batch of Essex men who were sent to reinforce 1 DWR in Italy in 1944. Others were Herbert Beckett (obituary Iron Duke 244) and Ken Walker (obituary Iron Duke 255). All three, who served in Italy under Lieutenant Colonel Brian Webb-Carter, were later active members of the London Branch of the Association.

Douglas earned the award of the DCM as platoon sergeant in A Company at the capture of Monte Cece, having taken the place of his wounded platoon commander. The platoon runner, Private Burton, received the Victoria Cross in the same action. An extract from the citation for his DCM reads:

"...When twenty yards from the crest the leading platoon was halted by concentrated fire from four spandaus firing from the summit. Sergeant Emery, who was acting platoon commander, was ordered to take his platoon though the leading platoon and assault the crest.

He complied with this order immediately and with himself in the van, he led the platoon onto and over the crest, accounting for at least one spandau crew either killed or wounded who fell to his own tommy gun. This assault was entirely successful and was in large part due this NCO's outstanding dash and courage in the face of withering enemy MG fire. Sergeant Emery immediately reorganised and consolidated his platoon, which had suffered heavy casualties. Almost before this was completed the enemy counter-attacked with some fifteen to twenty men. Once again Sergeant Emery took up a position in front of his platoon and, although exposed to heavy enemy small arms fire, engaged the attackers with his tommy gun and directed the fire of his platoon to such effect that the counter-attack was quickly and completely broken..."



Demobbed in 1946 he returned to Essex to work for a number of years in the local gasworks. In his fifties he joined HM Customs and Excise and clearly did good work, earning the award of the BEM in 1983. Douglas's service of cremation on 20 March was attended by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter and the present and a past Chairman of the London Branch, John Greenway and David Miller. The full chapel reflected the distinguished life of a good and well loved man.

Dick Glazebrook

Dick Glazebrook, who was in The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire, joined the Dukes as 2IC on the Battalion's return from Hong Kong at the end of 1970 and served with the Battalion for the next two years, covering our first two Northern Ireland tours and Exercise Sun Pirate in the Caribbean. As 2IC he was a star. He was a really excellent Staff Officer who had a great eye for detail and clarity of thought. His instruction for the Battalion rifle meeting in Catterick was a comprehensive masterpiece that left no one in any doubt as to who was to do what, where and when. Similarly, his instructions for Exercise Sun Pirate were exemplary.

However, it is not as a staff officer that most of us will remember him, but as a fine infantry soldier on operations and as a man who could turn his hand to anything. Belfast in the summer of 1971 was an extraordinary city with bombs, riots, fires and shooting incidents occurring nightly. I suspect none of us will forget the sight of Dick stalking the streets of Belfast around the New Lodge Road and Duncairn Gardens area armed with a large sporting rifle, known throughout the Battalion as the "elephant gun" with a row of bullets stuck on his flak jacket. As far as I know the elephant gun was never discharged in anger in Northern Ireland but it made quite an impression on any one who met him on patrol, either in Belfast or around the lanes of South Armagh the following year.

Those of us who were serving in Battalion HQ with him are unlikely either to forget the supply of 'goodies' which, with the help of his wife Carol in the delivery chain, added a very welcome touch of luxury and variety to our otherwise very regulation rations.

Dick was enormous fun, a great enthusiast, bursting with ideas. His carpentry skills were remarkable and he made some very lovely pieces, I remember a backgammon board he spent many quiet hours working on. At home, both on their houseboat on the Thames and around the house in Sunningdale, Dick always had some project in train which invariably involved the family and any visitors who happened to be passing.

Dick Glazebrook died on 7 March 2008 after a long illness which sadly prevented him enjoying his retirement as he and his family would have wished.

John Gwyn Richards

Gwyn Richards died in Swansea on 20 February 2008 in his 83rd year. He served in the Far East in 146 Regiment RAC (DWR) from 1944 until the Regiment's disbandment in 1947, whereupon he served in 7th Royal Tank Regiment until his demobilisation later that year. The London Branch of the Regimental Association enjoyed his company in the 1990s, particularly when he got together with his fellow 9 DWR veteran, Tom Harper (obituary Iron Duke 259) with whom he served as driver. But these meetings became a rarity after he moved to his native Swansea, where in due course he became President of both the Burma Star Association and the Royal British Legion.

Colonel T. G. (Geoffrey) Brennan CBE, DSO, late RA

Geoffrey Brennan died in Cornwall on 31 December 2007 aged 98. He commanded 20 Field Regiment in Korea, in direct support of 29 Infantry Brigade and the Dukes on the Hook. He was an Australian, born in Melbourne, attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon where he won the Sword of Honour Commissioned into the Royal Artillery he saw service in India until 1938, and later was AA&QMG HQ 49th (West Riding) Division 1943 to 1945. For his service in Normandy onwards he was awarded an OBE and MID.

He was given command of 20 Field Regiment in Troon in 1951, and moved the Regiment to Korea via Colchester and Hong Kong. On Christmas Day 1952 the Regiment announced its arrival by firing a Mike target at a known enemy position.

20th Field was in continuous action until the ceasefire and when 29 Brigade was in Corps Reserve it gave direct support to other units including, unusually, and American Division. Colonel Geoffrey's leadership and demand for perfection was to play a major part in the superb support his Regiment gave from 12 May, when the Dukes relieved the Black Watch on the Hook,



until the Chinese launched an attack which was described as 'awesome in its intensity' on 28 May 1953.

The close support fire plan for the battle, worked out by CO 1 DWR Lieutenant Colonel Ramsay Bunbury, and Major Bill Mackay, Battery Commander 45 Field Battery, was executed by Colonel Geoffrey using three field regiments and mortars. They fired a total of 28,400 rounds, mainly on the Hook position, decimating waves of Chinese who tried to overrun this key position. Forming up areas and lines of communication were the province of CRA, using a cocktail of medium and heavy howitzers. For his service in Korea Colonel Brennan was awarded the DSO.

In a letter in 2003 he wrote "When Ramsay Bunbury wrote to me from Pusan when your splendid Regiment was about to embark on leaving Korea, he said he was going to the cemetery when he would include the 20 Field Regiment casualties in his tribute to the Dukes who had fallen in the battle for the Hook. He ended by saying 'thank you for winning our battle for us'. In my reply I said your chaps won the battle. We were proud to have helped."

He is survived by his wife Irene ('Ba'), two sons and a step daughter.

RHQ has also been informed of the following recent deaths:

Norman Field. The former Great Britain rugby league player died from cancer on 13 January 2008, at the age of 71. Norman, who was a National Serviceman in the 1st Battalion 1958-60 and a 1st XV rugby union player, also went on to play rugby league for Batley, Featherstone, Lockwood and Yorkshire. He played for Great Britain at Wembley in the first match against Australia in 1963.

William Townend. Former Sergeant Bill Townend died on 29 October 2007 at the age of 92. Bill served in the 2nd Battalion in India and Burma between 1938-43. He was a survivor of the battle and long retreat from the Sittang Bridge, Burma, in 1942.

Denis Knowles. A National Serviceman in the Dukes, Denis died in January 2008, aged 81. He first served in the UK with the 1st Battalion from November 1944, to July 1945, before being transferred to the 2nd Battalion in India, serving there until October 1947.

William J. Rutherford. A member of the HQ Company MT Platoon in Korea, died on 25 July 2007.

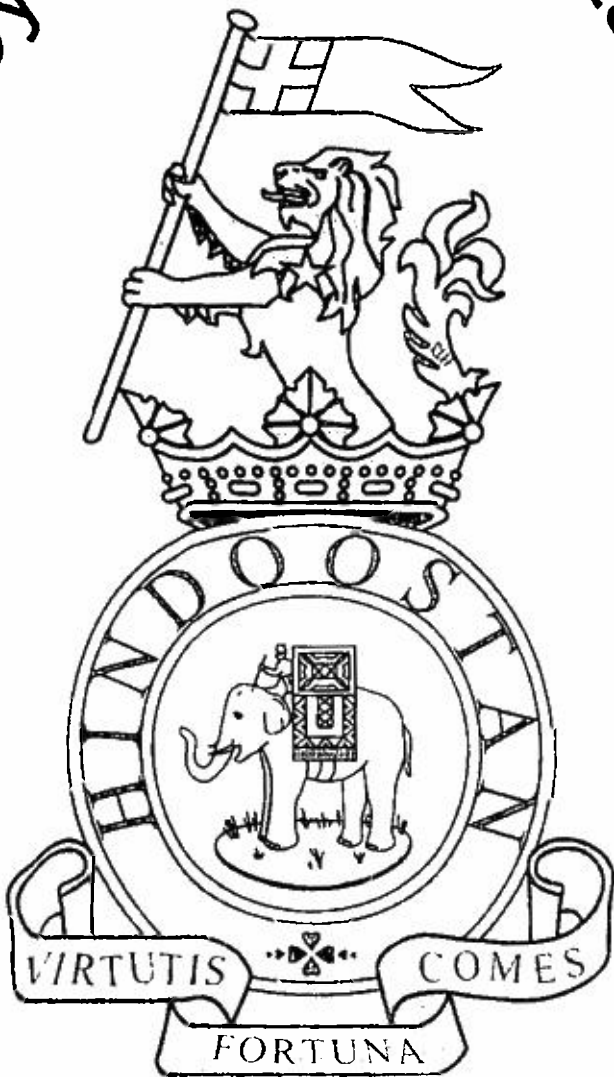
Philip Holt. Former Sergeant, known by many as 'Tim', died on 9 November 2007, at the age of 80. Tim joined the 1st Battalion in Catterick 1947 and also served in the Middle East, Strensall (as a Corporal Instructor) and Germany (as Platoon Sergeant), until his discharge in 1952.

Harold Fox. Harold, who was a member of HQ Company MT Platoon in Korea, was tragically killed in a car accident on 22 September 2007. His wife May Fox also died in the accident.

Stuart Thompson. Stuart, who was a Corporal in the 1st Battalion (1960s), died on 25 February 2008.

Bazil Falck. Baz was a member of 1 Platoon, A Company, in Korea. He died on 1 September 2007.

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The Dukes' Regimental Association

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2008

Wednesday 16 April	Army Football Final, Aldershot
Saturday 3 May	Strensall Social, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, from 1830 hrs
Friday 16 May	Officers' Dinner, Station Hotel, York
Saturday 17 May	Annual Service, York Minster, 1000 hrs Officers' Lunch, Station Hotel, York
Friday 4 July	'The Hindoostan Open' Golf Day, Surrey National (near M25/M23 junction)
Saturday 18 October	Freedom March, Skipton (a.m.) Freedom March, Bradford (p.m.)
Tuesday 21 October	Freedom March, Barnsley (p.m.)
Thursday 23 October	Freedom March, Sheffield (p.m.)
Saturday 25 October	Freedom March, Huddersfield (a.m.) Freedom March, Halifax (p.m.) Reunion Dinner and Annual General Meeting

**For further information on any of these events visit the
Association's website**

www.dwr.org.uk