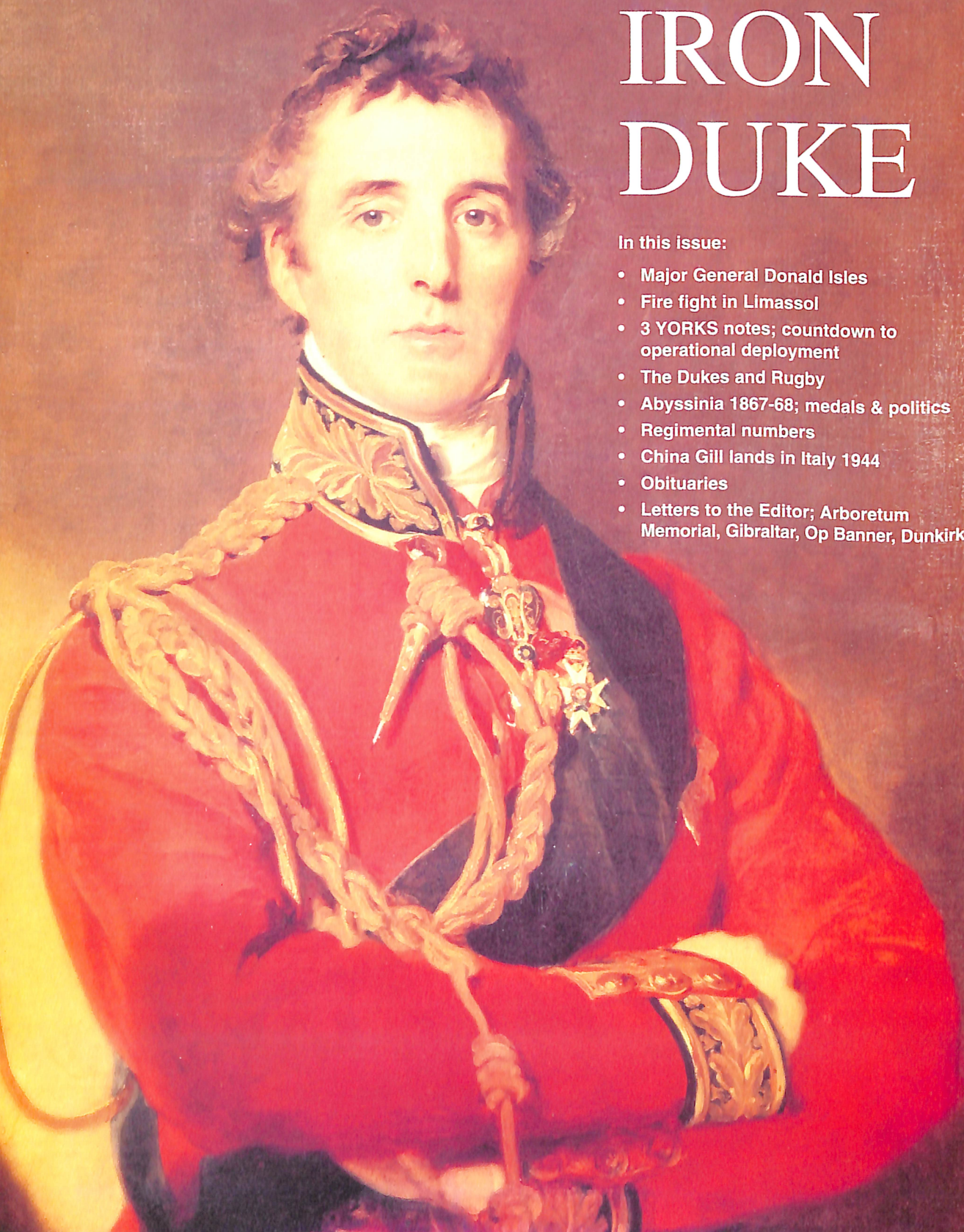


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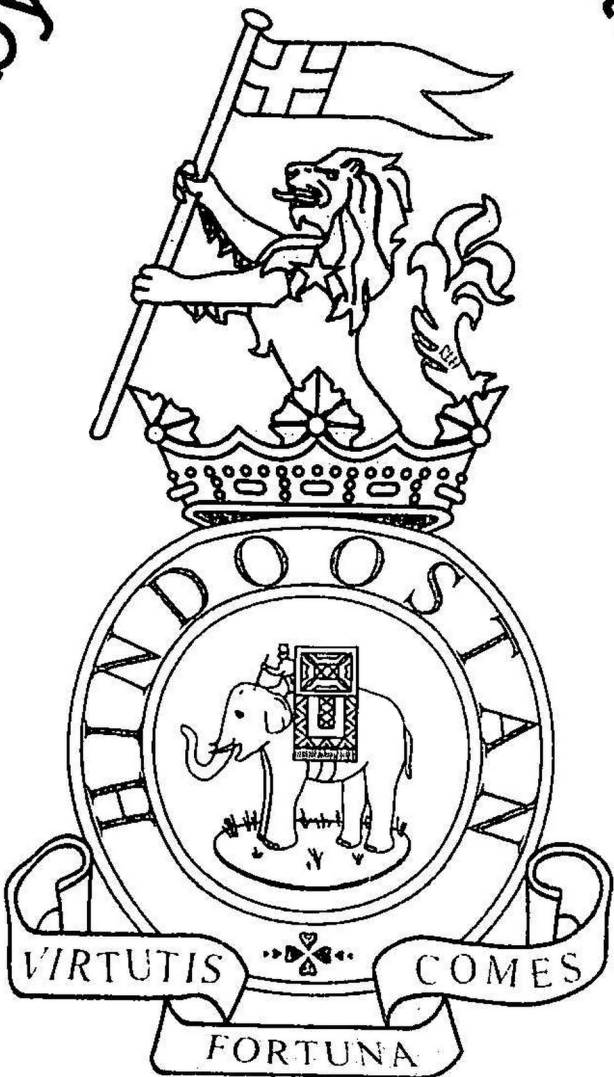
THE IRON DUKE

In this issue:

- Major General Donald Isles
- Fire fight in Limassol
- 3 YORKS notes; countdown to operational deployment
- The Dukes and Rugby
- Abyssinia 1867-68; medals & politics
- Regimental numbers
- China Gill lands in Italy 1944
- Obituaries
- Letters to the Editor; Arboretum Memorial, Gibraltar, Op Banner, Dunkirk



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OFFICERS OF 2/6 BATTALION THE WEST RIDING REGIMENT



Reported in the Keighley News on 26 June 1915: "In a letter to Mr. J. H. Smith, electrician of Cavendish Street, Keighley, Private Horace Reynolds of 2/6 Battalion West Riding Regiment (Keighley Territorials) at present in training at Thoresby Park and a former member of Keighley YMCA and Boy Scouts, states that the Regiment has been presented by Messrs Beaver and Son of Oxenhope with a big brindie bulldog as the battalion mascot." The dog seems very at home sitting quietly at the feet of Lt Col and Hon Col R. E. Williamson. 2/6 Bn formed part of 186 Infantry Brigade, in the 62ND West Riding Division. They deployed to France in April 1915 and remained in France or Flanders until the end of the war, seeing much action. It is not reported if the dog went with them.

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

Vol. LXXXIV

Spring 2009

No. 266

BUSINESS NOTES

Published twice a year - Spring and Autumn.

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

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**Copy for the 2009 Autumn issue should
reach the Editor by 8 September 2009**

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Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

EDITORIAL

Major General Donald Isles CB, OBE, DL

General Donald's obituary follows this editorial, itself followed by an article he wrote as Commanding Officer 1 DWR in 1968. As a plain speaking Yorkshireman he would not appreciate flowery sentiments and overblown praise. Nevertheless, all that was best in the Dukes was encapsulated in him and the Regiment will sorely miss him.

3 Yorks Operational Tour

We can only feel for Lieut Colonel Tom Vallings, CO 3 Yorks, as he trains the Battalion for a curious bundle of disparate tasks in Iraq, and even those he thinks he knows about are speculative it seems. He probably feels he has a firmer grasp of the operational requirements of the projected 2012 Afghanistan tour, what with Ross Kemp's TV programme and all the media coverage, than that in Iraq starting in two months time. The governments of the UK and Iraq are bending their minds to the details; we can be sure this is a comfort to him. We can also be sure that it is scant comfort that he and his men are political pawns no less than 1 DWR was when sent to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) to confront King Theodore at Magdala. On the bright side, that turned out rather well with two VCs and a third of a drum, not to mention pockets allegedly full of loot (see pages 26/27). As the CO says himself, the Battalion "can do any job anywhere in the world given the right resource". Good luck.

New President of the Dukes' Association

It has just been announced that Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, will step down as President of the Association after the Officers' Dinner at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on 11 June. General Evelyn has served the Dukes with huge energy and enthusiasm, firstly as Colonel and, for the last two years or so, as President of the Association. As most readers will surely know his father commanded the 1st Battalion in Italy during WW2.

He will be succeeded by Colonel Nick Borwell OBE, who took command of 1 DWR in September 1999, having served as Platoon Commander, Intelligence and Operations Officer, Mortar Officer and commanded both Corunna and Alma companies.

We will be able to say more about both of these senior officers in the next edition, and meantime a very big thank you to General Evelyn and a warm welcome to Colonel Nick.

No Place Like Home

With all the focus on the military prospects for 3 Yorks, it would be instructive, or anyway interesting, to

hear something of the families and the benefits that have come out of settling each infantry battalion in a single, permanent location. Are families more settled and content? Have children's educational standards, no longer affected by constant changes of school, risen? How many men have married local girls? Are local young men keen to serve with the battalion in their home area, even though it bears a title of a place far away?

These thoughts arise from the frequent press reports I see here in Kent about the Highlanders and Gurkhas that we have in the county. It would not surprise me one bit to find the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders being granted the Freedom of Canterbury.

The seemingly random scattering of the old county regiments throughout the UK still seems odd to some of us old timers. It probably doesn't matter; the Dukes were hardly ever in Yorkshire anyway in the last forty years or so, apart from a couple of tours to Catterick, but we never settled down anywhere and thought of it as home, which some battalions must now have done, even if they are constantly on the hop operationally.

I, at least, and perhaps others, would like to hear how the forecast benefits of the last set of far reaching changes have turned out. One hopes for the better. Perhaps a reader can tell us?

A Poor State of Affairs

Yet again the bad state of Army quarters is in the headlines; we hoped not to hear about this again and that something had by now been done to put matters right. The Minister assures us that he is addressing the matter. He quoted figures and targets and dispersed partial successes and obstacles on the path, but should not expect a round of applause. A decent house (or barrack block) is not a favour to be bestowed randomly on some not others; it is an entitlement of servicemen and women who are very busy serving their country and we should be able to take for granted that it is being provided. That this still seems not to be the case for everyone so entitled is a poor state of affairs.

Photographs

I hope readers have noticed that we are now able to use quite a lot of colour photographs, and a good way to send them in is by email. However, in the last six months or so I have been sent some which are HUGE files, far too big to be easily received or transferred. If you want to email it please reduce your camera image size to the PC (1024 x 768 or thereabouts) option, and anyway not more than 1600 x 1200, or I may not be able to receive the photo, let alone use it. If they are bigger than that please send on a disk. Many thanks.

MAJOR GENERAL DONALD ISLES CB, OBE, DL

General Donald died on Wednesday 12 November 2008 at the age of 84; he had been unwell for some time. A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St Andrew's Church, Denton, Lincolnshire on Thursday

20 November. A tribute was delivered by General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, DL, and members of the family presented some of their memories to the packed congregation.

Donald Edward Isles was the son of Harold and Kathleen Isles, educated at Roundhay School, Leeds, and was reading chemistry at Leeds University before enlisting for war service in 1942. Commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, he joined the 1st Battalion towards the end of the fighting in the Anzio beachhead in 1944. He commanded a platoon throughout the rest of the campaign and was wounded at Ronta on the Gothic Line in September 1944.

He recovered in time to join 1 DWR in Palestine in 1945 where some two years of dangerous counter terrorist operations against Irgun Zvbai Leumi and the Stern Gang awaited them. He was adjutant of the Battalion in Palestine and later in Khartoum.

On return to a junior staff appointment in England in 1948 he resumed his rugby career, playing for Yorkshire and being twice capped for the Army in 1950, playing against the RAF and the French Army. He was one of the first infantry officers to qualify at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, as a technical staff officer. The usual alternating appointments at regimental duty and the staff concluded as assistant military attaché in Paris from 1963, before taking over command of 1 DWR in Germany.

His first task was to convert the unit from the wheeled Humber armoured vehicles to the new tracked FV432, which had a number of teething problems. He also took the Battalion to join the UN force in Cyprus (see accompanying article). The two communities were then still interspersed throughout the Island (this was before the large scale Turkish intervention in 1974, which resulted in a division of the Island in 1975 in which, coincidentally, troops from 1DWR were again heavily involved) and incidents such as that at Kophinou near the south coast and in Limassol were his chief problems.

After promotion to Brigadier he became assistant defence attaché in Washington, and subsequently, in 1975, became Director General Weapons (Army) in the Ministry of Defence. This had previously always been an appointee from the Royal Artillery, but his expertise, gained from his time in Washington, of tank gunnery and armour, made him the ideal man for the role. He was closely involved in competition between the British and German defence industries for the contract to provide the 120mm gun for the main battle tanks of the British, German and US armies, and in the trials to which the competing weapon systems were subjected. Whilst disappointed that the Americans chose the smoothbore option, he was pleased that the British Army chose the more versatile rifled-barrel weapon. He was also involved in development of Chobham armour and the 155mm gun. He retired from the Army in 1978.

He then joined the Swiss Oerlikon company BMARC, manufacturing rapid firing 20mm to 35mm cannon, based near Stamford in Lincolnshire. The company's products were fitted to the ships and boats



of many navies and after the experience of the Falklands war, the 20mm and 30mm weapons were adopted by the Royal Navy.

General Donald was Colonel of the Dukes 1975 -1982, Colonel Commandant of the King's Division 1975 - 1979, Honorary Colonel 3 Yorks (V) 1977-1983 and of Leeds University OTC 1985 - 1990 and was President of the Lincolnshire Royal British Legion 1990 - 1996. He continued his strong links to the West Riding as Patron of the Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association (founded 1887) and as a regular diner with the 5 DWR Club. His advice and support were constantly

in demand from a wide range of people, including those seeking advice on leaving the Services for civilian employment.

He is survived by his wife Sheila, whom he married in 1948, and by three sons, one of whom, Lieutenant Colonel Tim Isles OBE, followed him into the Regiment, and a daughter.

General Donald is described by his sons and daughter as being a kind and caring father, a font of sound advice and an inspiration for their own lives. Together Donald and Sheila provided a strong and secure family home for which they are ever grateful. Despite at times long periods away from home necessitated by the exigencies of army life, Donald is always remembered for the time he unflinchingly made to write to all his children on at least a weekly basis, from whatever unaccompanied theatre he was deployed in.

He made many friends throughout his life, and this is witnessed not least by the many condolence letters written to the family on his passing. A number were from individuals who had met Donald only briefly, indeed sometimes just once and many years in the past, but all remembered him for his kindness and consideration and help that he had given them along their own respective journeys through life.

Those who heard General Charles Huxtable's address at the funeral at Denton Church were told of General Donald's sporting prowess, his professional competence, the extraordinary lengths he went to in consideration of others' needs, his calm, reassuring presence when things were difficult and the confidence he radiated that they could and would be resolved.

General Charles finished with this: "There is one further comment that occurs in nearly everyone's memories of Donald, his letter writing. Wilf Charlesworth recalls how, when they were drifting in the Caribbean in a broken down motorboat, and everyone was doing their "don't panic" routine, Donald sat calmly in the middle of the boat writing letters. It was this sort of activity that led to his maddening habit of replying to all correspondence instantly, you always owed him a letter (or e-mail latterly); I only wish I could go home and find one from him now. He was quite simply, a lovely man and we shall be lucky if we ever find another like him."

PEACE WAS OUR PROFESSION

by Lieutenant Colonel D. E. Isles; British Army Journal December 1968

Soldiering with the United Nations Force in Cyprus is a negative sort of business. By its very nature it must be negative to a professional soldier trained to fight; for here he finds he is allowed to use his weapons only in self defence and to safeguard UN property. UN work has few rewards, for like war itself it consists of long periods of boredom and of watching and waiting; yet, unlike war, it is usually impossible to predict the outbreak of incidents. Inter-communal tension between Greek and Turkish Cypriots is always high; minor incidents are many, and can start even from such mundane incidents as the theft of a goat or the non-payment of a small fine. Large scale incidents can start in various ways; some are pre-meditated, but more often the cause of the trouble, or the real reason behind it, is difficult to pin down with any exactitude.

One such unpredictable incident occurred in Limassol in August 1967 during the Duke of Wellingtons' six month tour with UNFICYP. It was typical of many and is worth describing and analysing, for it shows both the strength and the weakness of UN forces. It also gives a good idea of one facet of UN duty.

The first shot rang out in the town at 0015 hours on 25 August when (so CYPOL say) a Cyprus Police patrol was fired on by a Turkish Cypriot fighter in uniform. Very quickly the firing escalated, and during the course of the next five hours upwards of 2000 rounds were fired by both sides and much damage was done to property. Many lives, including those of UN, were endangered, yet no one was hurt; and no one was hurt because, perhaps surprisingly, no one wanted to hurt anyone. But of course, if there had been no UN intervention, or if - like the Kophinou/Ayios Theodoros incident in November of the same year - world opinion had not been a factor to be considered, then nothing could have stopped as bloody an incident as had ever happened before in the history of this unfortunate and unhappy island.

However, from the opening shots UN swung into 'action' and the Town Platoon Commander was soon at the scene. He was promptly and rudely told by CYPOL that his presence was neither welcomed nor necessary. Yet, being an inquisitive sort of chap he hung around and watched, reported on his radio and, within twenty five minutes, had his Company Commander out of bed and into town. Meanwhile the Turk Cypriots had rapidly manned all their defences around the perimeter of the Turkish sector and were firing hard with small arms into the neighbouring Greek houses and buildings. The Greek National Guard was also in action shooting from their strategically placed fortifications surrounding the Turkish quarter. Ominously they were employing medium and heavy machine guns. Clearly this was a serious state of affairs: one that had to be stopped, and stopped quickly.

Apart from the danger to Greeks and Turks there was the safety of the British Base families, many of whom lived in both the Greek and Turkish quarters to be considered. By 0315 hours the Company Commander

had deployed five infantry sections to the major confrontation areas but, because of the heavy firing, there was little they could safely do in the dark other than report. In fact the firing continued until first light at 0415 hours, when a further five sections were deployed and mobile armoured car patrols were mounted. Because it was daylight and UN blue berets could be seen the firing now began to die down, except for sporadic bursts and the odd sniper's round.

During all this the Commanding Officer had been involved, since 0200 hours, in tortuous and somewhat naive negotiations with both sides. He had gone first to CYPOL HQ where the District Officer, Greek National Guard Commander and the Chief of Police were conferring amidst a litter of coffee cups and cigarette ends. "If", said the District Officer, "the Turks do not cease this unprovoked aggression, I shall have no alternative but to destroy completely the Turkish quarter". To the CO this had a somewhat dramatic ring about it - and he said so in no uncertain terms. But did the DO mean it? Quite obviously he could have a go if he wanted to. Did he want to? Leaving the DO and his threats the CO took himself off through the belt of fire into the Turkish quarter where, in a café, he met the Turkish leader.

"If", said he, "the Greeks do not cease this unprovoked aggression I shall have no alternative but to ask the Turkish Air Force to intervene and destroy the whole of the Greek quarter". Did he mean it? After all the Turkish Air Force had intervened before. But did he want this? The CO thought perhaps not, but nevertheless it did give him a shrewd idea of Turk thoughts and possible intentions, and these were reinforced by the phenomenal number of Turk fighters about the place. Without a doubt the Turks could only be said to be on a war footing.

A quick radio talk to the UNFICYP Chief of Staff at Nicosia and the CO was left in no doubt but that all this had to be sorted out, and soon; so back to CYPOL again. After three such visits to each side, necessitating all the CO's powers of persuasion, reason eventually began to prevail: reluctantly or so it seemed, both sides agreed to a cease-fire. The Greeks suggested 0715 hours, but the Turks were tiring and wanting their beds, or they were running out of ammunition, because they came up with a time of 0615 hours. And so, at 0615 hours, the last shot in a senseless gun battle was somewhat childishly and uselessly fired into the stone base of the National Guard position overlooking and dominating the Turkish market place.

As far as the UN was concerned not a few interesting facts emerged from the night's shooting match. The most frightening, and the most important, was the almost total lack of control possessed by the two leaders over their armed elements. Particularly was this true of the Greek National Guard, who repeatedly fired against direct orders and who, from the safety of their fortifications, inflicted much damage against Turkish property - windows, parked cars, power lines, even the

Turkish mosque, were all senselessly shot up. Secondly the UN forces were unwillingly impressed both by the number of illegal weapons owned by the Turks and by the speed with which they were issued and deployed to the FDLs.

I believe it is true to say that both leaders learned a sharp lesson from this incident. Certainly they both discovered that their own alarm systems possessed no brakes, and that hotheads were too easily able to take and retain control. Yet the astonishing fact remains that there was not a single casualty. No one was killed or wounded. This can only show, not that the marksmanship was bad, but paradoxically that it was good, in that shots were fired not to hit anyone. On the Turkish side it was clearly a demonstration to 'let off steam' - for

the fighters had been getting increasingly restive - and also to prove to the hated Greeks that they were fully capable of defending their own quarter. On the Greek side it was solely and simply a gesture, or attempt to impose the will of the Government. I suppose that both sides could be said to have achieved, at least in part, most of their aims. And UN? UN, as always, proved its value by its mere presence, and by being immediately available to both sides, enabling them to rely on its good offices to ensure that the incident could be quickly brought under control when they so wished, and, more important, without any loss of face on their part.

As said at the beginning - all good negative stuff without much reward.



THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

Fortune Favours the Brave

1 YORKS (Prince of Wales's Own)

The Battalion has now completed its Arms Plot move to Munster, trained and deployed B Company to Kosovo and now the majority of the Battalion is deployed in Iraq having recently completed re-deployment training in southern Germany.

Despite the turbulence of all the above the Battalion remains in good spirits and has established itself as a community and a going concern in Munster. Retention rates are holding up and regimental recruiting is starting to improve. A net increase in manpower could potentially be achieved in the next six months.

B Company returns from Kosovo in March and the main body from Iraq some three months later.

2 YORKS (Green Howards)

A period of leave, adventurous training, recruiting and reorganisation is now complete, and key members of the Battalion have changed over and the newcomers are all fully integrated. The key focus has been on recuperation after a challenging but arduous operational tour.

A full programme of activities is now in full swing, with the build up to Op Herrick 11. This is balanced by the requirements to support Ex Grand Prix 5 and 6 as well as Collective Training Level 3 and pre-deployment training. The Battalion is buoyant, confident, and ready to face the challenges that await.

3 YORKS (Duke of Wellington's)

See the Battalion's notes, which follow on page 7.

4 YORKS

D company notes follow those of 3 Yorks.

For the unit as a whole, the period through to November 2008 was a particularly busy one. The arrival of a new Commander of 15 (North East) Brigade has seen a shift in emphasis towards recruiting for both the TA and the Regular Army, whilst maintaining commitments to operations and training in support of the later.

Support to operations has increased this year whilst manning and recruitment remain strong, with the battalion seeing a gradual increase in the number of operationally effective soldiers on the strength. Training has seen the conduct of an overseas exercise, annual camp, numerous battalion-level weekend exercises and also deployment of 4 Yorks personnel on overseas exercises in support of 1 and 3 Yorks.

The Band of the Yorkshire Regiment is going from strength to strength with a projected IOC date of April 2009. 4 Yorks were instrumental in the TA100 celebrations conducted throughout last year and have built on already strong links with local communities and the Army Benevolent Fund.

The Battalion looks forward to this year with a potential overseas camp at BATUS, Canada. Up to seventy-five soldiers will deploy with Op Herrick 11 in support of 2 Yorks. In addition to this the Battalion hopes to provide soldiers to support 2 Yorks during its training in Kenya, and reap the benefits of the new Unit Recruiting Plan.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, YORKS

National Memorial Arboretum Appeal

This has been very successful and the needed £15,000 has been raised, including a contribution from DWR Association Funds (see letter from Lieutenant General Sir Nicholas Houghton KCB, CBE, to the President, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVBO, OBE in the letters section).

Regimental Weekend

This will be held on Friday and Saturday 5 and 6 June in York. The Officers' Dinner will be in the Merchant Taylor's Hall on Friday, and those wishing to receive details should ensure they have become members of the Dinner Club. The church service on Saturday morning will be in the Minster. The Association AGM will be at Worsley Barracks at 1200 on 6 June, followed by a curry lunch.

New Colours

The new colours are well under construction by manufacturers Hobsons, and are reported as looking fantastic. One set is already complete and planning is starting for a Colours parade in 2010.

Website

The website can now be found on the refurbished Army site, www.army.mod.uk/yorks. The pages that

were on the old site have been archived within the Regiment's ArmyNET pages.

Recruiting

There has been a great deal of effort to improve the recruiting situation, and the forecast figure of new entrants for 08/09 is 260, compared to 208 in 07/08. (Unemployment heading for three million will no doubt help.)

Appointments and Promotions

Major General Binns (late 1 Yorks (PWO)) has been appointed Colonel Commandant of the Kings Division. He is also to be Commandant Joint Service Command and Staff Course in August 2009.

Lieutenant Colonel David Colthup has taken over Command of 2 Yorks.

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Vallings is now CO 3 Yorks.

WO1 Wildey became RSM of 3 Yorks in March 2009.

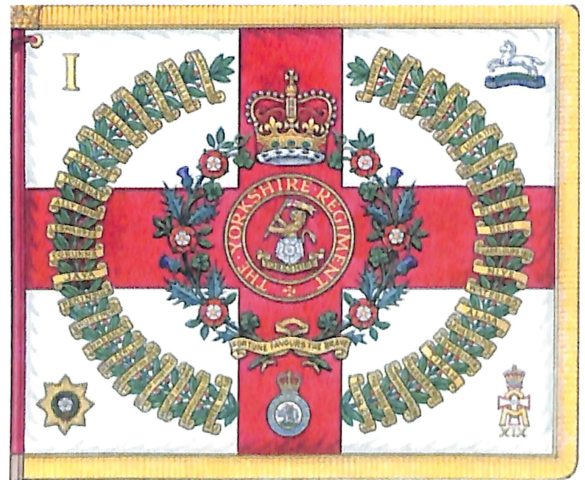
Other Events

Golf day - now to be on Friday 22 May at West End Golf Club, Halifax, co-ordinated by AHQ (Halifax) - ie RHQ DWR.

Maiden Stakes - at York on 30 May; tickets available from RHQ Yorks.



Yorks Queen's Colour



Yorks Regimental Colour



3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

(The Duke of Wellington's)

Commanding Officer	-	Lieut Colonel T. G. Vallings
Regimental Sergeant Major	-	WO1 S. D. Moroney
Second-in-Command	-	Major N. P. Rhodes
Adjutant	-	Captain L. Pearce
Ops Officer	-	Captain C. D. Armitage
OPWO	-	WO2 G. E. Walkinshaw

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

The next two and half years promise to be both rewarding and challenging for the Battalion with our imminent operational tour to Iraq, followed by conversion to BCIP 5 (the new digital communications system) and then preparing for Afghanistan in 2012. These notes provide the opportunity to update on our force preparation for Iraq and highlight the benefits that the Yorkshire Regiment is now delivering from our perspective.

3 Yorks has been earmarked for the enduring tasks that will continue after the drawdown of British troops in southern Iraq this summer. We are expecting two company tasks around Baghdad with possibly a third subject to HMG and Iraqi Government negotiations. The likely tasks involve force protection of British officers in Baghdad and security for the new Iraqi officer school based on Sandhurst. We will provide these tasks for up to 12 months rotating companies from UK to Iraq through a rotation of operations, training and leave. These tasks have still to be confirmed and are by no means certain. We manage this uncertainty by training generically and maintaining robust and agile sub units. Such uncertainty creates frictions for all, not just at work, but also for our families and friends as it prevents us from making firm plans at work and at home. As ever, our soldiers have just got on with the job without fuss and we are expecting clarity shortly.

There have been significant and obvious changes to the Battalion since the formation of the Yorkshire Regiment. There is also much that hasn't changed: our soldiers are still tough, loyal and hardworking, we continue to live by the Dukes' culture and ethos and we can still do any job anywhere in the world given the right resource. Thus, we move forward protecting

our rich history and culture and confident in our new Regiment which is delivering real benefits to the Battalion:

- *Wider career opportunities and choice* - Armoured Infantry and Light Role Infantry in Warminster, Germany, and Weeton - Cyprus from 2012.
- *Improved recruiting effort* - The YRRT is now delivering a focused, resourced and successful recruiting effort in Yorkshire with fewer soldiers on the black economy.
- *Specialist pre-course training for career courses* - A training cadre has been set up in Catterick based with 1 Lincs to run pre courses for the Division for PSBC, SCBC and deliver PNCO Cadres. This centre of excellence is proving a real success and enables soldier's careers to continue whilst battalions are deployed.
- *Better funding* - The Yorkshire Regiment provides a significant sum to the PRI each year to enhance opportunity and quality of life for our soldiers.
- *Sport and adventure training* - Each battalion is cementing a sporting/adventure training speciality. 3 Yorks' focus is on rugby and football.

In summary, we continue to thoroughly prepare for operations whilst retaining the agility to adapt. We expect clarity shortly to finalise our preparations. The next two and half years will be challenging, demanding and fun as we meet the professional challenges and deliver the full spectrum of Army life including rugby! The Battalion proudly protects its rich heritage and moves on with confidence in its new skin as 'Dukes' within the Yorkshire Regiment.

ALMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Major M. C. A. Palmer
Second-in-Command	-	Lieutenant H. J. Stow
CSM	-	WO2 R. D. Hollis
WSM	-	Colour Sergeant P. A. Bevan
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	-	Colour Sergeant B. W. Sykes
Fleet Manager	-	Colour Sergeant J. Luscombe

1 Platoon

Lieut A. D. Fitzgerald
Sgt J. Ellam
Cpl A. M. M. Hassanali

2 Platoon

2nd Lieut E. Carter
Sgt D. Bagnol
Cpl A. P. T. Kipling

3 Platoon

Lieut N. R. Spicer
Cpl J. Pearson
Cpl A. Moore

Mortar Platoon

Sgt S. Hopkinson

Since coming off the BATUS prairie on a high in September 2008, Alma Company has focussed on preparation for operations in Iraq. There has however been time for two weeks back home in Yorkshire on the October Freedom Parades, a healthy spread of long weekends prior to Christmas and four weeks of leave. Alma has also said fond farewells to some key characters during this spell: the Company 2IC - Lieut Henry Stow - who has been selected to train the Afghan National Army how to grow their hair for six months, CSM Reg Hollis who, after serving at every rank in Alma, is posted to Brecon to flex his small muscles and pull stunts on a quad bike as the Divisional Sergeant Major, and Sergeant Ian Perkins who is posted to Sheffield as a cadet instructor. All three have engendered a professional and fun spirit within the Company which will be key to operational success this year and are thanked for their sterling efforts. We have also welcomed back Sgt Jonny Ellam, Corporal Shaun Pears and Corporal Tony Raistrick from external postings and await the imminent arrival of Second Lieutenant Carter from his Armoured Infantry Platoon Commanders Course. In terms of promotions, congratulations go to Lance Corporals David Duncan, Tukeba Bevu and Matthew Whaites who promoted off the last PJNCO cadre and have thankfully remained within Alma.

The gradual build up of pre-deployment training has incorporated Military Annual Training Tests, numerous operationally focussed courses, Iraqi cultural awareness training, externally run operational training package and internally run continuation training. All of which has been conducted against the backdrop of a rapidly improving security situation in Iraq and the resultant uncertainty over our specific role or requirement to be in theatre. With this in mind, training has focussed on creating a solid foundation of core skills for stability operations in the contemporary operating environment. These will remind many of the more senior readers of Northern Ireland and include basic patrolling skills, vehicle check point drills, base security and conducting strike/search operations. Although there is a wealth of experience in the Company, there have been many cob-

webs to dust off and all ranks have learnt many critical lessons. These will be built on with more specific training over the next two months. Of note, maintaining the flexibility to deploy in a broad spectrum of military vehicles (Mastiff, Vector, Snatch and Ridgeback) as well as maintaining our core Warrior skills is the Company's greatest challenge as it involves growing a number of driving qualifications that are not required in our current Armoured Infantry role. We are on track.

Looking at the immediate two month run up to an expected deployment date in early May, training will further intensify with some four weeks on exercise or live firing. This will include demanding tests of our capability and serve to sharpen minds on the challenges and threats of deployment. Although some are returning to Iraq for the third time, there is an overriding sense of professional focus and excitement amongst the Company. All realise that the Dukes could be some of the first into, and last out of, Iraq and that this is both an historic and potentially vulnerable time to serve in the theatre.

Major MCA Palmer



Lance Corporal Bevu completed the Fire Team Attack despite this small tweak!



Alma Company acclimatising for a summer in Iraq!



Alma Company's 2 Platoon lead pack.

BURMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	- Major M. M. D. Stear
Second-in-Command	- Captain N. Wilson
CSM	- WO2 M. D. Clarke
WSM	- Colour Sergeant L. E. Brighthouse
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	- Colour Sergeant G. J. Peacock
Fleet Manager	- Sergeant J. D. Adkins

4 Platoon

Lieut A. Bond
Cpl C. J. P. Edley
Sgt W. A. Uren

5 Platoon

2nd Lieut G. T. L. Goucher
Cpl M. S. McConnell
Cpl A. Marsh

6 Platoon

2nd Lieut R. Taylor
Sgt S. P. Harrison
Cpl W. A. Reid

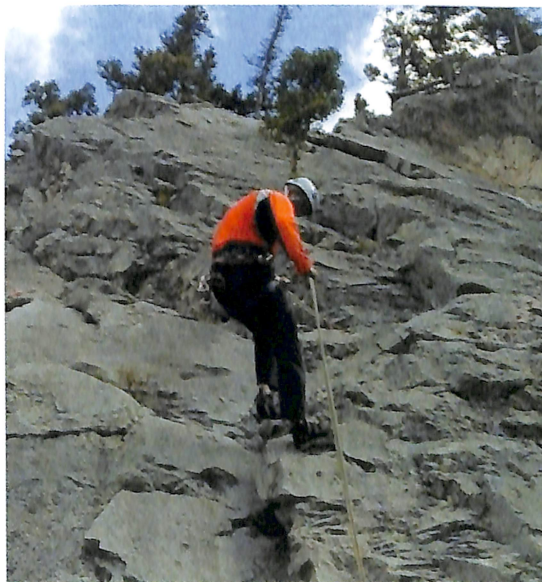
Javelin Platoon

CSgt D. A. Nettleton
Sgt C. R. Baldwin
Sgt A. J. Powell

Burma Company looks quiet different since the last edition of the Regimental Journal. We have grown in size taking in under our wing the Javelin Platoon (on a temporary basis) and parked our Warriors up for a well earned rest to replace them with Snatch and other wheeled vehicles. It is all in preparation for our forthcoming operational deployment to Iraq and has been quite a roller coaster ride.

In November we saw our last remaining few Burma Company personnel returning from Canada; for some a little over four months away. It was a very long but successful BATUS experience. The Exercise Medicine Man 3 report was very complimentary passing Burma as an effective and competent sub unit, but the greatest honour was the recognition by the enemy commanders who rated Burma as the most dangerous opponent! Many of Burma Company then stayed on and provided the opposing forces (OPFOR) for the next exercising battlegroup (The Kings Royal Hussars (KRH)). The gap between exercises provided an excellent opportunity for all to experience some really top class adventure training run from a camp in the Canadian Rockies. The limits were tested in a whole range of activities from mountain biking, horse riding, kayaking and trekking in the snow capped mountains to facing vertigo through rock climbing or jumping out of perfectly serviceable aircraft - heart pounding but brilliant fun too! Time too was found for a little tourism and recreation, where

some interesting road trips were mounted and others experienced the local watering holes in Calgary and Medicine Hat.



2nd Lieut Goucher conquers his fear of heights.



Burma Company soldiers take a break in idyllic surroundings.

Exercise Medicine Man 4 was soon upon us. A good deal of preparation was required in taking over an unfamiliar OPFOR fleet of armoured vehicles and learning new tactics and doctrine. As the enemy, we had free rein to dart around the training area and provide a challenging training environment for the tested Battlegroup. Burma, supported by Somme Company, made up the Infantry Company. OPFOR also consisted of a Reconnaissance Company provided by the Household Cavalry Regiment, with Prince Harry (a little name drop) as their second in command, and a tank company manned by all ranks from 2 Royal Tank Regiment. This new grouping really gelled and got stuck into the role. It has to be said that it was a good feeling being the other side of the fence and not having the pressure of being tested. That said it is difficult not to let an element of pride creep in and at times we were perhaps too strong in our competitive nature. To say we gave the KRH Battlegroup a few headaches is an understatement! Our performance as OPFOR

only complemented our success in BATUS. I believe Commander BATUS rated us as the best OPFOR he had seen in his two year tenure. The majority of the Company then flew back in early October leaving only a handful to continue as training support for the final Medicine Man exercise of the year.

Upon our return, the Company quickly reorganised to form half the guard on Freedom Parades up in Yorkshire. With only a week's hard drill as preparation we travelled up set to impress the people of Skipton, Bradford, Barnsley, Sheffield, Huddersfield and finally Halifax. There are many benefits to such parades, not least keeping the Army in the public's eye and encouraging the recruiting effort. On the reciprocal side, it was a real lift for all who took part as we were so well received and supported by the public; a real eye-opener for some of the junior soldiers. Additionally, to be invited into the respective town halls after the parades to eat their fine fare and relax with a pint of Yorkshire bitter was a real treat!



A rare OPFOR breakdown.

Our approach to Christmas was not as festive as it has been in the past, for as December began so did our pre-deployment training. This is when the Javelin platoon joined our ranks to take part in the Company's training as an efficiency measure. They leave us again at the beginning of March 09 only to be replaced by a Fire Support Multiple of mixed support weapons specialisations. Long, full days of briefings and practical examples of the skills and essential drills we must adopt in Iraq occupied the weeks. Some drills were familiar to N Ireland and even Iraq veterans but for all we quickly grasped that Iraq was a completely different environment to what we had experienced previously. A generous three weeks' leave followed before we returned refreshed and energised for the labours ahead.

A cold, wet January saw the Company conducting cascade training, involving two weeks of practicing the drills before consolidating what we had learnt in a three day company level exercise. The Company performed well and whilst we have some time to grow these skills, we have proved the foundations are firmly in place. Indeed we were tested in the snow on the Commanding Officer's test exercise and dare I say it, we took on the points from the previous companies and impressed the directing staff; we would not pretend to be complacent but the soldiers have a lot to be proud of.

What lies ahead is a continuation of training and preparation for Iraq. What is less certain is our mission, composition and tour length. As always we remain flexible, safe in the knowledge that our new skills as well as our core skills will be tested in some demanding and unforgiving environments, something after four years off Ops we are eager to do.

Major M. M. D. Stear



Lieutenant Bond gives orders to his men.

CORUNNA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	- Major T. J. Miller
Second-in-Command	- Captain C. J. Ibbotson
CSM	- WO2 C. J. Goddard
WSM	- Colour Sergeant L. E. Roberts
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	- Colour Sergeant L. P. Seviour
Fleet Manager	- Sergeant A. T. Rudd

7 Platoon

2nd Lieut A. Hammond
Cpl C. S. Barnes

8 Platoon

2nd Lieut S. R. Davies
Cpl G. D. Thursby

9 Platoon

Lieut I. D. Martin
Sgt J. M. Higgins
Sgt L. Green

Snipers/Drums

Sgt S. Moore
Cpl A. M. Oxley

After completing Exercise Medicine Man 4 in September as part of the King's Royal Hussars Battlegroup, much of the Company remained in Canada as OPFOR until October. This gave the opportunity to take advantage of R&R in places as far away as Las Vegas. Some of the more energetic took on adventure training which ranged from mountain trekking in the Rockies around Banff to white water open top canoeing and climbing. Therefore, it was only at the end of November that the final elements of the Company returned to the UK.

For those who managed to get home earlier, they spent much of the end of the year engaged on a wide range of courses from Warrior gunnery to NCO cadres. In the meantime the command element of Corunna was involved in an intense week of cascade training in preparation for pre-deployment training at the start of 2009. This brought the year to a rather fragmented close. After such an intense build up for Canada and many having spent several months away, Christmas gave some very welcome leave.



Lieut Davies trekking with some of his men.

The Company arrived back in January with a very busy period ahead of it. Platoons were thrown straight into their pre-deployment training, ranging from instruction on medical and weapon drill to patrolling and arrest operations. The end of the month gave the Company the opportunity to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Corunna with presentations, a formal dinner and display by the Battalion Drums Platoon. Old members of the Company appeared and farewells were said.

With team and platoon level training complete, Corunna found itself deployed to FOB Duke (West Hill Farm) on the Salisbury Plain to practice its new found skills. Platoon level arrest operations, VCPs and IED clearance was practiced before the exercise culminated

in a successful Company level cordon and search operation. A matter of days later the Company deployed onto the Salisbury Plain again for the Commanding Officer's test exercise, this time to strike and arrest. Having conducted a night insertion on foot in blizzard-like conditions, 7 Platoon led the arrest of two 'terrorists'; a successful end to the first phase of training.

Throughout the period the Company was boosted by an influx of new soldiers. It was principally for them that Corunna ran grenade, rifle and machine gun ranges at the beginning of February before finally being dismissed for some leave.

Major T. J. Miller

HOOK COMPANY

Officer Commanding	- Major C. Schofield
Company Sergeant Major	- WO2 Hill
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	- Colour Sergeant Benson
Fleet Manager	- Sergeant R. J. Tiffen

CIS Platoon

Capt R. J. P. Carman
WO2 A. Spink
CSgt G. Hind
CSgt P. Bradshaw

QM's Department

Major P. W. McNeil
Capt S. Caine
WO2 R. Carter
WO2 M. Stones

RAO's Department

Capt M. J. Haslett
WO2 D. Thorpe
SSgt G. Smith

LAD

Capt P. Rogers
WO1 M. Elsom
WO2 S. Leighton

With our time in BATUS now a distant memory, Hook Company have been firmly focussed on the imminent operational tour and the preparation required for our time in Iraq. As a Company our manpower has been greatly dispersed with cadres, courses, leave and training support all playing a significant part.

With a three week Christmas leave and a further week in mid February there has been some well earned time to catch breath, although the Company remains fully focused on what lies ahead and will endeavour to support the rifle companies in their preparation.

Hook Company soldiers in a 'Fire Team Defence' shoot.



Communications and Information Systems Platoon

As ever, the CIS Platoon has been very busy in supporting the Battalion's communication requirements as we prepare for TELIC 14. A whole host of tasks have been given to the Platoon which has worked hard and performed well in its duties, remaining flexible at all

times. These tasks have ranged from teaching the whole Battalion how to operate ECM (Electronic Counter Measures) equipment, providing communications on the various company exercises and manning the Operations room that was set up in camp to coordinate the Commanding Officer's Confirmatory Exercise.

We look forward to the final stages of pre-deployment training and having to set up and populate 'Main A' (the field Operations room). Having just returned from BATUS where this was erected on a daily basis we are well rehearsed in the drills. However, there is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding the structure in which we will deploy, and therefore, how we will run the Operations room. We look forward to finding the solution.

Despite the hectic schedule there has been some important re-jigging in the Platoon in order to facilitate career progression. Sergeant Blair has taken over Platoon Sergeant with Sergeant Tiffen moving to Hook Company Fleet Manager - our thanks to him for all his efforts. Corporals Pritchard and Armstrong have returned from the RSAS course with Corporal West due to attend shortly. Sergeant McGregor has been tasked to the Brigade Ops Company and there has been a complete rotation of all the Company Det Comds and 2ICs.

Lastly, there are two proposed marriages to report; Corporal Cartwright to Amy and Private Bond to Jo. Both have set the date for 28 March 09 - excellent deconfliction!

Captain R. J. P. Carman

QM's Department

Exercise Medicine Man 3/4 (BATUS) our last main effort is now a distant memory as the Battalion and the department conduct pre-deployment training (PDT) for our forthcoming Telic tour. As with any QM's department team the bill of work always remains high with time being a scarce commodity. Since our return from BATUS the department has undergone a successful combined inspection week (CIW), whilst at the same time the technical department took on a large fleet of Bulldog/Warrior as part of the operational training equipment pack (OTEP). Sergeant Dangerfield (Clothing SNCO) continues to lead the QM's Department section as they undergo PDT with Alma Company whilst the remainder of us war dodgers hold the fort back in Battlesbury Barracks.

As I come to the end of a thirty month tour as both RQMS(M) and RQMS(T) I have the utmost respect for those unsung heroes of the QM's Department that never fail to deliver a service to their unit or battalion. I think it is fair to say that for many a bayonet (like myself) that came from a rifle company background a degree of ignorance to the workings of the QM's Department is common even at CSM level. For many of us the thought and news of an RQMS post brings a degree of dread mixed with pride in making it to one of the senior WO2's in the Battalion. As I prepare to hand over the RQMS position to WO2 (Gaz) Gazzard I know I leave it in capable hands.

On the technical side of the department the work rate remains relentless with the whole team getting to grips with the Brigade OTEP. The RQMS(T) Mick Stones continues to dream about the day he will escape to take up his new post as a WO1 with JCTATT. WO2 Stones will hand over to WO2 Szymanski (Lancs) - congratulations are conveyed to them both. Sergeant Del Foster (G1098 SNCO) continues to deliver at a

blinding work rate in order to ensure the Battalion meets its equipment deadlines in good order. In the armoured infantry world the technical side is where the action is and a message of thanks is given to Sergeant Foster for the support he gave me as RQMS(T) and continues to give to the present technical team.

As I depart on commission for pastures new with the Army Air Corps I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to the Yorkshire Regiment and in particular the Duke's. To all those I have had the honour and privilege to soldier with throughout the Regiment, thank you for your friendship and support.

Virtutis Fortuna Comes.

WO2 (RQMS) Jimmy Carter

MT Platoon

Since the last edition of the journal MT has changed in many ways, starting with the edition of WO2 Nutter as the MTWO and Captain Smith as the new MTO. Captain Wilson has moved on to become Burma 2IC and Sergeant Wrigley has moved on to mentoring new recruits at ITB Catterick.

We now have a fleet of around 120 vehicles and this appears to be growing weekly due to influx of theatre specific vehicles. As ever, under the watchful eye of the newly promoted Sergeant McAllister, the lads are working very hard to keep the rifle companies and the Bde Ops Company mobile and trained for operations.

The main effort is now preparation for the upcoming deployment to Iraq. The MT is pivotal in acquiring and training the necessary C Class drivers needed for various role specific vehicles, such as the SNATCH 2, Mastiff and Vector. In addition to this the Platoon is carrying out individual pre-deployment training and normal daily tasks.

WO2 C. Rutter

Brigade Operations Company

OC	- Major Z. Stenning MBE
CSM	- WO2 T. Conley
CQMS	- CSgt C. Barker
Recce Platoon Comd	- Captain S. Farley

It was a bright morning in Knook Camp on SPTA when the 12 Brigade Operations Company (BOC) finally came together to start what would be a long and gruelling pre-deployment training programme. Drawn from across the Brigade there were representatives from 3 Yorks, KRH, 1 Royal Anglian and 2 RRF (later re-tasked and currently deployed in Afghanistan). As a concept the Company was to be a multi-disciplined organisation capable of surveillance, strike and capacity building. We started as we meant to go on with CFT, ACFT and log races being the order of the day. Not wanting to be all brawn and no brain there were lessons run throughout in preparation for our post Christmas leave deployment to Lydd Camp in south east Kent ready for attendance on COTAT (formerly COP).

On return from Christmas leave with signed training records in hands (fitness over leave was a Company requirement) we moved to Okehampton for a short post Christmas shake out.

Day one saw our first 'uphill' CFT which had its moments. Wind and rain buffeted the Company as the eight mile run across the moor was completed. By the end of the week with another CFT and three ACFT's under our belts we felt ready to face COTAT and the infamous shingle that awaited us on the sunny south coast.

For those few amongst the Company who had been through COP, Lydd camp itself had changed very little, however the training has moved on considerably. With regular updates from theatre the programme offers the most up to date and relevant training possible. A custom-made advanced close quarter battle (ACQB) course offers a precision strike training package. Soldiers are taught explosive method of entry (EMOE) procedures and room clearance drills leading to sensitive site exploitation (SSE). Initially the course teaches the basics of pistols shooting and instinctive shooting with the rifle moving on to live simunition (similar to paint ball but more accurate and painful!) exercises with a free thinking enemy. Not wanting to get away from the grass roots of the surveillance reconnaissance (SR) world, COTAT provides a technical package teaching techniques allowing the gaining of intelligence which leads on to strike operations.

To date the BOC has been away for eleven weeks, completed numerous surveillance and strike operations, eight CFT's, nine ACFT, three log races and spent more time running on shingle than any of us care to remember. However, we have also developed into a self contained Company capable of providing intelligence



Private Oldham enjoying the weather during training at Lydd.

gathering and strike capability to the Brigade. We have tested our own G4 chain and are confident in our sustainability as well as our survivability on operations, be they in any theatre. As for what the future holds, we do not know, but one thing is for sure - we are well trained and a lot thinner!

Captain S. Farley

RUGBY REPORT

The 2008/09 rugby season was always going to be a challenge. Returning from BATUS after the season had already begun meant that we started our season with very little preparation time. Furthermore, with so many key players absent on courses as we prepare for the operational tour next spring, the team was consistently under strength. However, it is important to note that the emphasis this season was on remaining in the Premiership, honouring our fixtures and playing as much rugby as possible.

Our first match this season took us to Bridgewater Home Albion. An evening kick-off under flood lights on a quality pitch was quite an experience, although the result was disappointing. We were convincingly beaten by a well trained National 3 (South) side. However, the level of grit and determination shown by our team was commendable.

In mid November we played our first home match against the Land Griffins, an army side with a little less quality than Bridgewater. After a frustrating first twenty minutes Dukes rugby began to flow and we won the match 45 - 7. This was an important fixture as it was our first opportunity to trial and execute our game plan.

The last week of November consisted of a hectic rugby programme. With our first Premiership match scheduled for the Wednesday, the Brigade Sports Competition made it necessary to also play on the Tuesday and Thursday. As organisers of the Brigade

Rugby 10s we entered the competition on Tuesday well prepared. This was evident after the first day of the pool rounds where 3 Yorks finished top of their pool and were the only team to win all their matches. Some excellent rugby was played that day with the 7 - 5 victory over 19 Regiment RA and the 45 - 0 victory over 26 Engineer Regiment being the highlights. Special mention must go to Privates Balekisinga and Tagidugu who proved to be a class apart from every player they encountered.

Wednesday consisted of a two hour training period in the morning to prepare ourselves for the 15s match against 17 Port and Maritime in the afternoon. With several key players absent this was always going to be a huge challenge. After a spirited first half the opposition finally proved to be too strong and 3 Yorks were defeated 25 - 0. However, having defended in our own half for the vast majority of the match the commitment and dedication in defence was admirable.

On Thursday many of the same players returned to the Tattoo Ground in Tidworth to play in the semi-final of the Brigade Rugby 10s tournament. Held together with tape we took the field against a 2RRF side that had underperformed during the pool rounds on Tuesday. 3 Yorks began well and led 12 - 0 at half time. Unsurprisingly though, during the second half several players began to tire as a result of two previous days of rugby. Rapid substitutions followed. With the final play

of the game 3 Yorks found themselves camped in the opposition 22 with the score at 12 - 7. Only a length of the pitch try with a drop goal to convert from the touch line could have defeated us - that is exactly what happened. 2RRF went on to win the competition with a comfortable 36 - 17 win against 19 Regiment RA in the final.

Our next match took us to Dhekalia, Cyprus for Tuesday 9 December to play 2 PWRR in our second Premiership fixture. This was a vital game as a loss would have meant we could progress no further in the competition. Due to an extremely busy pre-Christmas period many of the officers were unable to make the trip so the responsibility fell to our senior Fijians to produce a victory. The match consisted of some excellent early rugby from the Dukes that put them two scores clear in the first quarter with Private Bolatagne running in the try of the season. However, 2 PWRR clawed their way back into the match and with twenty minutes to play the scores were close. Only a final surge from the Dukes in the last quarter coupled with some intelligent territorial rugby left us victorious 20 - 16 at the final whistle.

With a victory in Cyprus our Premiership title aspirations actually became credible for the first time in the season - our last match in the pool stage being against 7RHA who lead us by one point. Again, due to all teams suffering from the operational tempo, a Saturday fixture had to be agreed and set for late January. With the arrival of a new Commanding Officer (a rugby enthusiast) we were afforded time to prepare and several weeks of intensive training took place. As a result, the level of rugby we were playing increased dramatically and a sense of belief developed throughout the squad.

The match against 7RHA was of an excellent standard with both teams performing in different halves. Unusually, the Dukes started well; working the phases, dominating at the break down and kicking for territory. Under pressure, 7RHA were forced to commit several penalties and Lieutenant Ian Martin punished them by kicking them all. This resulted in a half time score of 9 - 3 to the Dukes. In the second half 7RHA pulled ahead and their pack began to dominate - Major Matt Stear was slapped on the pitch for the first time in his life ...by the Army heavyweight boxing champion! As our pack began to creek at the scrum we were forced into running the ball from deep and but for several last ditch tackles, would have executed some excellent tries. Sadly, it was not to be and the opposition managed to hold on until the final whistle. Having lost to 7RHA several times in recent history, to finish 13 - 9 down was very disappointing.

Despite being out of the Premiership competition there is still plenty of rugby to play this season. Already in the calendar are the Pocklington and 4 Div 7s in April which should take the Battalion up to our deployment date. Looking ahead, next season shows some potential. With the current uncertainty of the operational picture, there may be some opportunity to bring back a full squad in time for the start of the season. Furthermore, there has been some progress in posting some of the more talented players from 2 Yorks into our Battalion. This will give us the strength in depth that has been lacking in recent years and hopefully, the platform to mount a serious challenge for the Premiership Cup.

Captain R. J. P. Carman

FOOTBALL REPORT

After the last two seasons of success the 3rd Battalion has suffered an enforced break from football, due to commitments and pre-deployment training which have kept the team out of camp for the most part. During the last two campaigns we have managed to win seven different pieces of silverware, reaching the Army Cup Final and becoming the Infantry Corps Champions, so it is with sorrow that this season is really over before it began. We have managed just one full game and two full days at a sixes tournament where we were runners up to a resurgent 4 LSR who we had beaten comfortably in the group stages. At the time of writing 4 LSR remain in the Army Challenge Cup at the quarter final stage, they won the competition some three years ago and look set to do the same again this term, we wish them well but warn them that we will be back next season and keen to reach the final again.

As ever the team is changing and although we were in the Army Final last season we only have five of that squad remaining. The following players have either gone to post or have left the Regiment: Lance Cpl Garry Farquhar, Cpl Kevin Gill, Sgy Ashley Jones, Lance Cpl David White, Pte Pete Reynolds.

In addition to these losses, Cpl Adam Collington (the Captain) is due to undertake the Probs Course for Physical Training Corps selection is currently the Army

and Combined Services goal keeper and will be a truly great loss to the squad. Lastly WO2 Mark Doyle left the Regiment to take up a post in Preston at the beginning of the season, he is now training with West Bromwich Albion and its youth players, and we wish him well.

With so many gone it would seem that we are short on the team sheet but there have also been some interesting additions to the squad, firstly Cpl Barnes has returned from ITC Catterick. Barnes played against us in the epic Infantry Final two years ago and is a welcome addition to the team, he is fast and assured on the ball. Lance Cpl Damian Fulton has also returned from post and continues (in my opinion) to be the best left back currently in the Army. Lastly Pte Danny Baxter has rejoined the Army and is every bit the player he was when he left some years ago. All three have been selected to play for the Corps Team which will tour America this April. In the near future we welcome back Cpl Raggy Humphries from posting, he will slot straight into his old centre half position soon to be vacated by Collington. It is an entirely different team but shares the same values as the old side, we will work to ensure that this side retains the same understanding as its predecessor and get back to winning shortly.

Captain Nick Wilson

OFFICERS MESS

Heavy demands were placed on both livers and wallets in the last quarter of 2008. Following the intensity of preparations for and then deployment on August's BATUS, November represented a social window that was seized enthusiastically by all. This was followed by a traditionally heavy December that focussed on the dining out of Lt Col Andy Pullan and the arrival of a stunning silver elephant which he commissioned to commemorate the Dukes' role as the Land Warfare Centre Armoured Infantry Battalion. The last quarter of 2008 also included the weddings of Capt Mike and Caroline Wade-Smith and Lt Nick and Amanda Spicer. Both proved spectacular events, especially for some of the Dukes guests ... their brother officers wish them all the very best for the future. The new year has been dominated by extortionate December Mess bills which caused much harrumphing amongst the Late Entry Officers and much panic amongst the subbies.



Looking at the events in detail, November included two lunches and three dinner nights. The lunches included a Remembrance Sunday lunch for serving families and a Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association Lunch organised by Brig (Ret'd) Michael Bray and attended by the Duke of Wellington. The first dinner night was a Regimental affair at which Captains Paul Tetlow and Chris Adair were dined out. Paul, having concluded his time as Operations Officer in BATUS, heads to Cowes to pursue a career in the sailing world and Chris has been lured into the Army Legal Service by cash and longer term career prospects. The second was a dinner night run by Maj Zac Stenning MBE for all the Yorkshire Regiment's potential officers. This was the first of its kind and concluded a very successful two-day visit designed to enable some thirty potential officers to familiarise themselves with the Yorkshire Regiment, to embed a sense of Regimental loyalty and to allow them to get to know their peers. The third was a more informal reunion dinner for members of the infamous 66 - 68 rugby squad run by Maj (Ret'd) Pete Robinson and hosted by the current squad. It soon became apparent that little had changed in the rugby club over the last forty years! December commenced with a Ladies' Dinner Night which doubled up as the dining out of Lt Col Andy and Mel Pullan. Col Andy left his mark on the Dukes by presenting a large antique book case which now resides in the 'conceptual corner' of the Mess and acts as the Mess library (I refer to military literature!). The last events of the year were drinks at the new CO's house after the subbies' harmonious carol singing around the patch and the annual Ruperts and Andy Cap awards, at which Mike Wade-Smith took centre stage.

Below and above opposite page
The Ladies' Dinner Night





Although January included a Burns' Night kindly hosted by a Squadron 2RTR who share our mess, such an intense spell of activity is unlikely to be replicated in 2009. Mess members will now be fairly splintered up until forecast deployment in early May as sub-units conducted largely individual training programmes. However, all will come together for Battlegroup Dinner Night prior to Easter leave. Finally, the Mess is now full to the brim having just welcomed 2Lts Ed Carter and Rob Taylor from the Armoured Infantry Battle School and is looking forward to operations this summer - in whatever form they take.

Major M. C. A. Palmer

Major 'Badger' Miller's claim that he could eat fifty boiled eggs was put to the test.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

In the summer the WO's and Sergeants' Mess held a fancy dress night with an Oscar's theme. The pictures taken at that function were used at our Christmas Ball in the style of an Oscar's night with prizes for best male couple and other sought after awards. The event was a big success and the comedians were second to none. At the end of the night were the usual suspects trying to stay standing for the survivors photo.

Keeping with tradition the annual Ruperts started with a football match with the Officer's Mess and a special guest joined us in the form of Johnny Fart Pants (Kess). However, missing for the first time was Texas Tom. Keeping with tradition the WO's & Sgt Mess won 53 - 0. The award of Andy Cap was awarded to Sgt

Perkins who was delighted to win after such a long wait. After a well deserved leave we came back to one of many dinner nights, the first was to dine out WO1 (RSM) Maroney and the second to dine in the new WO1 (RSM) Wildey.

Over the last few months there have been a few changes to the mess with WO2 Goddard taking over as PMC. Also and we have welcomed into the mess WO2 (RQMS) Gazard and the new RQMS (T), WO2 Skymanzki. We have said farewell to a few mess members who move on to pastures new: WO2s Hollis, Burns, Burton and Stones.

Sergeant R. J. Tiffen

SANDHURST DAY

The annual rugby fixture between the 3rd Battalion and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst took place on Saturday 14 February this year. At first, some were sceptical about playing the fixture on Valentine's Day believing it may affect attendance. However, Dukes past and present turned out in their dozens with wives, families and girlfriends in tow to see if yet again the young officer cadets would be schooled in the art of rugby. The fixture itself is an excellent opportunity for the 3rd Battalion to interest potential officers in the Yorkshire Regiment. Consequently, to maximise our exposure, this year we decided to entertain the cadets with a pub supper in Hartney Witney the night before. This ultimately served a dual purpose as not only did all twenty officers and cadets have a thoroughly enjoyable evening, we were able to highlight those playing in the fixture and 'allow' them to drink perhaps a little more than they normally would.



Plenty to catch up on for Dukes past and present

Early on Saturday afternoon the crowds gathered on the touchline and were treated to Gluhwein and a hog roast as they waited for kick-off. Sandhurst took advantage of an intensive training/warm up period whilst the Dukes methodically practised their set moves in a less energetic fashion.

On kick off the both teams adopted their expected game plans with Sandhurst attempting a variety of 7s and the Dukes, a more systematic, territorial approach. Despite the fitness of the Battalion being high as we prepare to deploy on operations, many teams have come to Sandhurst and to their demise, tried to play the academy game. After the first scrum it became evident that we would dominate in that area and therefore, the first quarter of the match consisted of several rolling mauls that put the Dukes clear by two scores.

Sandhurst battled back and put together some excellent running rugby twenty minutes either side of half time leaving the match poised at 19-18 with the final quarter to play. An excellent piece of Fijian flair then lead to Private Tagidugu beating several of the Sandhurst back row and toughing down with fifteen minutes to go. The fitness level of the young cadets became increasingly evident as the game drew to an end and only several last ditch tackles prevented them from scoring. With a final score of 26-22 to the Dukes both teams then retired to the Pavilion for a few beers and to watch England versus Wales on television. It was the perfect end to an excellent day of rugby.

Captain R. J. P. Carman



The Dukes are led out by the towering figure of Battalion 2IC Major Nigel Rhodes and the ever intimidating OC Alma, Major Matt Stear.



Captain Andrew Bond exploits the blind side with 2nd Lieutenant Ed Carter in support.



Major Matt Stear 'closes in' on an unsuspecting Sandhurst player.

3 YORKS DRUMS HAVE GOT TALENT

On the Sunday 16 November 2008 the Corps of Drums of the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellingtons) began their journey on Britain's Got Talent. The process had actually been initiated several months before, mere days after the Battalion returned from the BATUS. Corporal Oxley, clearly bored of the mundane topography of the Canadian prairie, decided he would like a little more diversity in his life and sent in the application form.

In the early afternoon we arrived at the Mercury Hotel in Cardiff and were immediately asked by the camera crews to reverse out of our parking space and drive in again (without a copy of the Sun in the front window) so they could film our entry. Task complete and the Drummers donned their tunics, picked up their drums and entered the hotel in order to book in with the producers. Most of these men have served in some pretty inhospitable environments in their careers such

as Iraq, Kosovo and Northern Ireland. However, I have never seen more frightened soldiers as they brushed past the endless gaggles of hysterical teenage girls practising moves to various dance routines.

After a short while the Drummers were ushered into one of the competition rooms where they played a shortened Victory Beating in front of a panel of judges - no Simon Cowell as yet. Several minutes later they emerged with smug grins on their faces having been told that they had made it through to the regional final, due to be filmed some time in early February.

After a well deserved Christmas holiday the entire Battalion returned to the hectic pace of life that is the modern army. Due to deploy to Iraq in a few months, pre-deployment training began to ensure every soldier is fully prepared for the operational tour. It became evident that if the Drummers wished to continue in the competition they would need to sacrifice a significant amount of their own time to rehearse.

Nothing was heard for several weeks and then on Tuesday 3 February 2009, with a strong sense of déjà vu, the Drummers found themselves in the same mini-bus heading back to Cardiff, this time for the televised regional finals.

The process was very similar to the first audition and before long we found ourselves in the waiting room of the slightly grander Park Hotel, accompanied by various other acts. The preliminary round had not been entirely successful in weeding out the deluded souls. Sitting on the floor close by was a semi-naked magician named Merlin whose act consisted of juggling not three, but two balls. Occupying the window spot were an elderly group of men and women who had all dressed in a similar fashion to Ali G.



Full military attire outside the Mercury Hotel. From left to right: Cpl Oxley, LCpl Naita, Pte Jones, Pte Walker and Pte Mottram.

They were reluctant to show us their dance act as they feared the Drummers would steal their moves.

After several hours, and numerous television interviews we were escorted to the New Theatre, a two minute walk down the road. Here the Drummers waited back stage as the crowd were rallied and informed that they could chant 'Off, Off, Off' if an act were not meeting their entertainment requirements. Following a quick interview with Ant and Dec, Corporal Oxley led his men on stage and they stood poised in front a crowd of over a thousand. Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and the infamous Piers Morgan looked on as the lights were dimmed and the Drummers completed a variation of their original Victory Beating. The act was enhanced by the use of luminous drumsticks which highlighted the complete unity of every drummer. On completion and without any hesitation they were awarded a unanimous 'Yes' by all three judges, allowing them to move into the next round.

Piers Morgan commented: "I have seen a lot of military Victory Beatings, but never one so precise and well rehearsed."

After their success in Cardiff the Drummers travelled to London on Saturday 7 February to find out if they had made it through to the semi-finals of the competition, due to be recorded in early May. The whole Battalion wishes them the best of luck!

Captain R. J. P. Carman



Acceptance letters to enter the regional finals.



Celebration after the judges unanimous 'Yes'.

FREEDOM PARADES

It was an intensive rehearsal period for the Battalion, apart from Corunna who were still involved in Ex Med Man in Canada. Sergeant Majors Clark and Hollis relished the challenge of whipping the lads into shape and getting the clean, crisp crack of hand onto rifle and boot onto tarmac. The parade was practised until it was decided that we were good enough to take the long trip up to Strensall Barracks, near York. The preparations were completed, coupled with a few rehearsals just to iron out the creases from the journey and it was now that 3Yorks were ready to take on the mighty Skipton for the first freedom parade.

In a somewhat claustrophobic alley-way the Battalion assembled into its organised placings and awaited the first orders of command from the Commanding Officer. The very apprehensive and nervous soldiers gathered their thoughts and mentally practised the routine. The band started playing, orders were given and we stepped off to a very warm welcome from the Skipton locals. They really warmed to the Battalion, with such strong

ties to the regiment. A very emotional speech was delivered by the Mayor and we gratefully accepted the freedom of the Borough of Skipton. This was to be the first parade of the day and we were soon moved off to our next location which was Bradford, that afternoon. The Battalion put on another tremendous display and was gleefully invited into the Bradford town hall for the first of many delightful banquets that we were going over indulge on that week. There was fine fare and flowing ale, which suited the mobs of Yorkshire men who had built up their hunger marching. We then moved off tired and happy that the week was going to unfold into one to remember.

The next parade was on Tuesday and was in a packed Barnsley town centre. The wind was howling which was fine for everyone, except the Colour Party, who were effectively little sail-boats being pulled around the city centre. There were many celebrities watching the fine performance, notably the great cricket umpire 'Dickie' Bird and the chat show legend Sir Michael

Parkinson. The soldiers stepped up to the challenge and again, battling with the elements, produced a fine display. Sheffield on the Thursday was the biggest crowd so far and the city centre was thriving for the march past. The route was clearly chosen by the Sheffield marathon club, as it seemed an awfully long way. However the flashing cameras and smiling faces fuelled the fire inside the bellies and the Battalion had an excellent parade.

This then left the two towns of Huddersfield and Halifax to be completed on the following Saturday. The finishing line was in site and this was going to be the busiest day yet.

The town of Huddersfield was very respectful of the Battalion and wished its utmost support for the tour to Iraq, TELIC 14. The soldiers again produced a worthwhile performance and lapped up the riotous applause from the locals. The coaches were then loaded to Halifax which was an emotional affair for those visiting home. A motivational speech from Lieut Colonel Pullan and we were off again! Colours flying, band playing and soldiers marching; the staple diet of the week.

The feast was laid on in Halifax Town Hall and congratulations offered. All in all, this was a very



The Drums preparing for a parade.

beneficial week for the Battalion and a great experience being in the public eye and setting such a high standard. Well done the 'Dukes'.

Captain A. G. Bond

EXERCISE VIRGINS' FOLLY

On Friday 7 November 08 a contingent of wives from the 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment with attachments from Close Support Troop Royal Engineers and 1st Royal Tank Regiment deployed from the comfort of their living rooms to Copehill Down village to conduct operations in a built up area.

The weekend started with early morning briefings on the area in which they were to conduct the operation, along with familiarisation training on some of the kit and equipment used by soldiers of today. It soon became apparent that the wives were lacking discipline, so with the assistance of WO2 (CSM) Clarke on the drill square, it was instilled from the outset. At approximately 1200hrs the Platoon was loaded onto the heli minibuses and moved to Copehill Down village. On arrival the Platoon was split into sections to conduct the afternoon's training. This consisted of the confidence course (not for the faint hearted) instructed by Cpl Woodthorpe, Tactical Engagement Simulation



Testing nerves on the confidence course.

training instructed by LCpl Lacey and Section Room Clearance drills instructed by Sgt Harrison. The training had something for everyone and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As the light started to fade it was time to take some food on board. This was a task in itself as most of the wives had never experienced the delights of a ration pack, let alone cooking with hexi. After the meal the Platoon received orders from WO2 (CSM) Hill for an attack onto Middle Barn Close. Hhr was set for 1815hrs and the Platoon moved to the Forming Up Point. On Hhr illumination lit up the cold winter sky and the wives assaulted their objective. Mission success was called at approximately 1915hrs and the Platoon moved to Westhill Farm to spend the night.

All the wives put in maximum effort throughout the day's training and on arrival at the farm they were rewarded with a delicious hot curry and a glass of wine or two, which was greatly received by all. The evening was topped off by the singing Padre who lifted the Platoon's morale with his guitar. The following morning the wives were rudely awoken, bright and early by the sound of mortar fire. This gave them time to conduct a little admin prior to moving to the day's paintballing.

Paintballing was a fantastic event to get everyone working together; the wives were split into two groups which saw the Red Devils take on the Blue Bombers. On the fifth game and some bruising later, mission success was awarded to the Blue Bombers after Gemma Gemmill made a frantic dash for the flag and was victorious. Sniper Julie Hollis secured and finalized the victory with her sharp shooting when she went one on one with Cpl John Hardy. The overall winners were the wives that took part, their enthusiasm was infectious and without the support of them the weekend would not have taken place.

C/Sgt L. Egbury



Privates Bennett, Booth, Clarke, Craven, Egbury, Gemmil, Hale, Hattersley, Heron, Hill, Hollis, Hopkinson, King, Levitt, McAlister, Middlemiss, Miller, Peacock, Pullan, Rhodes, Smith, Stear, White.

JUNIOR NCO's CADRE

Traditionally the Junior Non Commissioned Officers Cadre focuses on the core Infantry skill set, seeking to identify and coach those best suited to the rigours of junior leadership, and appealing to the Infantryman's classic strengths, his robustness, capacity for adversity and aggression. Whilst this approach is validated by time and the strong performance of JNCO's in the past, are we perhaps avoiding a confrontation with our soldier's inherent weaknesses, namely the inability to diversify quickly and assimilate new and more complex functions? Are we making the best use of this unique opportunity to train one sixth of the Battalion's manpower, intensively for such a long period?

The solution proposed was to expose the potential candidates to a broader environment and to identify our future commanders through a mix of traditional war fighting, but also to push them beyond the bounds of normal soldering by focusing on the fundamentals of current challenges facing the British Army. The result was a package consistent with the Army's Career Leadership and Management (CLM) directive, which would develop and test the conceptual, moral and physical components of soldering.

The emphasis for the JNCO cadre was that of train in rather than select out. This said it was entirely necessary that all candidates should conduct three mandatory assessments before the cadre began: Combat Fitness Test, Personal Fitness Test and a Military Knowledge Assessment. These passed with few problems, pleasing given the limited preparation the men had having only returned from BATUS four weeks earlier. Forty four soldiers from across the Regiment began the cadre.

The initial two weeks of the cadre were consumed by the mandatory CLM package. After gruelling morning PT the men sat tired in the Battalion cinema digesting the yellow-font-on-blue-background PowerPoint slide

that shared with them the Maslow and Herzberg Leadership theory. The package developed by Distributed Training Cell offers a diverse curriculum ranging from 'coping with suicide' to 'identifying learning opportunities amongst subordinates'. The ten days of teaching gave the instructors an opportunity to assess the level of 'key skills' that the candidates had and were subsequently able to make recommendations to the companies on future development.

The third week saw the cadre move to Knook Camp, Wiltshire, for a four week battle camp. This was going to be a test of all candidates' determination and commitment to their career progression. While the cadre remained physically demanding at all times the aim was always to assess whether the candidates could affect situations by communicating effectively using timely judgement and management skills. These qualities coupled with inherent leadership qualities and values and standards would decide which of the men could command a fire team of men.

Having spent two weeks revising and conducting section and then platoon tactics, teaching and practicing navigation and providing an insight to the combat estimate and orders process, the cadre commenced a seven day range package. This culminated in a live platoon attack on 'X' Range SENTA. The men were by this stage exhausted, but there was still the small matter of the confirmatory exercise. By coincidence this coincided with the first cold snap of winter. That said the men reacted extremely well to the climate and produced an extremely high level of training for the duration of the exercise. The exercise also provided a valuable training experience for the Pre Senior and pre Junior Brecon Candidates who assumed the roles of Platoon Commander, Platoon Sergeant and the Section Commanders for the duration.



The final attack was in the form of a deliberate operation similar to those conducted in Iraq or Afghanistan. The company group was required to insert on to a target, strike and to detain and then recover back to the Forward Operating Base. The operation proved highly successful drawing together the ability of all ranks to think and act effectively, remain agile, whilst in adverse and arduous conditions.

The finale was that all men completed Exercise High Walk, a twenty five kilometre march across Pen-y-Fan. All men completed the march with a sense of euphoria.

As the Potential JNCO's climbed aboard the coach in Storey Arms car park I have never seen smiles so big.

Twenty-two men passed the cadre, seven of them promoting immediately. It must be said that every man worked extremely hard and tirelessly in pursuit of promotion. To those that were not successful, or became injured, the journey that they were on will have developed them as individuals and will have prepared them for their next attempt.

Captain M. Wade-Smith

D COMPANY 4 YORKS

Officer Commanding	-	Captain R. Yates
Second-in-Command	-	Lieutenant A. Walker
CSM	-	WO2 C. Johnson
PSAO	-	Captain D. Morris
SPSI	-	WO2 P. Lowe
PSI	-	Colour Sergeant S. Blake

Having recently taken over command of D Company from Major Andy Cooper who has mobilised on a Full Time Reserve Service commitment I'm looking forward to embracing the challenges that lie ahead for the Company. With the upcoming deployment of Company personnel onto Herrick 11 the challenge will be firstly to deploy fully fit and properly trained personnel. Therefore the emphasis for this period will be physical fitness and pre-deployment training.

In order to achieve this, the Company has now implemented a new training session on a Thursday night in order to carry out organised Physical training sessions under our (grateful) PTI's. Currently Corporals Richardson and Baldwin, Privates Matu, Dyson and Brook are posted in Kabul providing force protection for HQ ISAF. Corporal Abu Quoad is due to return shortly from his deployment on Op Tosca (Cyprus). As this journal goes to press, numerous more soldiers will be mobilising and deploying on Op Herrick 11, some for the second time. It seems that as the TA evolves, the TA soldier evolves even more.

During this period D Company has maintained a strong recruiting ethos, with a successful recruiting surge carried out in Sheffield during the autumn months. The company is now seeing the benefits of this as those recruits are beginning to complete their entry process and are chomping at the bit to become trained soldiers. A high proportion are looking to attend Phase 1 training camps which have been created to ease the burden on the somewhat laborious modular system.

Continuing the fitness theme the company still allows personnel to attend mountaineering weekends in Snowdonia and the Lake District in preparation for the Mountain Leader Training course. These weekends, led by our own C/Sgt Fichett, have continued to be successful despite some very challenging weather throughout the bleak winter months.

More awards and honours this period as a team led by Corporals Pigg and Wall entered Exercise Bakers Bluff in the Netherlands and came away with an award for best international team - a considerable achievement for an international military skills competition.



October this year saw the company deploy on Ex Yorkshire Warrior, a weekend that turned out to be challenging an eventful but highly rewarding for the large turn out. Tasks on the weekend were determined by which platoon our soldiers ended up in. The exercise began with a long endurance march for two of the three platoons, with the third being detached to an RLC Squadron to provide force protection for the weekend. Events culminated early on the Sunday morning with a company attack.

Once again Remembrance weekend saw the Company split into its constituent parts, attending services in Barnsley and Sheffield. January eased the company back into the training year with an arduous yet enjoyable escape and evasion weekend that tested our soldier's ingenuity and comfort levels.

As the end of the tax year approaches, the Company has been endeavouring to allow all soldiers the opportunity to complete their military annual training tests with a weekend dedicated in January to firing the ACMT and being subjected to CBRN at Strensall and all other MATT's back at the TAC.

Congratulations go to Pte Drury who successfully completed CIC in December, having completed phase 1 training on Ex Yorkshire Claymore and will join our Barnsley platoon. Congratulations are also due for C/Sgt Burton who had his second child, Sonny.

D Company looks forward to the challenges it will face this year, preparing its soldiers for up and coming deployments, and maintaining continuation training.

Captain R. Yates

EXERCISE BAKKERS BLUFF

I was fortunate enough to have been one of the four man team from D Company 4 Yorks who took part in a military skills competition called Bakkers Bluff in Holland on 18 October 08. The team comprised of all junior ranks and our participation was designed to be a (successful!) retention measure within the Company. The team members were Cpl Wall (Team Captain), Cpl Pigg, Pte Tibble and myself Pte Nathan Rider. Captain Yates also accompanied the team and did most of the driving and we had a new recruit, Pte Pearson who was our reserve and who ended up competing for a rival German team.

The six of us left Endcliffe Hall TA Centre around 1730 hours on Wednesday 15 October and travelled to Dover where we crossed the Channel. After an uneventful eighty-five minute crossing we left Calais and set off towards Holland. The team had arranged to stay in Arnhem for the night of the 16th prior to travelling to the Dutch Army camp early afternoon on the Friday. We managed to locate a small hotel in the centre of Arnhem and enjoyed a pleasant but quiet evening meal and a couple of hours of the local night life before turning in for the night. On Friday morning we all visited the Parachute Regiment museum and the famous John Frost Bridge along with a visit to the War Memorial near to the bridge location.

Friday afternoon saw us packing our kit and setting out for the camp where the competition was to take place. On arrival we were shown to our accommodation and greeted by a lady member of the Dutch reserve who had been tasked to look after all the visiting foreign teams. She did a great job, answering all our questions, translating where necessary and arranging meals and all the associated admin required for such an event.

Corporal Wall received the Team Captain's brief about the competition and passed on all relevant information to the rest of the team before we bedded down for the night ready for an early start on Saturday. After breakfast we got on to the coaches which took all the teams out to the training area where we were to compete. There were twenty-four teams in total; mainly Dutch of course but also teams from Germany, Poland, and Latvia and of course the UK. Teams left at six minute intervals in numerical order and as we were

team seventeen we had a bit of a wait. Pte Pearson was allocated to team twenty so we only saw him on the odd occasion. He told us that he was warmly welcomed into his new team and he seemed to be a useful and valuable team member. We left shortly before 1000 hrs to start the 15 km course. Along the way there were sixteen stands that we first had to find and then to complete the required tasks which included pistol shooting, casualty evacuation, obstacle crossing and grenade throwing. At the end of each task we would be given a grid reference or map extract of the next stand. A few of the stands proved tricky to locate but we managed quite well and completed the course in what we were told was quite a good time.

After we crossed the finish line we were given a packed lunch and a bit of time to get showered and changed. Transport returned all the competitors back to camp and after an evening meal the twenty-four teams formed up for the prize giving parade. There were two prizes, Best Overall and Best Foreign Team. Our team took first place in the foreign team competition with two other UK teams finishing second and third. Overall we came in sixth place and were quite pleased with our performance. After prize giving we joined the other teams for a few beers to celebrate.

Sunday morning saw us leaving early to make the long trip back to Sheffield via another Calais Dover ferry crossing. Overall this was an interesting, tiring and challenging few days which we all enjoyed tremendously. We look forward to the chance of competing again in 2009.

Private Nathan Rider

ABYSSINIA 1867-1868 : MEDALS AND POLITICS

The notice in the last issue about the expedition in 2009/10 to follow General Napier's campaign route to Magdala was a reminder that the Regiment's first VCs were won there. It was also a campaign that came about through political manoeuvrings at home, as intensely scrutinised by contemporary press and public as recent campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Private James Bergin VC won his award for being first into Magdala on 13 April 1868, together with Drummer Michael Magner VC. The campaign story cannot quickly and easily be told, indeed is perhaps well enough known, but the whole business of summoning the political will for a campaign, assembling and equipping the force, transporting it to the operational area and getting it 400 miles through very difficult country to confront the enemy, turned in the end on a few soldiers using their initiative, making a hole in a spiky, reinforced hedge and climbing through it to take the enemy on.

Colonel Alexander Dunn VC (he won his VC with the 11th Hussars at the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava) commanded the 33rd. He died in mysterious circumstances on the march, possibly by his own hand, and command devolved upon Major Arthur Cooper, who was largely unknown to his men. The 33rd had what we might nowadays call 'behavioural issues' after disembarking from India for the long march to Magdala, so were rather under a cloud. They were moved to another part of the Force which had the unintended (?) consequence that they led the assault on the formidable fortress of Magdala, supported by a detachment of Madras Sappers and Miners whose task it was to blow up the gates, through which the men of the 33rd would rush. Just to reach the gate from the FUP it was necessary to trudge up a steep boulder strewn track with a sheer drop on one side and a cliff on the other, an ascent of 500 feet. On either side of the gateway were thick thorn hedges, strengthened with stakes. Beyond the first gate was another, also flanked by thorn hedges.

The 33rd used its new Snider breech loading rifles, which increased the infantryman's rate of fire from two to ten rounds a minute, to suppress the defending forces fire and the assault party arrived within reach of the gate only to discover that the sappers had forgotten to bring their explosives, scaling ladders, crow bars and other tools of their trade. We can assume there was a brisk exchange of views and they were certainly sent back to fetch them, whilst the 33rd was ordered to make what progress it could on its own. The first gateway was bypassed by climbing a rocky ridge under heavy fire, and the assaulting force scrambled up towards the next line of defence.



**Field Marshal Sir Robert Napier
GCB, GCSI, CIE, FRS
1st Baron Napier of Magdala**

Private Bergin, a tall man, cut a hole in one of the hedges to the side of the second gate. Magner climbed on his shoulders and pushed through the hole to climb up to a small ridge of rock, then turned and pulled Bergin through, with Ensign Connor and Corporal Murphy shoving from below. Eventually, with Bergin providing covering fire, more men came through the breach and were firing down on the enemy by the gate. Fearing a bayonet charge the enemy withdrew through the gate, at which time Bergin, Magner and others rushed to seize it before it could be closed.

We might note in passing that both Bergin and Magner were Irishmen, as, by the sound of them, were Connor and Murphy, and as in fact were many of the 33rd at that time. Bergin later transferred to the 78 Highlanders (2nd Bn Seaforths)

and was awarded the Afghanistan (1878-1880) medal after service with the Kurram Valley Field Force, 2nd Infantry Brigade. He died soon after that campaign in India at Poona in 1880. His Victoria Cross is in the Regimental Museum. Magner survived until 1897 and is buried in Melbourne, Australia and his Victoria Cross is in Australia's Victoria Museum.

A brief note on the politics of the day makes for some parallels with present times. Prime Minister Gladstone and his Liberal party were deeply reluctant to get involved in any imperial adventures, and had ignored communications from King Theodore, to his extreme annoyance. When opportunity presented itself, he took British hostages. Letters to the British press from a Captain Cameron revealed all and the fact that British women and children were numbered amongst the hostages meant that the profile of this incident was high in the public imagination. A general election was underway at the time and this incident played a small but important part in the campaign. During the campaign the Conservative party exploited the difficult situation Gladstone found himself in, but in doing so it committed itself to sending some kind of rescue expedition in order to retrieve the British hostages. When returned victorious in the polls, Benjamin Disraeli agreed that a military campaign had become inevitable.

There follows a quote from that invaluable source for students everywhere, Wikipedia. "In what was little more than a creative accounting dodge, it was decided that the whole affair would be run and organised by the Indian Army. In this way, the British Government could honour their expensive social programs at home, but still finance their extensive imperialist adventures overseas. In actuality, the Government did not dodge the issues of cost at all. They merely delayed their instalments by making the accounting trail travel over the Indian Ocean before being redirected to London

with all of the consequent and timely delays that this involved. This political and financial chicanery meant that Bombay would provide all the necessary organisation and personnel". Lessons of this sort appear to have been well learned by today's politicians in Westminster and Brussels.

The closest modern campaign to compare to the 1867/8 Abyssinia expedition is surely the Falklands

War. Magdala was a place far away, of limited interest and value to Britain that required huge effort and expense just to get to, let alone take action to retrieve a lost situation. But political negatives are soon forgotten by history and what remains is a story of extraordinary achievement and courage against formidable odds, a third of a drum in the Officers' Mess and two highly prized medals in museums a world apart.

REGIMENTAL NUMBERS

by Scott Flaving

2494 Knife Fork and Spoon - who can forget their Army number? Soldiers have been issued numbers for over 150 years, along with their kit. Numbers have actually proved more useful than most of the kit, as pay and rations have always been directly linked to a Regimental number whereas most kit has generally not proved to be 'soldier proof'.

In the Regimental Archives, the earliest record of a soldier's number is 275, issued to Private, later Colour Sergeant, Charles Kifford, 33rd Regiment, who was serving in Abyssinia in 1865. During this period Regimental numbers were issued by battalions on the enlistment of soldiers and the number was re-used after their discharge.

1906

In 1906 Line Regiment numbers were increased from 1 - 9999, to 1 - 19999.

1912

The King's Regulation of 1912, para 1899, stated that soldiers were to be given a number and published the blocks of numbers for each Regiment.

The First World War

During the First World War the old Regimental Number system was found to be far too unwieldy for the mass enlistments and, from 2 March 1916, conscriptions into the army as well as the myriad postings and transfers between Regiments and Corps.

An early attempt to solve the problem of duplicate numbers in battalions was to prefix a number with the battalion of origin, such as 3/2430, showing, in this instance, that the chap posted into the Regular or Territorial Force (TF) front line battalion had come from the 3rd (Militia) Battalion. This was common in 1915/1916 when battlefield casualties were replaced by the training units. It was less effective when inter-regimental postings from the army base depots in France were used to fill gaps in the ranks from the hard fighting.

Consequently, from 1 March 1917, a new Regimental numbering system for the TF was introduced. Blocks of six figure numbers were issued to each battalion of a Regiment. For the Yorkshire Regiment's TF antecedent Regiments these were:

200001 - 225000 4th Bn East Yorkshire Regt
225001 - 250000 5th (Cyclist) Bn East Yorkshire Regt
200001 - 240000 5th Bn West Yorkshire, 4th Bn West Riding and 4th Bn Yorkshire Regts

240001 - 265000 5th Bn Yorkshire, 6th Bn West Yorks and 5th Bn West Riding Regts
265001 - 305000 7th Bn West Yorkshire and 6th Bn West Riding Regts
265001 - 290000 18th Bn Yorkshire Regt
305001 - 330000 8th Bn West Yorkshire and 7th Bn West Riding Regts

In the Archives of the Yorkshire Regiment is a copy of Part One Orders for the 1/6th (TF) Battalion West Riding Regiment, dated 20 April 1917, which shows:

I. RE-NUMBERING

The under mentioned Warrant Officers; Non-Commissioned Officers and Men are allocated new Regimental Numbers as stated to the right of their names in accordance with Army Council Instruction 2414 of 1916:-

33. Field F. 265002 to 7887. Sutcliffe H. 266342

Some 950 men are listed. Their original numbers to the left of their names, the newly allocated numbers appearing to the right of their initial.

From research carried out by the Archives Section of RHQ DWR, it appears that some mistakes were made during the re-numbering. For example, some soldiers who had been killed in action prior to 1917 were issued a new number, while some soldiers killed in 1917/1918 were officially recorded using their original numbers. The lowest number recorded in the Archives is 4 CSM Charles Tiffany, awarded the Military Cross in July 1916. However, all battalions used and re-used the same numbers and so it was not an indication of seniority. At this time Officers did not use numbers.

1920 numbering system

Regimental numbers were replaced by Army numbers in 1920. Block of seven digit numbers were issued to all Corps, Cavalry, Foot Guards, Scots Regiments, English and Welsh Regiments and Irish Regiments. The block 3,377,001 - 6,972,000 was issued to the English and Welsh Regiments. Details can be found in the National Archives under WO123/62.

The Second World War

The Kings Regulations of 1940 allocated blocks of numbers to the Regiments of the British Army. These were issued to men at depots on enlistment. An extract from King's Regulations lists the numbers issued to the antecedent Regiments (see overleaf).

The East Yorkshire Regt	4,334,001 -4,379,000 (45,000 numbers available)
The West Yorkshire Regt	4,523,001 -4,601,000
The Green Howards	4,379,001 -4,435,000
The Duke of Wellington's Regt	4,601,001 -4,680,000

This system became an eight figure number during the war, starting with 10, from 1942, according to the enlistment books held in the Archives. Officers were given a number at this time, the lowest recorded at RHQ appears to be 993 (later Brigadier) B. W. Webb-Carter.

1950

From 1950 a new system of Service Numbers (or Serial Numbers) was introduced. These started from the number 22000000 in September (?) 1950. 22188607 Private P. L. Hirst is recorded with the lowest of these numbers in records held at RHQ.

2007

From 1 April, 2007, a new, JPA-driven, forces-wide eight figure numbering arrangement was introduced.

The previous system, using six figures for officers, eight figures for ORs, with a WO prefix for female service personnel, immediately identified officers, soldiers, female soldiers and gave an indication of their relative seniorities. From Regimental records the lowest number in this system was issued to 30010913 Private Beattie.

Officers promoted through the ranks now retain their original soldier's number, 24738140 Captain N. S. Wilson (LE Commission) having the lowest of these numbers and 25213241 2Lieut I. D. Martin being the first officer commissioned from RMA Sandhurst into the Regiment under the new scheme. (The first officer commissioned into the new Regiment was 565013 Captain M. P. Birkett, effective 6 June, 2006).

On 11 April 2008, the first officers to join the Yorkshire Regiment with the 3000 series numbers passed out from Sandhurst, 30015354 2Lieut E. G. H. Carter having the lowest.

As a result of these changes RHQs, and Corps in particular, will find life more difficult in grouping their members, officers and soldiers, male and female, but this is what the higher echelons consider progress ...

CHINA GILL'S 27 YEARS IN THE DUKES

In the last episode 1 DWR in North Africa in April/May 1943, fought some tough battles at Djebel Bou Aoukaz, Banana Ridge and Medjez el Bab, suffering substantial casualties, on their way to Tunis, where the Battalion led the marching troops at the victory parade. Through this period China was a platoon sergeant in D Company, a role he was not entirely comfortable with. The narrative, which has been abridged here and there to maintain the momentum of the story, continues ...

Our next move was to a settlement on the Tunis-Sousse road where a large area was cordoned off by barbed wire to hold a large number of German prisoners, mostly from the elite German 90th Light Division. A few days later we moved on again, it was here that someone told me that the QM was trying to have me transferred back to my old job of ration sergeant, but Major Ffoulkes was very reluctant to let me go.

However, the next day the QM, Lieut Lyons, was in our area. I mentioned to him I had heard that he was trying to have me back and that Major Ffoulkes was against it. He said "what would you prefer?" As I had served almost four years as ration NCO and was still not fully trained to be a platoon sergeant, I said I would prefer to be on his staff. Later that day I was told to report back to the QM's staff. As will be seen later in my story that decision prevented me from being a POW.

It was now late May, the Bn commenced amphibious training. An island Pantellaria was the favourite choice, others said Sardinia and Crete. One day I was drawing rations and among the items issued were some flat cardboard boxes. I opened one and found it contained dozens of condoms. They were not on the loading list so I contacted the QM; he just said issue them to the companies There were enough for two per man.

We returned to our camp in Tunisia. Preparations were well in progress for the invasion of Pantellaria by the 1st Division. On 11 June the Bn embarked at Sousse in landing craft. The island had been heavily bombed by the RAF. The landing craft approached the coast, the naval craft bombarded over us, only one enemy battery replied but was soon silenced. The flying fortresses arrived, followed by fighter bombers. Some anti-aircraft fire from the coast was soon silenced. The landing craft reached the coast unopposed.

All units had been briefed on their routes, but so heavy had been the allied bombers there were no roads or any identifiable hills or buildings. Italian prisoners appeared with their white flags, all of them smiling with relief. At about 1730 two Italian officers and a civilian arrived to surrender. On 12 June formalities were completed to take over the island. On 13 June the Brigade began its evacuation of the island. The only casualty had been the collapse of a bombed wall that caused the death of Private Clark. The only opposition had been by German aircraft which appeared at three-hourly intervals.

On 14 June the Bn arrived back at Sousse. Over the next few months the Bn was at Sousse, Cretoville, Hammamet and other places. We commenced to welcome back our casualties from North African battles. Spare vehicles arrived; RQMS Cherry and Sgt Flower acquired a 15cwt which converted into an office. At one time I found a motorcycle, used it for a day, but it was a hindrance when we moved so I gave it away. I also had a jeep for a couple of days, but as I had a 30cwt ration lorry I dispensed with the jeep. Sgt Flowers gave his 'office' away to an amazed bystander.

Our stay in Tunisia came to an end in December when we embarked at Bizerta on troopship Leticia for Taranto, Italy. Two other troopships and six destroyers completed the convoy. It was a pleasant 3 day voyage.

Having the Bn together enabled me to enjoy the pleasure of being in the Company of some old mates whose friendship went back to the days of Devonport, Aldershot, Malta and Bordon, Tug Wilson being the oldest (since 1929). The only officer now with the Bn from pre-war days was the CO, Lieut Colonel Webb Carter. He was with the Bn when I enlisted in 1929, left us pre-war, CO of the 2/7 Bn and now back with us once more. A very popular Dukes officer.

Disembarking at Taranto we found ourselves on the outskirts of the town, near the railway. Having been fed we lay around wondering where and when we would go next. It was not long before the local children appeared, and our questions were answered. They said we were going to San Ferdinando and told us what time we would be leaving. They were spot on. Next day we arrived at the small town of San Ferdinando and were billeted in various schools, buildings etc for the next couple of weeks.

On 1 January 1944 the Bn packed and moved ostensibly to Ortuna. We set off to the North but before we reached Foggia the column was halted and given new instructions. It had been a very close guarded secret that the Ortuna move was a bluff and at Foggia we would turn left and cross to the west coast to a small town called Sarno only a couple of miles from Naples and Pompeii.

By this time the German positions in Italy were roughly east/west, coast to coast, north of Naples. On 17 January 1944 the Dukes moved to Castellamare, a port a few miles south of Naples. The Bn moved onto the local soccer pitch, were fed and rested for a day or two, then on 19 January moved to the harbour to embark on LCIs and LCTs. The convoy left, the island of Capri was left astern. Keeping well to the west, the 5th Army front was passed during the night of 21/22 June.

The convoy was an impressive sight, and carried one British division and two American divisions with all the supporting arms, also a vast naval protective force and many other ships with cargo, a number of them had balloons to protect them from air attack. I was on a LCI with HQ Company and a number of supporting personnel such as RN teams with W/T to contact ships, RAF personnel, Royal Signals etc.

We were briefed on the purpose of the amphibian forces. It was to effect a landing well behind enemy lines at a town called Nettuno and its neighbour Anzio.

The convoy sailed west into the Tyrrhennian Sea. I am not sure if we had a breakfast but as the day passed we thought about our dinner. On top of all the secrecy no one had mentioned anything about feeding arrangements. I had no idea; my thoughts were that once ashore I would draw rations from RASC. However, on deck were a number of fourteen-man composite rations. I counted them and discovered there was enough food to cater for the number of troops on the LCI to last over three days. No one appeared to know the purpose of the compo.

The LCI's galley was a tiny space that catered for a crew of about ten. We decided that all we could do was to use some of the compo rations. We opened the requisite number of boxes, took out tins of stew, veg etc, borrowed a couple of dixies from the galley, set up half a dozen tommy cookers, and proceeded to cook a meal. The RN's ship OC saw the flames and ordered them to be put out, although the deck was steel the flames were considered too dangerous. We received permission to use the galley and eventually everyone had a satisfactory meal and a mug of tea.

There had been no sign of enemy planes, the convoy changed its course and was now sailing towards Anzio and Nettuno well to the north of the front line that was around Casino, possibly fifty miles or more south of our landing area.

At 2000 hours 23 January the 2nd Brigade landed just north of Anzio, the American army landed at Nettuno, only a few German troops were seen. The Guards Brigade was next to land, their beach was very difficult and the 'Ducks' were used to assist them. By now the enemy had resourced some long-range shelling and a few air raids. It was decided that the 3rd Brigade (including the Dukes) were now to land at the port of Anzio. The two gangways were lowered, one on each side of the bows and we marched onto the shore. By coincidence the Bn's transport was unloading alongside, and the CO was able to use his jeep immediately.

The initial beachhead had been secured. The Bn marched into Corps Reserve in an area already picked out from air photographs. This area became B Echelon's location for the next four months until the break out came from the beachhead.

In the next instalment China has his luckiest escape during the war and after a pause of some four months the Battalion goes into action.

1960's RUGBY - THE GOLDEN ERA?

REUNION - NOVEMBER 2008

On Peter Robinson's initiative, a rugby reunion of the successful 1964 - 68 squads was held at Warminster on 21 November 2008. Nineteen members attended, with Alan Westcob arriving from South Carolina, USA and Joe Cagilaba from Denmark. They were joined by several members of the current 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (DWR) XV squad.

Background. Towards the end of National Service (NS) the Dukes had assembled one of their most talented squads ever; with three ex-internationals, a host of talented NS officers and a string of rugby league stars (including Jack Scroby, Norman Field, Arthur Keegan, Charlie Renilson). They coasted to the 1960, 1961 and 1962 finals; to be beaten narrowly by 1 KOSB twice and the Welsh Guards. A depleted squad then went back to the drawing board.



Back row: Guy Shuttleworth, Mick Bird, Peter Robinson, Lofty Youdan, Gerry Bird, John Thorn, Don Palmer, Andrew Nickell. **Middle row:** Joe Cagilaba, Robin Newell, Dick Mundell, Alan Westcob, Ian Reid, Peter Andrews, Johnny Walker, Mick Cuss, David Pugh. **Front seated:** Geoff Hunter, Michael Bray, Adrian Stone.

In 1964 the Battalion was posted to Osnabruck in Germany and settled down to a new routine: rugby up to the BAOR final stage by December; then a Yorkshire tour against 4/5 West Yorkshire civilian teams (always Halifax) in the spring to toughen up, prior to the Cup Final in April. There was much enthusiasm and some talent in the squad. But there were gaps in this team, and several players had to play out of position. Rugby training was a CO's parade, so that fitness and practice were no problems. The team under Dick Mundell played a tight game, with strong scrummaging and tough defence. Team spirit was very evident. The arrival of two (later three more) Fijians added talent to the squad; and Mike Campbell-Lammerton (an instructor at Sandhurst and so eligible to play) arrived in his Scottish jersey for the final. It was sweet revenge to beat the Welsh Guards 11 - 6 in the 1965 final; with Chris Edwards scoring the telling try.

The following season saw the return of Ian Reid at fly half and a growing squad of young soldiers and officers. By this time the Dukes were the favourites playing a more expansive game; yet they were held to a 9 - 3 victory in the 1966 final by 63 Para Squadron RCT.

From then on, under Ian Reid, the team was more than a match for 7 RHA in the 1967 Final running in three tries to win 14 - 3 and in 1968 in one of the best finals beat the Welsh Guards 20 - 3. The Dukes had retained the Cup four times. Then posted to Hong Kong, they made their mark winning the Far East Cup against a strong New Zealand regiment side in Malaya.

This winning streak remained, on return to Catterick in 1971 regaining the Army Cup under Chris Gilbert, beating 1 RRW 15 - 8 in 1972.

The Reunion. The evening was a great success, pre-dinner drinks were held in the 3rd Battalion sports bar. The memorabilia displayed on the walls created talking points and brought back many memories. Past and present players were introduced to each other. The young Fijians in the current squad were in awe of Joe Cagilaba, who looked every bit the statesman.

After photographs, dinner was held in the Officers' Mess. Grace was said with a one minute silence for those who have departed. A good dinner with plenty of wine; after which Dick Mundell and Ian Reid the Captains of the era made suitable speeches (in spite of Gerry Bird's 'novel' contributions). Lieut Colonel Andy Pullen, the Commanding Officer of 3 Yorks responded. It was very heartening to hear his commitment towards sport in the Regiment and in particular rugby, and the determination to win that elusive Cup once more.

Needless to say 'years were shed' and the party went on to the early hours with many renditions the 'Dukes are Coming Up the Hill' and the 'Red, White and Navy Blue'. It was a great gathering. Thanks must go to Lee Pearce the Adjutant and current 1st XV team captain for his work in sorting out the arrangements; and the Commanding Officer Andy Pullen for allowing us to use his Battalion's facilities; in the Officers' Mess with the Colours, silver and staff.

ARMY RUGBY CUP

SEASON 1961-62



Runners-up 1 DWR

**Players who played in the U.K. Final
and/or Army Final**



(1) Captain E. H. Dasent (*captain, full-back*), (2) Lt D. Marsay (*wing threequarter*), (3) Pte R. Sabine (*centre three-quarter*), (4) Pte B. Curry (*centre three-quarter*), (5) Pte P. Schofield (*wing three-quarter*), (6) Lt I. P. Reid (*fly half*), (7) Lt P. A. Pettigrew (*fly half*), (x) The Runners-up Cup, (8) Major D. W. Shuttleworth (*scrum half*), (9) Lt D. R. D. Newell (*scrum half*), (10) Major D. E. Isles (*forward*), (11) Captain M. J. Campbell-Lamerton (*forward*), (12) Sgt Parker (*touch judge*), (13) Lt C. L. J. Bailey (*forward*), (14) Pte F. Baxter (*forward*), (15) Major R. M. Harms (*forward*), (16) L/Cpl D. Croft (*forward*), (17) Pte C. Renilson (*forward*), (18) Lt W. R. Mundell (*forward*), (19) Lt W. F. Charlsworth (*forward*).

ARMY CUP CHAMPIONS 1967-68



L to R, standing: Lt A. R. Westcob, 2/Lt M. P. Bird, 2/Lt C. J. W. Gilbert, Lt P. J. Bird, L/Cpl M. P. Youdan, Cpl P. Robinson, Sgt M. Hall, Pte M. Cuss, Pte T. Waqabaca. Seated: Major P. B. L. Hoppe, L/Cpl D. Dickens, Captain P. A. Pettigrew, Captain I. P. Reid (Captain), Lt D. R. D. Newell, Lt C. G. Edwards, Lt J. M. Thorn.

The Players. Those who attended were: Peter Andrews, Mike and Gerry Bird, Michael Bray, Joe Cagilaba, Mick Cuss, Geoff Hunter, Dick Mundell, Robin Newell, Andrew Nickell, Don Palmer, David Pugh, Ian Reid, Peter Robinson, Guy Shuttleworth (representing his father), Adrian Stone, Johnny Walker, John Thorn, Alan Westcob and Lofty Youdan.

Apologies through distance, ill health and busines: Chris Edwards, Lesley Evans, Matt Hall, John Hemmings, Peter Hoppe, Chris Jowett, Peter Pettigew,

Geoff Robson, and our other Fijians Tom Waqabaca, 'Poni' Ponijiasi and Sam Basu.

Our deceased: Mike Campbell-Lamerton, Dave Dickens, Chris Fitzgerald, David Gilbert-Smith, Chris Gilbert, Mike Hardy, and Tony Redwood-Davies.

Dick Mundell

P.S. Would anyone like to follow this event up and organize a reunion for the 1973-1981 era?



Members of 3 Yorks (DWR) rugby squad with the 1960s players after the reunion dinner.

EUROPEAN RUGBY TOUR

21 JUNE - 2 JULY 2008

For various reasons this report could not be carried in the last edition. The successful completion of this tour was clearly a huge achievement and shows beyond doubt that the Dukess' rugby traditions are alive and well.

Day : 1
Distance : 1414.5 km
Duration : 9 hours
Location : Battlesbury, Warminster
Opponents : Hindoostan RFC
Score : 45-15

The day started with a high level of excitement as everyone picked up their 'stash' for this mammoth tour around Europe. But, there was a game to concentrate on and ten very enthusiastic rugby players to play against in order to kick start this tour. The game kicked off at 1330hrs with a convincing win for the first game, this helped to get us off on the right foot. Then it was a hasty dash to the changing rooms to get a quick shower before starting the longest leg of the tour down to the south of France. We left the barracks at 1500 and the tour had officially begun; now it was just a case of head down and push on to Folkestone to get the Euro-tunnel. There was a minor break for the squad at the service station and as Lieut Bond was in charge of the head count we managed to forget a player. The player was quickly retrieved and we raced off in our 62 mph restricted minibuses. As Captain Pearce was worrying so much about what he was eating the next day we managed to drive straight off a tiny road that circles London, I think it's the M25, it's not like it's the busiest road on the planet! After a couple of minor mishaps we managed to catch our train and the first squad meeting was called, the discussion point was to stop in central France for some rest or push on to get there, after a two minute debate we were pushing on to Toulon. After a very quick journey on the Euro-tunnel, the drivers - WO2 Holsworth and Sergeant JJ were very focused on the mammoth task and a stag rota was pencilled in for both vehicles and we were eating up the distance at 62 mph!

Day : 2
Distance : 1414.5 km
Duration : 12 hours
Location : Toulon, France
Opponents : La Seyne RFC
Score : 27-13

This period of time really blended into one very long day as the squad as a whole did not sleep all night as the main effort was to keep the drivers focused. The hours from midnight until 0400 were very long and pretty uncomfortable, and it was at this stage that I suddenly thought what on earth had I organised here, as the fun had certainly been left somewhere near Calais. The sun rose at 0430 and was greeted with smiles all round as it made the miles and miles of motorway visible. Frequent stops for espressos and refuelling and we were breaking the back of the journey, we reached Lyon at 0930 and

had the first of our 'travellers meals', this was taken at a service station picnic area, something which we would become affiliated with for the next few days. Spirits were significantly raised and the last push to Toulon started. We reached our destination at 1200 and checked into our beautiful hotel, everyone was extremely tired after this mammoth journey and we rested before the evening's game. Toulon is a stunning seaside city and the squad settled into a pre-match feast overlooking the Mediterranean sea, and smiles and laughter started to churn out again, as the longest journey of the tour had been completed. The heat at this point was well over 30°, so adapting to this was quite hard for some of the lads. We moved over to Murillon beach to have a long cool dip and get prepared for the game. The playing surface we were on was the beach, a fantastic set-up at Toulon beach rugby club. After a very quick warm-up with some locals, who were more than used to the sandy playing service. The opposition arrived and the game begun, one of the most amazing playing grounds in the world.

The sun was beating down, the waves lapping the shoreline and there was the 3 Yorks rugby team playing in front of quite a large crowd. The game was hard as fatigue was not in our favour, but due to a very strong Fijian contingent we won our second game. We were hosted very well after the game, and Lieut Hayton-Williams managed to understand in very broken English from our host Francois, that it was free beer! A couple of refreshing cold beers on the beach and then the squad went out for another seaside meal and retired to bed for our early start in the morning. Well, most of us went to bed early, we were on a rugby tour after all!

Day : 3
Distance : 527.2 km
Duration : 5 hours, 30 mins
Location : Geneva, Switzerland
Opponents : Geneva Rugby Club
Score : Moral victory

The morning started at 0700 and a large continental breakfast was enjoyed by the squad. A brief love affair with this stunning seaside town had to come to an end and Geneva, the capital of Switzerland, was in our sights. Another beautiful roadside lunch was brought out and all the squad mucked in to get this feast ready, we were really getting used to life on the road now! Private Waniquolo (Tyson) had now broken an official sleeping record, as he was consistently proving that as soon as the wheels moved he was asleep. After lunch there was only a short distance to get to our destination, and we checked into our very luxurious hotel in the early afternoon. It was soon evident that the contact for Geneva Rugby Club was not at the hotel as organised and a mild panic ensued for Lieut 'Euro Homme' Bond. However, everyone went upstairs and training kit was deployed, a local park was found and ten locals were roped into playing us!

A slightly random afternoon in a Swiss public park with a pitch marked out by trainers and ten Swiss men, who were rather new to the game of rugby. After running the journey out of our legs and an interesting game, it was a certain Captain 'Stav' Johnston's birthday, so we found a local restaurant and had another feast. The squad was a little weary and the realisation of this mammoth task was beginning to settle in, so we had another early night in the hotel in preparation for Vaduz in Liechtenstein the following day.

Day : 4
Distance : 257.4 km
Duration : 3 hours, 6 mins
Location : Vaduz, Liechtenstein
Opponents : Black Lynx Rugby Club
Score : 84 - 7

A rare lie-in for the squad was had, as the leg from Geneva to Vaduz was the shortest of the tour. We loaded up the mini-buses at 0900 and had the luxury of Captain Pierce and WO2 Holsworth producing a fine breakfast as they had got up early to feed the boys. Morale was high and it was to be another stint in the wagons until we reached our next destination - Liechtenstein. We arrived at lunch time and we were given a tour of the city by our hosts, the Black Lynx rugby club. The rugby club was only two years old and was certainly grass roots rugby. However a short tour of Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein, which has a population of five thousand people. The opposition tactics were evident as after the tour they took us straight to there rugby bar and ordered the beers. However, in true 'York's' fashion we declined and got ready for the game. The game kicked-off at 1900 and it was clear very early on that it was a miss-match, we scored six tries in as many minutes and took our foot off the accelerator. Everyone in the squad got a game, as we played with respect and humility in order to let the opposition get some reward we gave them a few tries.

The aim of the tour was to complete all the games, in these countries rugby is a very minor sport, so it was just a great occasion for both teams to be playing. The pitch was stunning and this would only continue throughout the tour, the backdrop of snow peaked mountains and glorious sunshine, only made a few of us not concentrate on the job in hand. A well deserved victory and some team photos, then it was off to the bar to celebrate and present the opposition with one of our touring shirts. The level at which we were hosted in Vaduz was quite remarkable; an enjoyable sing-song after the game, then the entire squad was being accommodated in one players house. On arrival at this very brave man's lodgings, it was clear that the ingredients for a successful evening where there, fifty kilos of meat and cold beers for all. A few quiet beers, followed by a few noisy ones, and everyone got some valuable sleep before tomorrow's mammoth journey to Ljubliana, the Slovenian capital.

Day : 5
Distance : 775.6 km
Duration : 10 hours, 35 mins

Location : Ljubliana, Slovenia
Opponents : Ljubliana Rugby Club

The morning was a bit of a haze, as the entire squad had really made use of the previous night's hospitality. The very reliable Sergeant Major Holsworth was up and dragging people out of their pits for the long drive ahead. Both mini-buses were loaded up and ready to go at 0700, a significant feat for a touring rugby side. A quick breakfast stop was needed and the staple diet of bread and fruit was gorged on. Then the journey was under way, the rather lethargic mini-buses were eating up all 775 of the kilometres towards our destination, and more hours were being consumed on the road. This was a rare treat on this day, as all of the squad were enjoying some much earned sleep. The drivers pushed on and lunch was soon upon us, we had to wake everyone up and another service station picnic area was enjoyed. This time, near the Slovenian border, and it was a remarkable 35°, far too hot for a picnic! We had broken the back of the journey and the finish line was in sight, a couple of very weary drivers took us to our hotel and we had been on the road for near on ten hours. A short training session took place in Ljubliana city park, and a few strange looks were had as rugby is a game that is not so popular there. The squad checked into the very classy Hotel Park, and Miha, our host from Ljubliana rugby club, took us to a local restaurant for some Slovenian delicacies. An early night was had in our very hot hotel with the game the following afternoon looming over us.

Day : 6
Distance : 775.6 km
Duration : 10 hours, 35 mins
Location : Ljubliana, Slovenia
Opponents : Ljubliana Rugby Club
Score : 82 - 7

Waking up in the world's hottest hotel was a significant disadvantage for the playing squad, as litres of fluids needed to be consumed, after the effects of sleeping in a sauna! A relaxing morning was had as we took in the sites of the Slovenian capital. Looking at the castle and museums and generally relaxing before the game ahead. Lieut 'Euro Homme' Bond and Ross did not help proceedings by striding around the capital in small vests and ridiculous sunglasses. The apprehension was building, as our previous club had reliably informed us that Ljubljana rugby club were strong opposition. Needing to get out of the very intense heat, most of the squad retired to the air conditioned hotel lobby to rest and prepare for the game. Miha, our host, came to meet us and take us to the ground, it turned out we were the curtain raiser for the third and fourth place play-off of the Hungarian-Slovenian league. We arrived with ten minutes until kick off, so preparation again was tip-top! Luckily the referee was late and it gave us a little time to warm-up.

The game began against a very enthusiastic opposition side and they were revved up for the game, however with the 'tens' game there is always that element of space and our very speedy backs started to run away with it. Then, nothing short of a miracle happened, a

certain Captain Johnston, all 23 stone of him, sprinted 75 metres to score a try! Silence descended as people did not know whether to laugh or cry. Then, the tries started to mount up and a try scoring pass was given to a very slow and morbid Lieut Hayton-Williams, he was caught due to distinct lack of pace! The game soon came to an end and another win was notched up. In the intense heat the squad re-hydrated on some local ale. We watched the game afterwards and supported Ljubljana rugby club, before moving into town because our referee owned a bar in town. The fines were mounting up, so the judge (Captain 'Cow' Pierce), called a kangaroo court. The heinous crimes were brought to bear and the dust settled on a very successful stay in Slovenia!

Day : 7
Distance : 687.6 km
Duration : 9 hours, 35 mins
Location : Prague, Czech Republic
Opponents : Slavia Prague Rugby Club

The squad was slowly getting used to the morning routine of up, pack, eat and drive. So like a well-oiled machine the buses were packed, food inhaled and seats were taken on board the buses. The length of drives was now paling into insignificance, as the squad was getting used to watching the country side fly past in our speedy mini-buses! The morning raced past and another road side lunch was had, and in true predictable form the judge showed his usual grumpiness, particularly apparent at hotel check-ins and meal times! The list of the judges pet-hates was beginning to become a rather extensive read, a grant total of 10,321 were noted by the end of the tour! We pushed on to Prague and arrived in the early evening, finding out the pitch was only two hundred meters from our hotel. The game was at 1400hrs the next day and most of the squad retired for an early night, but with the shining lights of Prague on our doorstep, a swift visit was in order.

Day : 8
Distance : 687.6 km
Duration : 9 hours, 35 mins
Location : Prague, Czech Republic
Opponents : Slavia Prague Rugby Club
Score : 67-7

A leisurely morning was had: a continental breakfast followed by a wander round the city. The sports facility was close to our hotel and was already playing fixtures of a wide-variety of sports from beach-volleyball to Thai boxing. As we wandered around we saw posters advertising our game against Slavia RFC. A big hearty lunch was enjoyed in a random shack next to a lacrosse pitch. It produced a lovely feast for the squad - but not what was really needed on a hot day before a match! It became very apparent that the world mens/ladies lacrosse championships were being held at the grounds, so expert spectators we all became.

The game kicked off at 1300 and the opposition looked our strongest yet. It was the first time they had played 'Tens' and if it had been the proper game it

would've been very tight. They had an ex-professional second-row forward, Jan Mahachek, who was an excellent player, and has now got a number one fan in Captain Pearce. The game opened up quite early and the extra space allowed us to get a comfortable buffer by half time, but under strict refereeing from Lieut Heyton-Williams, the game resumed. Privates Smith and Nunn, two rugby novices, were improving every game and the Fijian clan were as ever their outstanding selves.

Another promising win and the barbeque was already lit when we trudged off the field. A quick shower and big feast was had, washed down with some very strong local tippie. They had a player called the 'Goat' who seemed to get on very well with our player, the 'Cow'. So the bar descended into a small farmyard for the animals to play with each other. The rugby squad moved off to watch England V USA ladies lacrosse final, a must-see event. The rugby choir was belting out great renditions of 'Jerusalem' and 'Swing Low', to give our ladies some support. Then about twenty minutes into the game there was a sighting of the Cow, walking sideways and waving his hands, it appeared that the Goat had heavily bullied our team captain. Then on closer inspection it appeared that Cow had got rather over-refreshed with the Goat and was now taking the consequences. Cow safely tucked up in bed, the squad moved into town at 1800, that's how early our captain went to bed!

Day : 9
Distance : 563.2 km
Duration : 6 hours, 25 mins
Location : Guterslo, Germany
Opponents : Slavia Prague Rugby Club
Score : 70-0

The usual morning routine again and we were on the road at 0700, the early mornings taking their toll on the hardened tourists in the squad. It was another long drive to reach our destination for 1600 kick off, so we were racing against the clock. Lunch was purchased and that was to be had on board until we reached our destination. The drive was a long hard push, but at 1550 we arrived at the pitch with a big crowd and a team warmed up and ready. However, we were at the back of our mini-buses pulling sweaty, putrid kit out of sports bags to play in, it was eye-wateringly smelly! A very un-enthusiastic warm-up and before we knew it we were in a game of rugby. After a brief period of the journey being shaken out we then begun to play, and the tries started to role in, with Sergeant Major Holsworth, Privates Rulle and Smith all darting in for much earned tries. LCorporal Qarunavalu and Private Waniqolo ran the game with bone crunching tackles and raw pace, to lead us to another win on the road. The squad was hosted very well on this military base, and a good after match meal was enjoyed. An early night was very high on the agenda, as we were shown our billets for the night; people were already making preparations for bed at 1800. A few members went into the town centre to watch the Euro 2008 football final, but apart from that it was getting the batteries recharged for the following day.

Day : 10
Distance : 400.2 km
Duration : 4 hours, 11 mins
Location : Luxembourg
Opponents : Walferdange Rugby de Renart RFC
Score : 55-0

Opponents : Bulldogs RFC, Amsterdam
Score : 51-0

The drive to Luxembourg was probably the most stunning encountered with the rolling countryside, mountains and numerous wind farms. The usual routine got underway and we arrived in the capital city at 1300. The hotel was a stone's throw from the airport and we had the afternoon off to relax before our game at 1900. When the squad met up at 1730, the weariness of the tour was setting in and creaky bodies mounted the awaiting buses. After a minor glitch with the sat-nav, we finally arrived for a short warm-up and to get the game underway. The ground was a media frenzy and we were told the game was to be showed on Luxembourg television that night.

After Lieut Bond had done his numerous television interviews, the game got underway, only to realise that they wanted to play with a girl, the Luxembourg ladies captain. The game was the most physical of the tour and we took a considerable amount of time to get into it. However, a convincing win ensued and a battered and bruised 3 Yorks rugby team trudged off the pitch. Another very well hosted event, with a large barbecue and local triple available, however the drivers were very fatigued so we made our way back to the hotel in preparations for our last game.

Day : 11
Distance : 369.3 km
Duration : 3 hours, 55 mins
Location : Amsterdam, Netherlands

The all inclusive breakfast was met with a warm reception by the squad and everyone ate and drank as much as they could before the long drive ahead. We set off at 0800 for the drive to Amsterdam. This was one of our shortest journeys yet, and the mini-buses were soon eating up the distance. The city of Amsterdam is a very complicated puzzle of canals and little back streets which, coupled with the fact that it was extremely hot, made finding the hotel a task in itself. On arrival it soon became apparent that the hotel was not booked, with steam coming out of his ears Captain 'Cow' Pearce was scribbling down another pet-hate. Lieut Bond walked to the next hotel and beds were booked, although he was sleeping in the mini-bus! A sightseeing tour ensued with some 'downtime' for the squad. Everyone went for a feast and saw the beautiful city. The game was at 1900 and the ground was a fair distance out from the city centre. Another minor glitch with the sat-nav taking us to all parts of the coastline, but we arrived at the ground for another quick warm-up and to play the Bulldogs RFC. They had an enormous squad of players and originally wanted to play forty minutes each way for a tens rugby game, an obscene amount! After a very short conversation with their captain it was decided that the normal timings would take place. The team really dug deep in this fixture and started to play some fantastic rugby with the Fijian contingent really playing well. Lieut Ross in his new position of prop, was learning fast. The tour's biggest hit appeared in this game when a particularly vocal American was totally ironed out by our hit man, Private 'Tyson' Waniquolo. Another win for the rugby team and that was us unbeaten on tour. A fantastic effort by all and the celebrations went long into the night, a well deserved party for all involved.

THE BURDEN OF A WIFE FOR A YOUNG OFFICER

Colonel Charles Cumberlege sent in this letter, explaining the one that follows which was sent to his father in 1931.

Ahmednagar
2.viii.31

Dear Dick,

"Your readers may be interested to see a letter written to my father in August 1931 by Lieut Colonel J. C. Burnett DSO ('JCB'), Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion stationed in Ahmednagar, India. My father, who had recently been appointed Adjutant, was on leave in the UK and had met my mother. In the time-honoured fashion, he had written to the CO seeking his permission to get married. By today's standard the CO's six-page reply was surprising in that he felt it was a thoroughly bad idea; and that if he went ahead with the wedding and returned to India with his bride, my father could forget about being Adjutant!

The outcome was that they married in October of that year and my father returned to India without his bride. A year later 'JCB' relented; whereupon a wire was dispatched to England and my mother sailed to India on the next available ship."

Your airmail letter of 22nd net: was something of a bombshell. I must say that I was gambling on you as a sensible fellow likely to avoid any serious effect from the fair sex for some years to come. Frankly I dislike the idea of a young married (newly married) Adjutant, and had you been committed to this state when I was making my decision as to Will's successor I should have ruled you out and looked elsewhere.

A young bride, however sensible she may be, is in my opinion, quite incompatible with a newly taken up Adjutant's job, especially in this country where there may be a flair up at any time. It is all very well for you my dear boy to say you don't think matrimony will make any difference to your job. I tell you the married officer under 30 years of age is in nine cases out of ten an infliction to a good battalion and when the proportion of them increases to the alarming extent it has done in

this Regiment, it becomes a menace to officer efficiency in the unit; a rot setting in at the roots which ultimately blights the whole tree.

I am told the 1st Bn will soon hardly have a bachelor subaltern of any service in its mess. Babe Webb-Carter is joining them; Charles Taylor is joining them in both cases because they don't want to go to Kamptee with wives. The result is that the Bn loses two useful fairly senior subalterns and gets infants in their places: it is ruination to mess life, its hard on the young stuff who need example and wholesome association with more experienced seniors; and it is rough on the rank and file who, in this country particularly, need the individual attention of officers who are young and athletic.

Say what you will, a young wife always comes first, they expect it, they are unhappy if they don't, and the net result is a loss to the Battalion. A young Adjutant out of the mess is only 50% an Adjutant; it's the personal touch outside the orderly room that counts for so much. Will has done more for this battalion by avoiding entanglement with the fair sex and setting an example to young fellows to exist as young men should in this country, than I can say. I am all for young Adjutants if they fill the bill professionally, but I have never known a young married Adjutant a real success.

You have a future, the Adjutancy followed by Staff College, later on a wife of the right sort will help you, but it is much too early yet to think of it. You are young

enough to wait and you must, both in your interests and in those of the Battalion. I don't know who will succeed me in command. If I did I should get his views and let them influence me to some extent: but I feel certain that anyone with outlook and experience that I have had will be of the same way of thinking. I had a talk to the CinC a few days ago on the subject of young officers marrying and he told me the best battalions are those which won't keep married officers below 30 years of age. It's a rule we shall have to make if things go on as they are.

This may all sound rather brutal, but soldiers must be brutal at times, and I am thinking of the soldier view, as I must. Apart from all I have said though, there is no harm in a reasonable engagement, later on, when the machinery is going, when too, this damned country looks more settled, when I know who succeeds me, then you can consider the whole prospect afresh. Out here under existing conditions the Adjutant's job is very much a whole time one, it will be infinitely more so for anyone new in the appointment.

I hope you will now take my advice, if you decide not to, and take the matrimonial plunge now, let me know by wire. I shall cancel the application I have made for your appointment and give the job elsewhere. What is all the damned hurry about anyway?

Yours
J. C. Burnett

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 in the Saville Room at The North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax.

Secretary: Mr P. R. Taylor, 7 Amy Street, Ovenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 5QB.

Huddersfield: 8.00pm last Friday of each month at WO's & 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 18 January, 18 April, 21 June, 20 September.

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

Sheffield: 8.00pm second Tuesday of each month at WO's & Sergeants' Mess, 38 Signals Regiment, Manor Top, Sheffield.

Secretary: Mr C. Withers, 18 Wheel Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 8RN.

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.

BIG SALUTES VETERAN WWII HEROES WITH COMMEMORATIVE FUNDING

World War Two veterans across the country can now sign up for a new multi-million pound commemorative funding scheme which will provide Lottery support for anniversary trips to the places in which they saw action. The Big Lottery Fund has just announced the opening of its funding initiative, Heroes Return 2, pledging funding for veterans, spouses, widows and carers wishing to mark overseas anniversaries throughout 2009 and 2010. Sir Clive Booth, Chair of the Big Lottery Fund said:

“The generation of men and women who served this country during the Second World War gave so much to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. As they get older, pilgrimages to the areas where they saw service become ever more poignant and precious to our veterans.

The Heroes Return 2 funding announcement builds on the Fund’s previous support for our veterans. We were proud that we were able to contribute to events marking the 60th anniversary leading up to the end of the Second World War - including helping 39,000 veterans and their carers go overseas to revisit those sites where they saw action.

This is why I am personally delighted to announce the launch of Heroes Return 2, making a further offer to fund the trips for those veterans who would like our support to attend anniversary events across the world. In this way, we hope to do our bit on behalf of the whole nation to honour the service and sacrifice so many of our veterans made.”

The Fund has opened up a Heroes Return 2 Helpline for all veterans to ring for further information:

Telephone 0845 00 00 121

Hundreds have already registered their interest.

Pat White National Chair of the Italy Star Association said: “We are delighted that the Big Lottery Fund has given us another opportunity for more of our veterans, some of whom have not had a chance to visit their areas of combat, to return and bury their nightmares. The first time I entered a Commonwealth war grave cemetery it felt as if I was entering a different world, so calm and peaceful: when you walk in peaceful lanes so green, remember them and think what might have been. We do remember them.”

The Big Lottery Fund has already supported veterans through the ‘Awards For All’ small grants programme with funding of over £178,000 to support anniversary trips this year.

Launched to mark the historic 60th anniversary of D-Day in 2004, BIG’s former Heroes Return scheme awarded £16.6 million to over 39,000 veterans, spouses, widows and carers to fund commemorative visits to Second World War battlefields, cemeteries and other significant places across the world.

Heroes Return was the centre-piece of the Veterans Reunited programme including Home Front Recall which awarded £19.2 million to support UK-based group events and activities to commemorate those who contributed to the war-effort on the home front, and ‘Their Past Your Future’ with an ongoing £9.6 million

scheme funding a UK-wide schools and education programme to give young people the opportunity to learn first-hand from veterans about their experience of war.

Useful relevant numbers

Big Lottery Fund Press Office	020 7211 1888
Out of hours contact	07867 500 572
Heroes Return 2 Helpline	0845 00 00 121
Public Enquiries Line	08454 102030
Textphone	0845 6021 659

Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

FORTHCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

A programme of known events is shown inside the back cover. Please let the Editor know of any additional activities which are open to members of the Regimental Association. It would also be good to receive reports and, if available, photographs. Readers should consult our website: www.dwr.org.uk, for up to date information throughout the year.

The main event coming up is the Annual Regimental Service. It is to be held in Halifax Parish Church on Saturday 25 April 2009 at 11.30am. The Regimental Chaplain, Canon Roy Matthews, together with the Vicar of Halifax, the Reverend Hilary Barber, will conduct the service, and Reverend Barber will give the address. The King’s Division ‘Normandy’ Band will play during the service.

Tea and coffee will be provided free of charge in the Parish Hall from 10.30 - 11.15am.

After the service, at 1.00pm, a buffet lunch will be available in the Town Hall at a subsidised cost of £10 per head. A cash bar will be in operation. Access to the Town Hall will be by ticket only.

Regimental invitations to attend the service have been sent to the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, the Mayor and Chief Executive of Calderdale.

OFFICERS’ LUNCH, 26 MARCH 2009

Thirty-eight people assembled at Armoury House, the home of the Honourable Artillery Company in the City of London, to enjoy each others’ company and an excellent meal. The event was arranged by Brigadier Michael Bray.

Those present were - the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Chris Adair, Michael and Anne Bray, Geoffrey Bullock, Christine Campbell-Lammerton, Richard and Elizabeth Diacon, Mac Dowdy, John and Judith Greenway, Michael Goodman-Smith, Charles and Mary Huxtable, Penny and Anne Kilburn, John and Patricia Lobonov-Rostovsky, Tim and Sheenagh Nicholson, Robin and Jill Newell, Simon and Lucie Newton, Alistair and Carolyn Roberts, David and Karen Ross, David and Jo Santa-Olalla, Jean Shuttleworth, Tessa Vallings, Richard, Anne and Sarah Ward, and John and Patricia Wilson.

It was a most enjoyable occasion and there was a clear consensus to make this an annual event.



GOLF: 'THE HINDOOSTAN OPEN' 3 JULY 2009

An inaugural match for members of the Dukes' London Group and their guests was played at the Surrey National Course in July 2008. The next gathering of the 'kings of swing' will be on Friday 3 July at Hever Castle Golf Course, Kent, about twenty minutes from M25 junctions 5 and 6. Coffee and bacon roll, eighteen holes and some sort of lunch for about £50. More details available from the organiser in due course. Hever Castle GC has twenty-seven holes spread over 250 acres of mainly parkland, with trees, bunkers and a fair bit of water to catch the unwary, but it is a most attractive setting and provides a good challenge for all standards of players. This is open to all Dukes.

Email: stewart.dick@hotmail.com to register your interest and to receive further details later.



Last year's winner Gary Knight with Stewart Dick.

LONDON BRANCH JOINT MEETING

The London Branch's meeting on 18 April at the Union Jack Club will be jointly held with the PWO Association's London Branch. There has already been an exchange of guests with the PWO, and it is hoped that this next step may lead to greater cooperation in future. After the meeting members will have lunch together in the club. However, all concerned recognise that future developments along these lines must evolve - if at all - at their own pace, with the full support of members.

On 6 November last year Brigadier John and Judith Greenway set up the Regimental Plot at Westminster Abbey, which is in the same place as before but is contained within the Yorkshire Regiment Plot. On Remembrance Sunday itself there was good representation from the Dukes, including Fred Richardson, David Miller (both past Chairmen of the Branch), John Lobonov-Rostovsky, Eveline Jagger and her son Glen, and Bob Temple. Carmel Connolly was encountered as she made her way to join the marching contingent on Horseguards, and amongst the marchers were spotted Brigadier Johnny Walker, Leslie Winspear and John Kelly.

LETTERS

From Lieut General Sir Nicholas Houghton KCB, CBE, to Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE

As you will be aware, the Regimental Board decided it would be right to have a Yorkshire Regimental plot at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. After some initial consultation we were told that a reasonable plot of which we could be proud would cost between £12K and £15K.

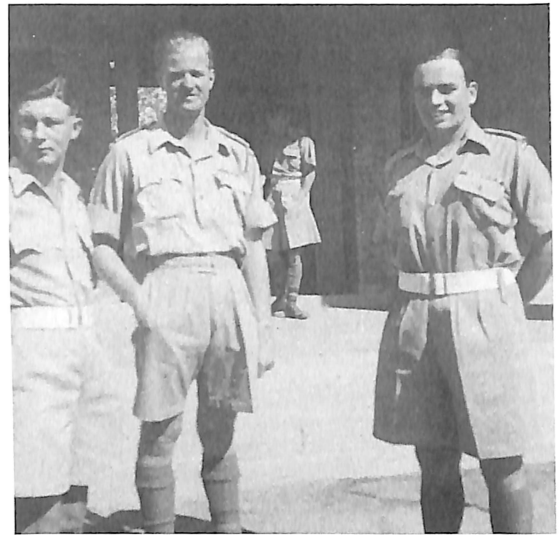
RHQ set up an appeal only in June last year, and I am delighted to say that we have already reached the top end of this target. I know that we could not have done this without considerable assistance from you and your Trustees and I am very grateful for your support.

I intend to be personally involved in this project so I hope you can be assured that the antecedent regiments will be included in our memorial in an appropriate way. I will of course keep you informed as to its progress and no doubt we will have a suitably fitting opening ceremony in due course.

From Mr John Wilson

As promised here are a few old photographs in which Donald Isles is featured. I don't know how or why the three of us came to visit the Mahdi's tomb. Geoff (Geoffrey Bullock) was Intelligence Officer at the time and Britain's preferred option for the future of the Sudan was independence under the leadership of the Mahdi's grandson, Abdul Rahman el Mahdi. The piece of masonry between Donald and Geoff is the remains of the original tomb after Kitchener's artillery had demolished it.

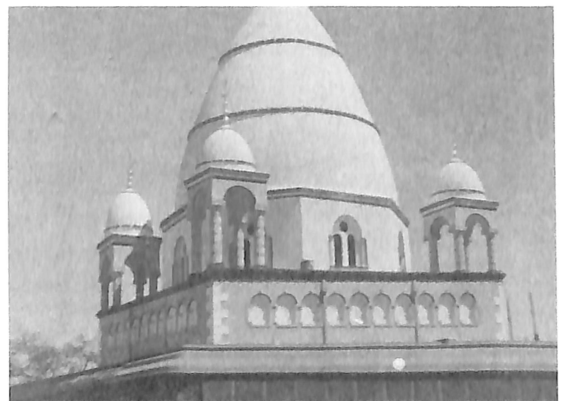
I thought that our lunch at Armoury House was a huge success and I hope to attend a few more there.



12 January 1947, Khartoum North Barracks.
L to R: Captains J. Wilson, G. Bullock, D. E. Isles.
Lieut Col Cumberlege can be seen in background.



January 1947, Omdurman, Sudan.
Captains G. Bullock and D. E. Isles with the
remains of original tomb of the Mahdi.



February 1947, Omdurman. Nearly completed
replica of the Mahdi's tomb.

From Brigadier J. B. L. Greenway CBE

In October last year Judith and I were on holiday in Spain, during which we made our first ever visit to Gibraltar. An informative and very entertaining part of our visit was a guided minibus trip round the main sights. Our extrovert guide, Phil, soon had his tourists firmly under control. He also demonstrated good control over a group of the famous apes. At some stage it became clear that he had been a serviceman in Gibraltar and, as he dropped us off, I asked whether by any chance he had served there with the Dukes. Yes he had.

He clearly remembered the name Cumberlege, his Commanding Officer, but he had to whizz off and deliver a part of his busload to a dolphin-watching boat so, frustratingly, I was unable to obtain his full name and more information about his service in the Dukes.

I hope someone, somewhere, will remember him. He helped to make our visit to Gibraltar a memorable one, not least by telling each one of us if we couldn't answer his confirmatory questions we would not be allowed back on the bus for the next leg of our tour!

From Mr Matt Wightman

It is with great pleasure that I have received my copy of Iron Duke this morning. I have read the Op Banner article with great interest as I myself served as part of 8 Platoon Corunna Coy 1986/89

I lost a great friend and soldier on that tour due to a RTA; he was Private James Mark Rigg of Wakefield and not as printed on page 78, Private Jeffrey Rigg.

At the time of Jim's death we were operating from Woodburn RUC Station (Belfast). 8 Platoon, and indeed the rest of the Company were an incredibly tight knit group well led and fiercely good humoured throughout what was an intensely busy deployment. We returned from a foot patrol to be told the de-brief would not be going ahead as Private James Mark Rigg had been tragically killed in a RTA.

I and the rest of the lads were stunned. Jim was due to leave the Regiment to Join the UDR and get married to his girlfriend, Mandy, whom he met on that tour, sadly it never happened. I will remember that day for the rest of my life.

I attended Jim's funeral and helped to carry the coffin at the crematorium but somehow I was so grief stricken and quite a young lad too to this day I have no idea where I was or where Jim's plaque is situated. If there is any way that anyone could help in this I would really like to go and say goodbye to a great pal.

Again thanks for a great magazine and any help with finding Jim would be greatly appreciated.

24707958

Lance Corporal Buzz Wightman

From Major Roger Jago (1 DWR MO June 1971 to March 1973)

Thanks for another excellent edition of the Iron Duke. One comment on the Op Banner article - L/Cpl Graham and Private Lee were not in a Ferret scout car when they were killed by the landmine near Cullyhanna - pictures in my possession, taken at the site, clearly show that the vehicle was a Pig. As far as I remember the Battalion did not have any Ferrets - ? if any were present in South Armagh they were driven by our armoured support provided by the RSDGs.



From Mr Tristam Wilson

My grandfather was Lieutenant Colonel 'Swazi' Waller and, for some time now, I have been researching his service history with the Dukes. I am aiming to produce a book for the family by the end of this year and would be happy to share this with you too if you would be interested for 'The Iron Duke'.

The aim of this email, however is to ask if you can help me. My mother subscribes to the 'Iron Duke' but has lost the edition (number 263, I think) with China Gill leading up to Dunkirk. As this was when my grandfather won his MC, I am really interested in anything that his narrative might add to mine. Could I possibly ask if you could send me a copy of the article?

(I was pleased to be able to supply the requested copy, and Mr Wilson has agreed to let us have something for the Iron Duke in due course. Readers should connect both China Gill's account in No 263 and also the short piece on page 100 of the last edition (No 265) about Hondschoote Military Cemetery; many of the fallen named there would have fought with Colonel Waller at the time of the action in which he won his MC during the retreat from Dunkirk.)

From Mr Frank Lowney

Way back in 1975 I was the Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant attached to Alma Company during our UN tour in Cyprus. I was recently rooting through some old boxes of photographs when I came across the one enclosed (below).

I am sure the occasion depicted was your (*the ID Editor's*) dining out dinner which we had in a Cypriot restaurant and, as I recall, was a very good mese. The

shot may be worthy of reproduction in the Iron Duke. It certainly captures the hierarchy of the mighty Alma all together in one spot.

You will notice that 'Albert', the Sergeants' Mess elephant mascot, sits proudly in the middle of the table. Well the story behind Albert's appearance is as follows. Bob Heron and I went to the Sergeants Mess in Dhekelia and asked to borrow Albert, but we were refused. We reasoned that we were entitled to borrow Albert, after all we were Mess members and Albert was to grace an auspicious occasion, so we borrowed Albert anyway and foolishly thought we could return him before he was missed. Needless to say Albert was missed and Bob and I were in trouble for 'stealing' mess property. Anyway, we were never charged and all's well that ends well.

I have many fond memories of that tour, our little empire in Sapper Village, the hundreds of budgerigars we inherited, visits to RAF Akrotiri at weekends. Then there was the downside of the evacuation of all the Turks to Nicosia, poor buggers, leaving all they owned behind and taking only what they could carry. (*See Lieut Colonel Tim Isles article about this in issue No 262 - Spring 2007.*)

Still it was an experience I will never forget and it is life's experiences that make us what we are. I retired from the post of RQMS at Leeds UOTC in 2005 aged 61 and completed more than 43 years' service. Wasn't I lucky!

More letters like this, recalling memories from service with the Dukes anywhere anytime, ideally with a photograph or two, will be very welcome.



Seated round table clockwise from near left, ranks as at that time (July 1975): Major Tim Nicholson outgoing OC, Sergeant Bob Heron, unknown and all but invisible, suggestions welcome. Lieut Andrew Drake, CSM Brian Stansfield, Major Peter Mellor incoming OC, Sergeant Wayne Harston, Corporal John Wragg, Sergeant Frank Lowney, Lieut Jack Kilburn, Colour Sergeant John O'Donnell.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL H. H. WAYMAN

The Regimental Museum has recently received two revolvers as a result of the generosity of Lieut Colonel Wayman's grandchildren, Mr Roly Gough-Allen and Mrs Lucinda Holbrook.

Second Lieutenant Henry Holdsworth Wayman joined the 3rd Battalion on 12 March 1895, attending his first training camp under canvas at York Racecourse later that year. When the Battalion volunteered for service in South Africa in January 1900, Captain Wayman embarked with A Company, arriving at Capetown on 20 March.

The Battalion's first task was to guard Boer prisoners of war at Simons Town, but when these were shipped out in January 1900, the 3rd took on a more active role. Most of the Battalion were posted to man the block-houses established to contain the Boer Commandos, but it was recognised that more British horsemen were needed to counter their mobility. Captain Wayman commanded F Company, which became the 3rd West Riding Mounted Infantry (MI).

After three weeks' training, F Company joined the De Aar Garrison. Captain Wayman was given command of all the garrison's mounted troops, which included detachments of NCOs and men from the 9th and 12th Lancers. By December 1901, his strength had increased by the inclusion of forty-five volunteers from Battalion Headquarters, C Company and two Squadrons of Border Scouts.

The Command provided patrols and outposts, escorted convoys and brought in horses, supplies and firearms from the surrounding countryside to deny their use to the Boers.

These activities led to frequent clashes and Captain Wayman and his men proved themselves capable of successfully taking on the enemy on his own terms.

He later wrote a brief memoir of his service which was included in the 'Records of the 3rd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment' by Captain N.H. Moore, 1910. Typical is the operation against the Malan Commando in October 1901:

"After several skirmishes near Murraysburg, an action was fought at Tygers Hock, near Nelsport, on October 15th, which resulted in two of the enemy being wounded and several horses being killed. The enemy then retired. Continuing to follow them, a second engagement took place at Swartbosch, lasting about two hours; the Boers were on a kopje overlooking a drift, which we had to cross, and they waited until our carts were in the drift before opening fire.

The fighting was very sharp, but we managed to get round their position and into their rear, when darkness coming on, the burghers vacated their position.

The Boers lost three men killed, and several were known to be wounded, and we also captured ten of their horses, with saddlery, ammunition, etc. The Company had four men wounded and nine horses killed."

He was Mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette, 29 July 1902, and promoted to Major for his service with the MI.

Major Wayman was appointed to the command of the 3rd Battalion on 12 May 1910, relinquishing it on 12 October 1916. Colonel Wayman served in France

with 11th Battalion, The Liverpool Regiment, but was invalided home and resigned his commission in April 1917 as a result of ill health. Awarded the OBE in 1919, Colonel Wayman passed away at Brockton, Halifax on 7 January 1933, aged 56.

The Revolvers

Colonel Wayman purchased this revolver from the famous gun makers John Rigby and Co, London and carried it throughout his service. The barrel is engraved 'Lt. Col. H. H. Wayman Duke of Wellington's Rgt.' and 'S. Africa 1900-1902 France 1914-1917'.

Officers could carry any revolver they wished, the only condition being that it chambered Government issued ammunition. Colonel Wayman chose this Webley 'WG' (Webley-Green) Army Revolver, serial number 14181. Introduced in 1894, it could fire both the recently introduced .455 cartridge and the older .476 cartridge it had replaced.

Accompanying it is a more unusual item, a revolver carried by his wife. This is an American-made .38 Harrington and Richardson Model 2 Revolver, manufactured some time after 1908 (production ceased in 1940). Housed in a holster designed to look like a lady's purse, it could be carried discretely in a handbag for personal protection in the days before stricter firearms legislation was introduced after the First World War.

The Webley 'WG' would have cost around five guineas (105 shillings). The Model 2 retailed in America at the same time for \$2.95, around twelve shillings.

The Museum and Regiment are indebted to the family of Colonel Wayman for this donation.

We are sorry that photographs of the pistols were not available at the time of going to press.

DUKES LONDON GROUP

The DLG held its first meeting of 2009 on Wednesday 25 February at the Special Forces Club in Knightsbridge. A total of twenty-four members and their guests attended and enjoyed the lavish hospitality laid on by Don Palmer and lavishly did they all pay for it too! However, the unique style and atmosphere of the place make it a much loved venue and we are very lucky to be able to have the use of it.

Ideally we utilise the offices of a member for our gatherings and have, in the past, been very fortunate with the hospitality offered to us. The BT Tower, courtesy of Mike Stone, and the 4th BT Battalion was a particular highlight. However, rather like the Dukes Silver Putter and Golf Courses, we rarely seem to be invited back and so to have such a distinguished location as the Special Forces Club as a default venue is very fortunate.

When the DLG last met back in October the swirling storm clouds of the Credit Crunch were only just beginning to darken the City skyline. By the time we met in February a veritable hurricane was howling round the smoked glass towers and steel spires of the Capital. Fortunately, although some were hanging on by their fingertips, there were no major problems reported.

Apart, that is, from the Group Convenor, who suddenly found that his wish to spend more time at home writing drivel was rather abruptly granted. However, professionals don't do unemployed, they just become consultants and he has fashioned some sort of dubious scenario for himself that will hopefully keep him out of the dole queue.

With the more traditional sources of employment such as the law, finance and manufacturing in the doldrums the theme of the evening was very definitely the Security business. It seems that the market for ex-military operatives is extremely good amongst those organisations interested in threat assessment and risk management such as the big insurance companies.

You may think that the likes of Happy, Churchill and that annoying bloke in the Nelson uniform are just interested in diddling you out of your no-claims bonus. But their main line in profit making is insuring ships and aircraft so if one of these gets hijacked they are keen to get them back. However if you think that they employ their military experts in dare devil rescue operations you would be wrong. Like good businessmen a deal is struck and the military muscle is employed in delivering the ransom. So next time Rover's pet insurance premium is hiked by 120% blame the Somali pirates!

The next meeting is on Waterloo Eve, Wednesday 17 June 2009. The venue has yet to be decided. Anyone

wanting to come along is very welcome to email the Convenor on dukeslondongroup@btinternet.com and he will put them on his mailing list. The DLG has also just opened up a group site on LinkedIn. Entry to LinkedIn is free and, unlike facebook, joining it is not likely to lead to 120 bikers turning up to gatecrash your next dinner party. There you will find details of the group golf day scheduled to take place on 3 July at Hever Castle.

Serving personnel are particularly welcome at both events. In many cases attendance by those still in uniform to group meetings has meant them deciding to stay in the service as they see that the grass is not necessarily greener outside. Indeed with employment conditions being what they are they may even be able to re-recruit some members back into uniform.

Finally, remember, despite the name, the group is very keen to welcome approaches from members of all three of the Yorkshire Regiment Battalions and from those that came before.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Brigadier D.M. Santa-Olalla DSO,MC, 54 Manchuria Road, London, SW11 6AE.

Mr P. Walton, 4a Wales Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire, BB4 9DN.

Obituaries

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

Lieut Colonel Richard Sugden CBE, TD

Richard Sugden was born on 8 July 1910 and died on 11 February 2009, aged 98 at Threshfield Court Care Home. He was commissioned into the 4th Battalion DWR in 1928 and served therein for the next ten years, being OC B Company, Brighouse for about half that time. He spent most of the war in staff appointments in the UK, Norway, the Middle and Far East starting at HQ 49 Division, ending as a GSO1 in Combined Operations.

The photograph shows the then Major Sugden commanding the B Coy 4 DWR Guard of Honour for the visit of HM King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, to Halifax Town Hall on 20 October 1938. To the left of the photo is Lieut Peter Cockroft.

His promotion to Lieut Colonel came about after his time serving Lieut General Montgomery as DAAG, XII Corps. Daily, he saw Monty alone for a session lasting from five minutes to half an hour, for six months starting April 1941. The letter, displayed on the opposite page, hand written by Monty dated 22 September 1942,



which speaks for itself, was in reply to one sent in thanks for Major Sugden's promotion to Lieut Colonel. Monty replied immediately after winning the defensive battle of Alam Halfa and shortly before El Alamein. Monty's written confidence and turn of phrase is classical.

H-Q. 8² Army
M.E.F.
22-9-42

My dear Sugden

I thank you for your
Airmaph on 21 Aug. I
am very glad you like
your present job; I was
anxious to push you on
up the ladder, as you
had served me well and
done good work.
I am enjoying life out here.
I was heavily attached by
Rommell on 31 Aug but
saw him right off. I had
not before had to face up
to a Field-Marshal in
battle and I rather enjoyed
it.
I hope all goes well with
the Canadian Corps. Please
remember me to all my
friends there.

Yrs. sincerely
B. L. Nondorey

Colonel Richard then served variously as AAG, 1st Canadian Corps in Cairo/Tripoli, later on a five month US Army and Navy Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Newport, Rhode Island and Washington DC from June to November 1944. Finally he became GSO1 Combined Operations in New Delhi from December 1944 to October 1945.

His CBE award was for seconded services to the Government of Malta from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, London. He was then head of the family flour millers of Thos Sugden and Son Ltd, Brighouse.

His son David, then doing his National Service, was the most junior subaltern D Company, 1 DWR Fort Campbell, Malta in 1956. Lieut Colonel Sugden arranged to arrive in Malta early October, do his work and come as a guest to the Officers' Mess, 1DWR. He knew Jimmy Davidson for example. Suez flared up and all 1 DWR were censored for any external communication. 1 DWR was ordered to embark on HMS Theseus, an aircraft carrier turned troopship. Just as 1 DWR sailed out of Grand Harbour Valletta so Lieut Col Sugden flew in to Luqa Airport. The get together never materialised!

A Service of Thanksgiving was held on Friday 13 March at Linton North Yorks. Members of the Regiment attending included Brigadier Dick Mundell OBE, Graham Allan, Ted Duckney and John Golding. Colonel Richard is survived by his son David, who served with 1 DWR in Malta, Cyprus (56/57), and N. Ireland.

Mr Charles Wildman

WO2 Charlie Wildman gave 28 years' service, regular and TA, with the Royal Signals, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and was one of the original Yorkshire Volunteers serving with the 1st and 3rd Battalions. When serving in Korea he was awarded the American Purple Heart which has been presented to only a few British soldiers. He was discharged from service in 1980 and will be sadly missed by his family, his comrades and his friends.

Patricia 'Tish' Ozanne

Patricia Ozanne, who died on 11 February 2009 aged 85, was the daughter of Major General W. M. Ozanne MC, who commanded 1 DWR in June 1936, bringing the battalion back from Malta, where it was so popular with the Maltese that the Times of Malta regretted their departure in a laudatory editorial. He saw extensive service during WW2.

Patrica Ozanne was a well known and successful rally driver, who competed in many events between 1953 and 1973. At age 17 she was on the last evacuation boat to leave the Channel Islands before it was occupied by the German Army. She returned after the liberation but then embarked on a round the world tour, which included working on a sheep station in the Australian outback. When she got home from those adventures she began her career in rallying, which took her all over Europe and South America. She drove a variety of cars, some highly unlikely rally contenders one might think, including a Sunbeam Talbot 90, a Standard 10, a Riley 1.5, a Ford Cortina, a Ford Zephyr, and several Minis and a Hillman Minx. She won many awards.

Mr Arthur Keegan

Arthur Keegan's funeral took place on 12 November 2008 at St Austin's Church, Wakefield. He had suffered with dementia for several years prior to his death aged 69 and is survived by his wife Jackie, two sons and three daughters.

Arthur (Ollie) Keegan was a National Service Duke in 1960/61 serving in Alma Company with the 1st Battalion in Brentwood, Kenya and Colchester. He was a very affable and competent soldier, and a good shot who became a popular section commander.

He was one of the fine rugby league players who excelled in the Rugby XV; a very secure, skilled and strong full back and a great asset to the side. His forte as a player continued with Hull Rugby League where he gained several Great Britain caps; he was playing for Great Britain in Australia at the same time as Mike Campbell-Lamerton was playing for the Lions in New Zealand. He was awarded the honour of becoming a Hull RL 'Legend' in 2005.

Among the many present at the funeral were former Dukes and Rugby League stars Brian Saville and Jack Scroby, his first Platoon Commander Dick Mundell, Peter Robinson, Bob Campbell-Lamerton and a fellow National Serviceman Marriott.

RHQ has also been informed of the following deaths:

Mr Douglas M. King. Douglas King, who served in the 9th Battalion during WW2, died on 27 December 2008, at the age of 91 years.

Mr Peter J. Bangs. Peter Bangs of Hull, died on 4 December 2008. Peter was a Lance Corporal in 7 Platoon, C Company in Korea, and was a member of the 'Daylight' Patrol on 24 January 1953 (photograph published in the Autumn 2008 edition, page 103). His funeral took place in Hull on 12 December. Fellow members of 7 Platoon; John Sargeant, Sam Hall, Bob Dawson and Edward (Zero) Brown, attended.

Mr Denis B. Grayson. Denis Grayson, who served in Korea with the 1st Battalion, died on 7 September 2008, at the age of 75.

Captain Ralph Turner. Ralph Turner, who served in the 7th Battalion at the end of WW2, died on 17 November 2008, at the age of 84.

Major Peter E. Wilks. Peter Wilks died on 7 October 2008, after a long battle with cancer.

Mr Ivan E Bridge. Ivan Bridge, who was a member of 5 Platoon, B Company in Korea, died in 2008 (date not known), at the age of 75.

Mr David Williams. Dave Williams, who served in C Company in Korea, died on 14 November 2008.

Colonel Jack Webb MC (RAMC). Colonel Webb died on 5 April 2009, aged 92. He was RMO for the 8th Battalion 1943-44 in North Africa and Italy. His funeral took place at Church of Our Lady, King's Road, Fleet, Hants, on Thursday 16 April.

Captain Ronald (Ronnie) Hoyle MC. Captain Hoyle died on 6 April 2009, aged 90. He served with the 1st Battalion 1944-46 in Italy and Palestine. His funeral took place at Kingswear Parish Church, Nr Dartmouth, Devon, on Thursday 16 April.

THROUGH SOLDIERS' EYES ... CDs FOR SALE

With the successful opening of the Dukes Museum in Halifax, three CDs have been produced to relate the stories of Dukes through the history of the Regiment.

Through Soldiers' Eyes - Stories by Dukes from 1948 - 2005
National Service, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq.

Through Soldiers' Eyes - Stories by Dukes from World War II and Korea
1 DWR in North Africa and Italy. 2 DWR in India and Burma
1/7 DWR in Normandy and in Korea at the Battle of the Hook

Through Soldiers' Eyes - Stories by Dukes from 1702 to 1918
The raising of the 33rd to the American War of Independence
The 33rd and 76th in India, Waterloo, Crimea and the Boer War, to the tragedy of World War I

These CDs cover the campaigns of the Regiment, where you can hear our soldiers recall their experiences and exploits in true Dukes style; in the first two CDs by the soldiers themselves and in the third through the voices of actors reading from letters and diaries - in all some ninety-three stories, a prayer from World War I and five songs.

**The CDs are available from RHQ DWR and cost £4 each, plus £1.50 post and packing;
or the set of three for £10, plus £2 post and packing in the UK.**

NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Service of Remembrance

National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR

Saturday 12th September 2009

The Northern Ireland Veterans Association (NIVA) remembers those who laid down their lives and those who served in the province during the conflict.

Membership is drawn from all those who served the Crown, namely the Military, Police and Prison Service.

This year's service is particularly poignant as it will also commemorate the 40th anniversary of deployment under Operation BANNER.

The service begins at 11.30am and will be held in the amphitheatre which is situated to the rear of the chapel, guests are therefore requested to dress for an outdoor service.

A parade down to the Ulster Ash Grove will follow for the laying of wreaths.

The parade will form up for a march off at 12.15pm by the Polar Bear, near to where the train for the AFM departs.

Following the laying of wreaths there will be a fifteen minute pause before the parade forms up for the return march to the visitor centre, during which the guest of honour will take the salute.

The service is open to all, and all associations are welcome to parade their standards. It would be appreciated if associations arranging for groups to attend could notify NIVA of numbers and confirm if their standard will be paraded.

A reception desk will be manned just inside the visitors' centre for those who need assistance or questions answered.

If you have considered becoming a member of NIVA you can bring your documents with you and have a chat with the Membership Secretary.

For further information regarding the service and nearby accommodation please contact Richard Leach (NIVA Media Officer) at: media@nivets.org.uk or visit the website: www.nivets.org.uk



The NIVA Collect

Almighty and Loving God, who has brought us together in comradeship and remembrance of all who have suffered for the sake of peace in Northern Ireland; grant us the courage, the strength and the humility to grow in your grace, forgiveness and love, as we try to honour you and support each other with our memories and our lives, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Lest We Forget

Directions to the Arboretum

The Arboretum is sited in the centre of England on Croxall Road, Alrewas in Staffordshire, so is easy to reach from any part of the country. It is close to all the Midlands motorways.

ACCESS BY CAR

M1 (southbound) - exit at Junction 28 and take the A38 south by-passing Derby and Burton, or exit at Junction 24 and take the A50 west until reaching the A38 south.

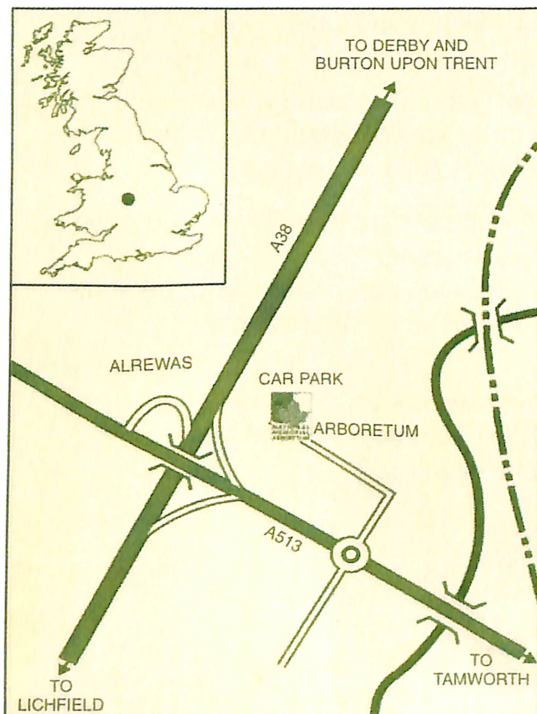
M1 (northbound) - exit onto M6 north and exit M6 at Junction 4 taking the A446 north until it joins the M42 north - exit at Tamworth and take A5 west until reaching the A38 Derby/Burton exit.

M6 (southbound) - exit at Junction 11A onto M6 Toll (junction T5) - follow to A38 Burton/Derby, A38 north A513 junction at Alrewas exit.

M6 (northbound) - exit at Junction 4 onto M6 Toll (Junction T5) - follow to A38 Burton/Derby, A38 north A513 junction at Alrewas exit.

M54 (eastbound) - exit at Junction 1 and take A460 towards Cannock passing over M6. Continue towards Cannock, turn right onto A5 south and then leave A5 at A38 Burton/Derby exit.

For SatNav users the postcode is **DE13 7AR**.



The map shows the main roads in the vicinity of the Arboretum. The M42 is just off the map and the nearest point is at Tamworth.

ACCESS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Lichfield Trent Valley is the closest railway station (5-6 miles). Burton railway station is about 8 miles away.

Bus Route 112 runs up to every 60 minutes in the day-time Monday to Saturday, from Burton railway station (ideal for travellers making connections to and from the Cross Country Rail Network) to Birmingham via Burton on Trent, New Street, Branston, Barton under Needwood, Alrewas, National Memorial Arboretum, Lichfield, Hill Hook, Sutton Coldfield and Erdington.

Bus Route 7E between Burton on Trent and Lichfield via Branston, Barton, Yoxall, Alrewas and Fradley, will call at the Arboretum on Sundays

Bus timetables can be found on the Arriva Town Linx website.

From Lichfield. City Cars are offering a special pre-booked taxi rate of £8 each way (four seater car) or £12 (eight seater mini-bus) for visitors to the Arboretum. Telephone 01543 254999 for bookings.

The Dukes' Regimental Association

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009

Please keep the Editor informed of any changes or new activities

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sat 18 April | London Branch joint meeting with PWO at the Union Jack Club, London. |
| Sat 25 April | Annual Regimental Service, Halifax (contact RHQ) |
| Sat 23 May | 33 rd /76 th Reunion at Strensall (contact Reggie Perrin) |
| June (date tbc) | Dukes London Group (contact Simon Morgan) |
| Fri 12 June | Officers' Dinner, RMA Sandhurst (contact RHQ) |
| Sun 14 June | Officers & families picnic at Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe, Bucks (contact Michael Bray) |
| Fri 3 July | Golf - The Hindoostan Open, Hever Castle Golf Course, Kent (contact Stewart Dick) |
| Fri 2 October | 5 DWR Dinner, Huddersfield |
| Sat 3 October | Association AGM and Reunion Dinner, Bradford (contact RHQ) |
| October (date tbc) | Dukes London Group (contact Simon Morgan) |
| October (date tbc) | Autumn Reunion, Halifax (contact John Swain) |

Note: in case there are readers who are confused between the London Branch of the OCA and the Dukes London Group, the latter is a gathering of former officers most of whom live and work (or are retired) in or near London. The group's principal purpose is to provide employment advice and support for those changing jobs or leaving the Army.

**For further information on any of these events visit the
Association's website
www.dwr.org.uk**