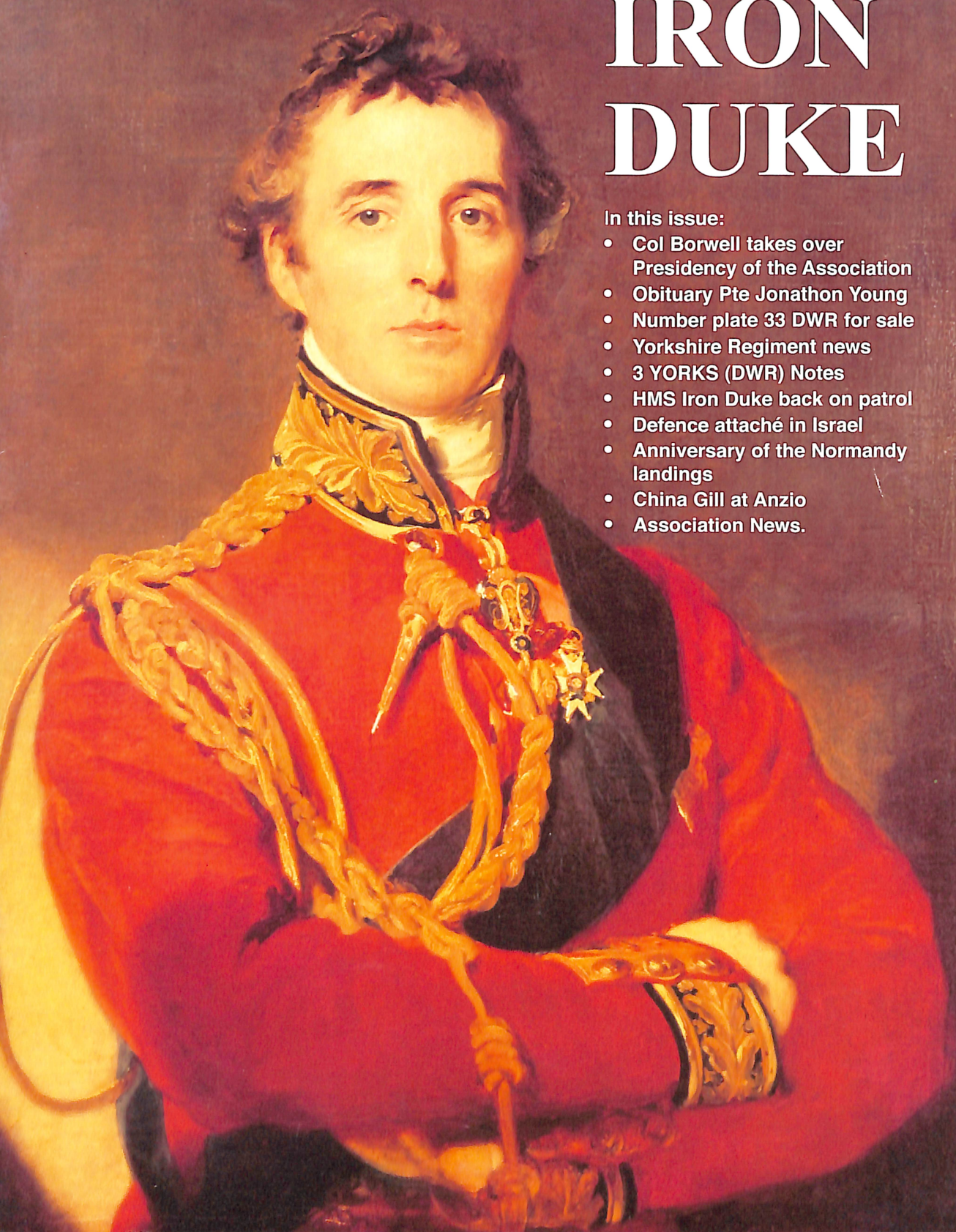


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No. 267

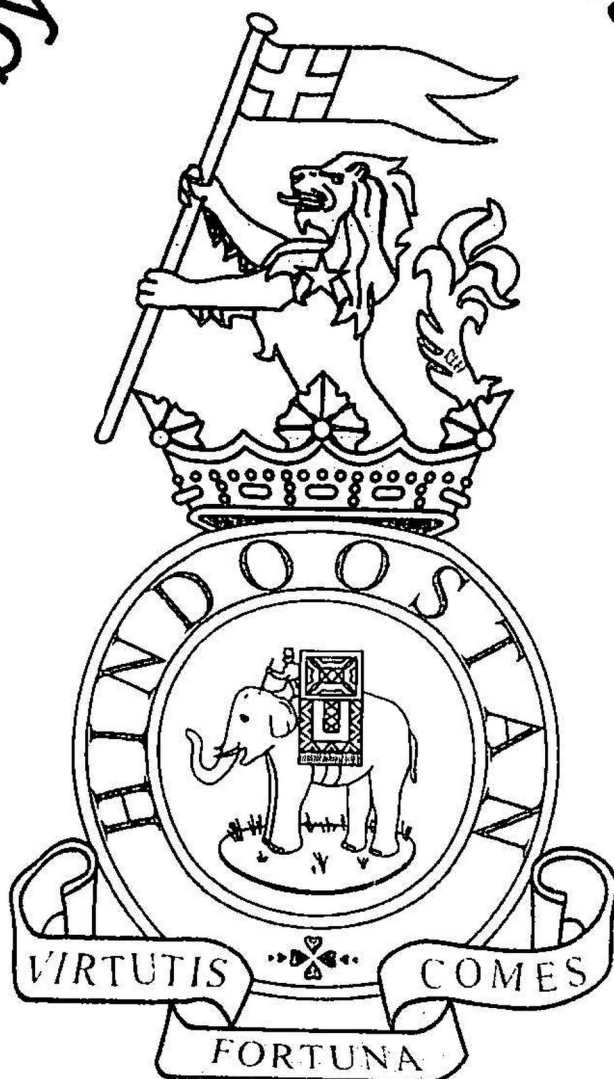
# THE IRON DUKE

In this issue:

- Col Borwell takes over Presidency of the Association
- Obituary Pte Jonathon Young
- Number plate 33 DWR for sale
- Yorkshire Regiment news
- 3 YORKS (DWR) Notes
- HMS Iron Duke back on patrol
- Defence attaché in Israel
- Anniversary of the Normandy landings
- China Gill at Anzio
- Association News.



Digitised by The Regimental Archives







Lieutenant Colonel Tom Vallings joined the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1991 whilst the Battalion was stationed at Tern Hill. Yet, he first came across the Battalion in 1984 as teenager in Gibraltar whilst his father was Flag Officer Gibraltar.

He has commanded 'Dukes' on operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq on Op TELIC 1. He was Chief of Staff 8 Infantry Brigade in Ballykelly and managed the Brigade drawdown of troops in accordance with Good Friday Agreement. In 2000 he attended the Canadian Staff College and then completed the Master's in Defence Administration at Cranfield University / Shrivenham. He was SO2 Field Army in HQ Land Forces before promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel Vallings is married to Lulu they have four children and he enjoys rugby, sailing and field sports. He is Rear Commodore of Infantry Dingy Sailing and completed Leg 5 Singapore to Cape Town of the Inter Services Transglobe Race in 1999. He is also a Liveryman of the City of London with the Haberdasher's Company.

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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## Editorial

### Casualties in Afghanistan

In his introduction to the battalion's notes the CO, Lt Col Tom Vallings, says that the death of Private Young to an IED whilst on patrol in Sangin on the Afghan Election day hit the battalion hard. The public feels this too; the mounting losses of brave young soldiers in action far away is hitting the whole country hard. The Daily Telegraph recently published a page of photographs of all those who have died in this theatre so far, which echoed the Sunday Times pages of photos of the Northern Ireland casualties, reproduced in this Journal in one year ago (No. 265, page 76). At the time of writing 214 have been lost. And let us not forget Sergeant Paul McAleese, 2 Rifles, who was killed as he came to Pte Young's assistance.

The citizens of Wootton Bassett have found their way to pay their respects, silently lining the streets as the hearses leave RAF Lyneham and pass slowly through the town on their way to Oxford. They stood in silence for Johnathon Young, and again in Hull, his home City, hundreds of people found ways to show support and respect to the City's hero and its first fatality of the war in Afghanistan. Very much to the fore were civic and military dignitaries and friends and family, but as well there were so many more who had no personal connection with the family or the Regiment but just wanted to be there to show respect. Whilst some question the continuing presence of British troops in Afghanistan and ask whether the Afghan elections were a sham and worth the lives of our soldiers, and despair of the behaviour of our politicians, ordinary citizens remain solidly behind our men and women in uniform on active service.

The families that grieve have shown astonishing courage and behaved with impeccable dignity in the face of devastating loss. The Hull Daily Mail website showed a video interview with Pte Young's Mother, Mrs Angie Fox, and watching it you could see where her son's courage came from. In a strong voice she showed her immense pride in her son, and the fact that she knew he would want her to get on with life meant that that was what she was going to do. The least that we can do is be as proud of her son as she is, and continue to show our support in whatever way we can.

### Change of "Colonel".

The Dukes no longer have a Colonel of the Regiment, a title that has been borne by many very distinguished soldiers over the last 307 years but is now subsumed in the Colonelcy of the Yorkshire Regiment, although of course a Deputy Colonel, Col Simon Newton, is there for us when needed. But Major General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter KCVO OBE was our last Colonel and he became the first President of the Association, the title belonging to the leader of our Association and all the disparate things that go on in the name of the Dukes "as was", as distinct from, but certainly not excluding, 3 Yorks (DWR).

General Evelyn did so much for us. My abiding memory is of him as he strode out at the head of our protest march from Halifax Town Hall to Piece Hall to "save the Dukes", looking nothing at all like a protester, more an impeccably dressed man well off his normal track of crossing Horseguards for a bite of lunch at his club, but inexplicably finding himself at the head of an amiable rabble of placard bearers, but taking it all in his stride. The marchers forbore to amble along nor to stay well spread out to look more numerous than they were (and there were many of us) going as slowly as possible to keep the message in the public eye. Certainly not. Off we went at a decent clip and covered the route in about 6 minutes flat, forming up briskly under a balcony where a milling flock of West Riding MPs and other dignitaries were efficiently marshalled and prompted to perform by the Colonel of the Regiment. Bravo!

We welcome Colonel Nick Borwell OBE, who assumed command of 1 DWR in September 1999 and now holds a senior role at British Telecom. Following command of the 1st Battalion, he was Chief of Staff Headquarters Infantry from 2002 - 2004. He considered it to be a privilege to be active in supporting the finest Infantry anywhere in the world, as it faced their greatest challenges of modern times. The continued excellence of Brecon and the establishment of Sniper Platoons were two achievements in which he took the most pride. The hasty cuts to, and reorganisation of, the Infantry was less a less glorious chapter.

His last year in the Army was as Assistant



**Major General  
Sir Evelyn Webb Carter  
KCVO OBE**



**Colonel Nick Borwell OBE**

Director Land Warfare at the Directorate General of Doctrine and Development where I ran CGS's Future Army Study Period. He hung up his boots in late 2005 having enjoyed nearly 3 decades as a soldier. He says that what defined his service as an infantryman and as a Duke was the increasing focus on expeditionary operations and the complexity facing soldiers on operations. Although he loved every minute of it, the time had come to develop a second career while he was still young enough to do so.

He secured a job with BT delivering major programmes. He knew nothing of telephones, having not even been an RSO, but found that military skills are transferable, particularly in the arena of project and programme management. Having started with the BT Health Programmes and e-Borders (UK immigration control and border security), he is now the Chief Operating Officer of the Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service, rubbing shoulders once more, uncomfortably closely, with the Royal Signals.

He says "I am greatly looking forward to taking over from Evelyn Webb-Carter as President of the Regimental Association. I am very much aware that his will be a tough act to follow. It is a great honour and I look forward to renewing old friendships and taking our great Regimental legacy into the future."

### Registration Number 33 DWR for sale!

Mr Dixon Pickup, a Dukes National Serviceman 1959 - 1961, acquired the cherished number plate 33 DWR some 36 years ago. He has now decided to sell it, and is giving first chance to buy to readers of the Iron Duke. No one should have any delusions that it will go for a song; these cherished plates are expensive and Dixon is looking for a return on his investment and he has placed a reserve of £5000. Should this sum be achieved or bettered, he will donate 10% of the sale price to the Regimental Association. Lower bids will be made known to Dixon, but he is entitled to reject them.

The number is currently on a retention plate so can be easily transferred to another vehicle. Should any reader wish to make a bid, it must be sealed in an envelope with only 33 DWR written on the outside of the envelope. That envelope should be inside another envelope addressed to the Editor of the Iron Duke, address on page 1, with full contact details of the bidder. Receipt of all bids will be acknowledged. The sealed envelope bids will not be opened until the closing date of Friday 13 November when they will be opened in the presence of the Regimental Trustees at their meeting in York. Following the opening of the bids, assuming the reserve is reached, the highest bidder will be put into direct contact with Dixon Pickup so that satisfactory financial arrangements can be made. The plates will be handed over personally by Dixon and the event recorded for the Iron Duke.

### The Iron Duke's Publisher

Reuben Holroyd have printed the Iron Duke, and practically everything else that Regimental

Headquarters needed, for a good many years. Reuben himself served with the Dukes in Korea and he took over the business in Halifax in 1960, since when both business and personal relationships have flourished and prospered. Successive Iron Duke editors have been grateful for the help they received.



**Reuben Holroyd BEM in front of the Regimental Colours at Halifax Town Hall after the Regimental Service on 25 April 2009.**

Mark, Reuben's son and MD of the business, has decided the time has come to close it down and move on. We now place the Iron Duke business with the Cleckheaton based family printing firm of Hart & Clough who were established in 1885, 183 years after the Dukes were established but still a very respectable record of service. Hart & Clough also printed the Brereton and Savory history of the Regiment, under the imprint of Amadeus Press.

We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial working relationship with Richard Clough, the fifth generation Clough now running the firm, and his colleagues. And it is right and proper that on behalf of my many predecessors I say thank you to Mark and his staff for their excellent work for the Regiment, and good luck for the future.

### Association Activities

As we report elsewhere there is an awful lot going on in the Association, much of it informal and "unofficial", but all of it giving a great deal of pleasure to many of us old Dukes. It would be good to report it better, but for that to happen I need either organisers or participants to provide me with the information and, ideally, a few photographs. If your branch, or your group of friends having a Dukes connected party of some kind, want the rest of us to know what you have been up to, and where and when they can join in next time, please keep me, and/or our website, informed.



## PRIVATE JONATHON YOUNG, 3 YORKS

KILLED IN ACTION NEAR FORWARD OPERATING BASE WISHTAN, SANGIN,  
THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST 2009



Pte Jonathon Andrew Young was born in Hull on 19th September 1990. He joined the Army on 24th February 2008 and completed his training at Catterick, North Yorkshire, in September 2008 before joining the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) based in Warminster, Wiltshire. Pte Young made an immediate impression for his easy going nature, good humour and faultless manners. In the short time he was in Burma Company he was recognised by all as a popular, capable soldier with great potential.

Burma Company Group were tasked to provide Battle Casualty Replacements for 19 Light Brigade in July 2009 and Pte Young was quick to volunteer. He deployed with the rest of his platoon, 6 Platoon, to 2nd Battalion the Rifles on 2nd August 2009.

Since arriving in Sangin, where he and his section reinforced a Platoon still suffering from losses earlier in the tour, he demonstrated all the tenacity and no-nonsense bravery that one would expect from a Yorkshire soldier. Private Young was killed on the Afghan Election Day, 20th August 2009, on patrol near Forward Operating Base Wishtan whilst trying to secure a vital thoroughfare for the people of Sangin.

He leaves behind his mother, Angela; his brother, Carl; his sister, Leah; and his girlfriend Nicola.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Tom Vallings, Commanding Officer 3 YORKS:**

Private Jonathon Young joined us at the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment in October 2008 just after his 18th birthday. He had already set his mark as a robust and determined soldier who always put his friends first. He had a strength of character that forced him to be at the very centre of events and it was no surprise that he volunteered to deploy at Afghanistan at short notice. Private Young had only been in Afghanistan for three weeks when he was tragically killed on patrol in Sangin. Once again, he was selflessly at the forefront of the action a true Yorkshireman: Proud, tough and honest. In his 18 years he has made a big impact on those who knew him and served with him. His loss is felt by us all, but none more so than by his family.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Rob Thomson MBE, Commanding Officer 2 RIFLES Battle Group:**

Private Young is a hero in my book. A soldier from the Yorkshire Regiment, he volunteered to come to Afghanistan to reinforce my Battle Group. I will always be in his debt. He died on Election Day, helping to give democracy a chance in Sangin. He had quickly made a mark in C Company - a bright enthusiast who was a natural soldier, he was right in the mix in his tragically short time here. We will miss him greatly and salute his service. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, whose loss is immeasurably greater than ours.

### **Major Sam Humphris, Officer Commanding Burma Company 3 YORKS:**

The death of Pte Young has come as a devastating blow to Burma Company. He was a committed and extremely diligent young soldier who, in his short time in the Company, had made a real mark. He was most definitely a Regimental star in the making. He was utterly personable, a delight to be in the company of, and his infectious sense of humour made him an exceptionally popular member of 6 Platoon and Burma Company. That he managed to marry this sharp sense of humour with a polite and caring nature was to his absolute credit. He had a strong sense of duty with energy and enthusiasm in abundance. It came as no surprise to me when he volunteered to serve his country on operations in Afghanistan. That he was killed on the day of the Afghanistan elections marks the sacrifice he has made as particularly poignant.

I feel honoured to have served with, and commanded, someone of his singular quality. He will be sorely missed by all of us in Burma Company, but never forgotten. God rest.

### **Major Rupert Follett, Officer Commanding C Company 2 RIFLES Battle Group:**

Private Young had only been under my command for 2 weeks. He was part of a group of soldiers from the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment who had flown out to Afghanistan at short notice to act as replacements for soldiers already killed or wounded. Private Young had one of the most dangerous roles in Afghanistan. As lead man for patrols he was responsible for finding and confirming Improvised Explosive Devices. As an 18 year old soldier, this was an enormous responsibility to bear on such young shoulders. He was fully aware that IEDs have accounted for the bulk of our casualties, and yet the bravery and courage he displayed was humbling. Private Young was part of my close knit band of proud Yorkshiremen and although his time in Afghanistan was short, he made a lasting impression. Our sorrow at his tragic loss will be nothing compared to the grief of his family and friends and my thoughts and prayers are with them at this darkest of times.

### **Captain Doug Hayton-Williams, Second in Command Burma Company, 3 YORKS:**

Although Private Young was new to Burma Company, he quickly impressed his peers by showing outstanding commitment to his job through his professionalism and unflinching reliability. He particularly impressed me with his positive attitude when faced with deploying to one of the most notorious areas of Helmand province, by volunteering to go with his comrades – such was his loyalty. His strong personality was evident from the moment he arrived, fitting in well with the soldiers and rapidly establishing himself as an effervescent and affable young man within the Company.

He was killed doing the job he loved amongst his mates and proudly serving our country. He will never be forgotten. My deepest sympathies are extended to his family and to his friends.

### **Lieutenant Rob Taylor, 6 Platoon Commander:**

A hugely capable and conscientious soldier, Private Young was relatively new to Burma Company and had just missed out on deploying to Baghdad with Alma Company. He was very much looking forward to deploying to Afghanistan with his friends. His easy going polite nature and quick sense of humour made him very popular in the Platoon. Fit and strong, Pte Young was a keen sportsman who enjoyed his football and rugby league. Youngy treasured the friendships he made in the Army and was incredibly loyal.

He will be missed by all in 6 Platoon and in Burma Company. A genuine and sincere man, Youngy will leave a huge gap in the lives of all who knew him.

### **2nd Lieutenant Rob Hilliard, 10 Platoon Commander:**

Private Young arrived in theatre and came to reinforce

10 Platoon after losses earlier in the tour. Along with his colleagues from the 'Yorks' he impressed with his enthusiasm, strong work ethic and willingness to adapt to a challenging new environment and ever evolving tactics at very short notice.

Private Young stood out amongst his peers in terms of aptitude, skills and concentration and was in turn given the responsibility and burden of clearing routes in an IED ravaged patch. In the course of fearlessly carrying out these duties he was tragically killed. One can barely imagine the courage it requires to lead a group of men in this way when every step might be your last.

Private Young was another young soldier indiscriminately targeted by this most evil of enemies. I know his loss will be sorely felt by his fellow Yorkshiremen and his fortitude long remembered and respected by the Riflemen of C Company. Our thoughts and prayers rest now with his family and friends.

### **WO2 Mick Clarke, Company Sergeant Major Burma Company, 3 YORKS.**

Pte Young joined Burma Company prior to our deployment to Afghanistan. He had been disappointed to miss out on deploying with Alma Company to Iraq, but was unable because of administrative problems.

From the very start of our pre-deployment training he demonstrated himself to be a very robust, bright and talented young soldier with a great deal to offer. He displayed a huge amount of enthusiasm, was very eager to deploy on operations and serve his country and enjoyed the respect of his commanders and peers alike. He had a first class sense of humour and had settled in very quickly to the Company. He clearly had the ability to go far in the Army and his loss is deeply felt by everyone in the Company. We will miss him. Our thoughts are with his family at this very difficult time.

### **Sergeant Steven Harrison, Section Commander:**

Private Jonathon Young was an enthusiastic and bright soldier. Although he was originally in Alma Company, his infectious personality attracted friends immediately. After only a few days in Burma Company, Private Young had fitted in with the rest of the Burma Lads and wherever you heard laughter, you could be sure to find Private Young in the middle of it, which is where he loved to be – with the guys who had come to respect him, not just for his love of life but also for his professionalism.

Private Young had volunteered to be the lead man for his section - Possibly the most dangerous job out here in Afghanistan. He put the lives of his comrades before himself, clearing the routes of IEDs in alleyways and compounds so the rest of the men could advance safely. He displayed immense courage every time he stepped out the gate.

Private Young will be missed by every one of my men. He loved life and lived it to the full with energy and enthusiasm. I hope he can now find peace. The



thoughts of all our men here in Wishtan are with his family and friends at the passing of Jonathon Young.

Rest in peace brother.

### **Private Sam Granger:**

The first time I met Youngy was in Bristol; we had both missed the train to get back to Battlesbury Barracks. We got on straight away. He was great fun to be around and was always a good laugh. We were both looking forward to going on holiday when we got back from the tour with some of the other lads from Burma. He was a good mate right from the time I knew him and he will be really missed by all the lads in 3 YORKS.

### **Private Sam Williams:**

I have known Private Jonathon Young all his Army career, he started off in A Company and we hit it off straight away. He was a well mannered lad from Hull who didn't have an aggressive bone in his body. We would always go down town and he would make me laugh with his 'chicken dance' which he couldn't do! He was a young, bubbly lad with a random sense of humour. We both moved to B Coy together, carried out Pre-Deployment Training together and couldn't wait to go on tour. When we got out here Youngy was made the Lead Scout and, although nervous on his first patrol, he told me after that he got a buzz from doing it. That's Young's sense of humour coming out. He was a decent bloke both in and out of work and always sensible – He kept me out of trouble a lot! I feel for his family and friends and girlfriend who have lost someone so great and fun loving. I will miss Youngy massively, and I'm sure that all of B Company will miss him too. We've lost a great friend and a great soldier.

Rest in peace Youngy.

### **Private Tom Clews:**

Private Jonathon Young, or Youngy as he was known to all the lads, was a proper lad within our Platoon and Company, although he had previously been in Alma Company with my twin brother. This is where I first saw his big smile and instantly got on with him. He was always smiling no matter the situation and was a real inspiration to be around. When you were down Youngy would always pick you up and do anything for you. He would go out of his way to ensure everyone around him was OK. When he got here and was told he would be the Lead Scout, in typical Youngy style he cracked on and didn't bat an eyelid. He stepped up to the most important role in the Section and even used his own time to perfect his skills and drills in the evening to ensure he was properly prepared. He would never do things by half and that attitude made him a good soldier. My thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and families at this time and I will never forget his big smile and his weird sense of humour. I will treasure the memories I have of him and the laughs we had. You will be sorely missed Youngy but never forgotten.

### **Private Lawrence Hill:**

Youngy was new to Burma Company. He had been in Alma company for about a year and a half, when he moved to Burma and he instantly made friends. A real good lad who loved to have a laugh and a good time, loved to go out drinking and socializing with the lads. He was an amazing bloke. Never without a smile on his face and extremely brave. He was loved and will be missed by everyone.

### **Private Chris Higgins:**

Private Jonathon Young, but known amongst the lads as 'Youngy'. We did not know Youngy for that long due to the fact he moved to our company a few months ago, but in those few months we knew him I can tell you that Youngy really was one in a million. He had a weird sense of humour, would always make you laugh and the fact he would do anything for his friends and we know he died doing the job he loved. I know everyone says that but he actually did. He was a Lead Scout with all the responsibilities that gave him and he did it brilliantly. We still cannot believe he has gone but he knew that he was loved and will be missed by all, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Private Young.

Gone but not forgotten.

### **Corporal Paul Whitting:**

Private Young, or Heinz as some people knew him, was a character who always tried his hardest to make your morale higher whatever the situation and I know he would have done this until he couldn't do it any more.



*As the ID went to press the news of Cpl William Reid's very severe injuries from an IED in Afghanistan was received. Cpl Reid is now at Selly Oak Hospital as a triple amputee. It will be a very difficult time for him, as he fights to recover so far as his injuries will allow, and for his family, and they will all be in our thoughts.*



# YORKSHIRE REGIMENT NEWS

*Fortune Favours the Brave*

## PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

It has been confirmed that new Colours will be presented to the Regiment on Friday 18th June 2010 in Imphal Barracks, York. The Colours will be presented by the Colonel in Chief, HRH The Duke of York. It will be a very big occasion for the Regiment, being both the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and – give or take a day or two – the Regiment's fourth birthday.

Seven sets of old Colours (3 regular and 4 TA) will be trooped off, and replaced. The Honorary Colours will be on parade, but will not, of course, be changed. Timings are still not fixed, but it is expected that the parade will start at 1100, and will be followed by a lunch in barracks. It is very much hoped that members of the Associations, Army Cadets, Combined Cadets and members of Affiliated Units will also participate.

The next day, Saturday 19th June, there is a plan to march to the Minster, ending with a blessing of all the new Colours. A great day is in prospect.

## 1 YORKS (PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN)

Based in Oxford Barracks, Munster, Germany (since Aug 2008) as part of 20 (Armoured) Brigade. Recently returned from Operation TELIC 13 (Iraq) and from Operation OCULUS (Kosovo).

### Battalion Update

The last six months has been dominated by operational commitments in both Iraq (Op TELIC 13) and Kosovo (Op OCULUS(K)). This resulted in the Bn having an extended footprint stretching from A Coy in Baghdad to B Coy in Kosovo with the majority of the Bn dispersed throughout Southern Iraq and Basra City, all anchored by Rear Party back in Munster. In both Theatres, the Bn has acquitted itself well, rising to the particular challenges of each operation with notable stoicism and determination.

With Op TELIC 13 now successfully concluded the Bn is now, for the first time in nearly 18 months, complete in one location and looking to forward to a re-establishing Bn routine and undertaking the full range of Bn activities.

Despite the fragmented nature of life over recent months morale remains high with the focus now every much on getting back to basics and enjoying all the opportunities that Germany and Munster have to offer. The Bn continues to maintain a real sense of purpose and relevance; there is much to start working towards on the return from summer leave.

### Future

The Bn now enters a period of recuperation with the emphasis firmly on pulling the Bn back together for future operations. Key events include/included:

Op TELIC 13 and Kosovo Medals Parade - 17 Jul 09 in Munster.

Exercise LION'S RETURN. A range of profile events from Home Coming Parades to sporting events - 21-24 Jul 09 in Yorkshire.

Adventurous Training. The Bn will be undertaking adventure training activities ranging from parachuting through to hill walking in the Spanish Pyrenees and Alps. More ambitious and complex expeditions are being planned for 2010.

Field Firing. The Bn will be put through its paces in order to dust itself off post summer leave and allow the new Bn ORBAT to solidify - 21 Sep - 10 Oct 09.

## 2 YORKS (GREEN HOWARDS)

Based at Weeton Barracks, Preston; Lancashire as part of 11 (Light) Brigade. Last deployment on Operation HERRICK 7 (Afghanistan) October 2007 - April 2008. Deployed to Afghanistan September 2009.

### Battalion Update

The Battalion (Bn) has been fully committed to Op HERRICK 11 pre-deployment training in the Operation Mentoring and Liaison Team Battle Group (OMLT BG) role. A comprehensive package saw the Bn deploy on Exercises WESSEX WARRIOR and DRUIDS DANCE and commence OPTAG T3 training as well as re-ORBAT. Numerous training activities including a series of major test exercises Combined Arms Life Fire



Exercise (CALFEX) and Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE)) kept the Bn occupied until a much deserved summer leave prior to deployment.

### Training

The main activity recently has been Ex DRUIDS DANCE which is a three week CT 4 [Battalion] level exercise executed on SPTA. This saw a 2 YORKS BG exercising in conjunction with HCR BG overseen by 11 Bde. The exercise involved two OMLTs supported by simulation indigenous ANSF provided by Polish troops and a manoeuvre coy supported by a HCR Sqn. This proved to be an excellent run-out for newly formed OMLTs and force elements which provided some valuable lessons and experiences. Due to the tremendous effort of all those who conducted and supported this event CT 4 was given to Bn which cements the sound start made at CAST in 2008.

There have also been shorter training activities including range packages to conduct training on a range of weapons including GMG and HMG. BHQ attended an extremely interesting COIN study period with 11 Bde, which was challenging and conceptually advanced due to the vast array of excellent speakers.

### Sports & Adventure Training

Battalion level sport and adventure training remains an enduring theme and aspiration. Large scale adventurous training expeditions are being planned by the Pl Comds, one of which will be executed on return from Afghanistan. However, less this planning activity PDT has reduced the level of Bn sporting activities to a minimum. Once time allows it will again feature highly.

## 4 YORKS

Headquarters at Worsley Barracks, York and ten other Territorial Army Centres throughout Yorkshire. The Battalion is part of UK based 15 (North East) Brigade and provides individual through to company groups, to support operations including TELIC (Iraq), HERRICK (Afghanistan), OCULUS (Kosovo) and TOSCA (Cyprus). Fifty soldiers will deploy individually on HERRICK 11 in Autumn 2009.

### Battalion Update

The recent expansion of 2 new rifle platoons, at Scarborough and York has been successful and both platoons are now thriving. The Bn has also raised a new platoon at Halifax, and interest has been high with over 20 potential enlistments now in progress. The local Rugby club is being utilised as a TA Centre until refurbishment of the old cadet centre is complete.

### Operations

Delta Platoon returned from Kabul this February (Operation HERRICK 9) where they carried out a Force Protection and Transport Company role as part of the NATO ISAF XI (B) Headquarters. After an excellent tour and have all now completed their leave and are back training with the battalion. The four Operation TOSCA (UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) soldiers are also now back with the Bn, as is the lone Operation TELIC soldier.

At the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, 4 YORKS sent several soldiers to support 11 Bde training on Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya.

Over fifty soldiers have been mobilised for Operation HERRICK 11, all as individual reservists to support 11 Light Brigade. Most will serve in Kohima Force Protection Company at Camp Bastion with a few at Brigade HQ or with 2 YORKS BG.

4 YORKS have now been removed from their future Operational Commitments Plan (OCP) commitments, and the focus will now be to directly support the Regiment's regular battalions as required.

### Training

Training over the last 6 months has concentrated on preparation for the Operation HERRICK 11 mobilisation and this is largely complete. It culminated in a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at the end of May.

The Bn's main focus has been training in preparation for deployment on Ex MEDMAN in September. Over two-hundred 4 YORKS soldiers, along with elements of 2 RTR and QOY, will provide OPFOR for 1 Mech Bde's Exercise MEDMAN. In addition to the main body, over fifty soldiers will deploy for six weeks as part of advance and rear parties.

### Band

The band continues to improve and has a full programme of events now for 2009. CAMUS accreditation has been granted, albeit only for static displays at the moment, and the refurbishment of the rehearsal room, stores and offices at Huddersfield is also now complete. Currently, we have seventeen musicians, with a further five in the process of enlistment.

### Future

The Battalion looks forward to the next overseas annual camp at BATUS (Canada) - the first TA Infantry unit to support a BATUS exercise.

In October the Bn will return to routine training for 9 months, the focus moving to career courses, Anti-Tank and, of course, the Colours Parade in 2010.

### Headquarters

Based at 3 Tower Street, York, with area officers in Halifax and Richmond.

Armed Forces Day; the first Armed Forces Day was strongly supported in Yorkshire, and members of the Regiment attended Flag Raising days in Hull, Bradford, Harrogate, York and Scarborough. (And several more are referred to in elsewhere in this Iron Duke).

On Saturday 28 November there will be a Yorkshire Regiment Association (YRA) party at Worsley Barracks, York. At the YRA AGM in June it was decided that members of the Associations of the "antecedent Regiments" (ie the Dukes, Green Howards and PWO) are now members as of right of the YRA. Amongst other things this means that members of the Dukes Association will be welcome at YRA events.

# The 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment

## (The Duke of Wellington's)

Commanding Officer	-	Lt Col TG Vallings
Second in Command	-	Maj NP Rhodes
Regimental Sergeant Major	-	WO1 (RSM) LD Wildey
Adjutant	-	Capt RJP Carman
Ops Officer	-	Capt CD Armitage

### COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

Lt Col TG Vallings

The Battalion focused its pre deployment training on producing agile and robust sub units for operations in Iraq. The fact that we have deployed Alma Company to Baghdad and provided at very short notice (2 weeks) a company of reinforcements to Afghanistan is testament to our agility, robustness and 'can do' spirit across the Battalion. The ability throughout the Battalion to react to the changing situation and just got on with the task is quite staggering. For example, there was a week in the middle of July where we had 110 soldiers returning from Iraq on a Sunday followed by 12 deploying on the Monday to Afghanistan. We then played and won the Army Rugby League on Wednesday and sent the remaining 120 soldiers to Afghanistan the next Monday. Sixty-five of the soldiers returning from Iraq marched through Rotherham the following week as those who had practiced the parade had in the main deployed to Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the LAD and the Recce Platoon conducted their own Coast to Coast Adventure Training Activities raising over £10,000 for charities collectively.

I think I am correct in saying that Battle Casualty Replacements (BCRs) have not been deployed since WW2 although I suspect the Korean War Veterans will correct me. It has been a difficult period for all commanders preparing teams of soldiers to deploy and in some cases as individuals into other units at very short notice. Where possible we have deployed formed fire teams and sections that have trained together and developed that essential trust amongst each other. We now have soldiers in every FOB in Helmand which is unique to this Battalion. The manner in which these young soldiers and commanders have risen to the challenge has been quite remarkable and they have already received much praise from their receiving units in theatre. They will return with the changeover of

Brigades in October. These men are constantly in our thoughts and we are all most proud of what they are achieving. We are awaiting confirmation but it is likely the Battalion will also provide BCRs for the next Brigade's deployment although the winter months are not expected to involve such intense fighting as we have seen this summer. Next year will see new and exciting challenges with company deployments already planned for the Falkland Islands and Kenya.

The Battalion's manning continues to improve at an increasing rate and we are now forecasted to be 100 under strength by 1 Sep 09 which is a significant achievement given the Battalion was 171 under strength in May 08. Full manning in 2010 is a realistic goal. Sport continues to play an important part in Battalion life as it boosts morale and develops and tests character. We hope to springboard into the Rugby Union season after the success of our Rugby League Champions. It is important to also recognise our chefs where a team trained by the Regimental Catering Warrant Officer won the 3 UK Divisional and 4 Divisional Military Skills and Catering Competition and Drum Major Oxley who has won the Cutlers Sword for his outstanding contribution to the Drums Platoon. He will be presented with this prestigious sword at the Lord Mayor of London's Parade in October.

It was a great honour for the Battalion to be granted the Freedom of Rotherham on 3 August 2009. It is the first freedom to be granted to the Yorkshire Regiment that was not originally granted to one of its antecedent Regiments. The King's Division Band led us through the packed, cheering town centre of Rotherham on a hot sunny day with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed - a fitting end to a most demanding and challenging period for us all.

The loss of Private Johnathon Young has hit us all

### ALMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Major M. C. A. Palmer
Second-in-Command	-	Capt NR Spicer
CSM	-	WO2 P. W. Simms
WSM	-	Colour Sergeant P. A. Bevan
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	-	Colour Sergeant B. W. Sykes

#### 1 Platoon

Lieut A. D. Fitzgerald  
Sgt J. Ellam

#### 2 Platoon

2nd Lieut GTL Goucher  
Sgt J. Hopkinson

#### 3 Platoon

Lieut EGH Carter  
Sgt J Pearson



hard in the 3rd Battalion. He was a rising star and he gave so much in a short period of time. He was on patrol as the lead scout in Sangin on Election Day clearing a safe route through an alleyway. He was fatally wounded by an improvised explosive device. He gave his life for a better Afghanistan but also for his mates on patrol and is testament to the old saying "no greater love hath a man than to lay down his life for his friends". As a family regiment we have taken strength from each other but also from his family who have shown such fortitude. Thank you all for your support and kind words - 3 YORKS will be stronger for Private Young and will never forget his unique contribution.

Since its last article, Alma Company, ably supported by the Mortar Platoon, has managed to complete an intense period of pre-deployment training and get to Baghdad and back.

In theatre, Alma provided the Protection Force (PROFOR) for senior British military in the capital as well as a Force Protection Platoon (FP PI) for the NATO training mission at the Iraqi Military Academy in Ar Rustamayah, east Baghdad. As both roles were taken over from 1 YORKS, the Yorkshire Regiment has left a lasting impression on the coalition – and I can reassure you it is a good one! Specifically, PROFOR provided a 12 man escort team for senior staff, a guard platoon for our base location and an armoured escort platoon (using Vector and then Mastiff vehicles). Detail on the FP PI's experience of working with NATO is the subject of a separate article.

The Battalion's initial plan to rotate 3 rifle companies through the PROFOR role over a year was dependant on an extension of the UK MOU. This authorised combat operations until 1 Jun, and then allowed 2 months grace in which to withdraw in good order by 31 Jul 09. However, it soon became apparent that President Maliki was not as keen on the 'enduring bilateral relationship' as the UK, ensuring Alma would be the only company to deploy. Therefore, from the start of our deployment, the Company only had jurisdiction for essential

withdrawal and force protection tasks. Movement was limited to the International Zone and convoys to and from Baghdad International Airport. More demanding deliberate operations into central Baghdad were unfortunately not an option.



**The Yorkshire Regiment OCs handing over**

The tour was therefore a relatively mundane experience, conducted under the nose of senior military and against the backdrop of frantic political negotiations. Critically, Alma enabled this strategic activity to take place and it did so in a thoroughly professional manner. Our efforts were acknowledged at the highest level and much praise was heaped upon the Company during the high profile end of mission backslapping. Of note, the leadership challenge of such a tour was significant, and it was therefore especially satisfying to see two SBMR-I Commendations for outstanding performance awarded to LCpl Bevu and LCpl Dale 55.

Another key milestone was the introduction of 4 heavily armoured Mastiff vehicles to Baghdad. This marked a step change in protected mobility from the Vector medium armoured vehicles we had been using,



**Alma Company**





**Volleyball in the Sun.**



**Cpl Rambuku reunited with his family.**

and thankfully coincided with the surge of end of mission convoy activity. The Mastiff experience has greatly increased the utility of the Company, especially looking ahead to operations in Afghanistan. However, looking back at the Iraq campaign; Alma was part of the initial invasion force in 2003, deployed again 2005 and is now the very last combat sub unit to leave theatre. It is, officially, the first in and last out!

With a unique and successful tour under its belt, Alma is now reintegrating into the busy tempo of battalion life. Plans are changing by the minute and we wait to see what the remainder of the year has in store. As ever, we remain flexible and are enjoying well earned time with family and friends whilst we can.

**ALAMO PLATOON, ALMA COMPANY  
IRAQI MILITARY ACADEMY  
AR RUSTAMIYAH (IMAR)  
*Capt NR Spicer***

If you ask a member of Alamo Platoon how many times he has been briefed on the strategic importance of the NATO training mission at IMAR, he probably won't

recollect them all. What he will tell you however, is that he 'staggered on' a lot. This was the very essence of the task; providing force protection and a QRF to all NATO personnel working in the IMAR complex. However, the reality is that the Platoon was fundamental in ensuring that the NATO training mission in Iraq endured after the UK withdrawal. 1 YORKS had already established an excellent reputation for the Yorkshire Regiment and, after a seamless transition of authority, we sought to build upon it.

Interesting for all was the opportunity to work within a NATO HQ and to see how other nations operated. Representation in the compound included; Italians, Poles, Ugandans, Americans, Bulgarians, Lithuanians, Nepalese, Indian, Russian, Iraqis and Sri Lankans. Communication, as ever, was a barrier, but overcoming this and bridging cultural differences was an interesting experience that will stand the Platoon in good stead for future multi-national operations. We also relied upon a US QRF; derived from B Battery of the US 1/319th, part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne. We forged an especially strong relationship with this sub-unit and, in the event of an incident, knew we could rely on our Coalition partners.

A routine in any environment can become stale, but



**The Leaving Parade.**





**Alamo Platoon with elements of the US 1/319th.**

when compounded by a mundane task, it became a real leadership challenge, which commanders rose to. To that end, elements of Mortar platoon continued to hone their skills on their specialist equipment, whilst others focussed on basic military skills, ranges and education. Other activities included a 'FitBrit' challenge, a 10k 'desert' run, a Baghdad 20/20 international cricket tournament and a 4,240 kilometre race from Baghdad to Warminster in the last few weeks. The rooftop location 'Quebec 99' also became a firm favourite and I'm pleased to say all are looking slightly sun blessed, some more than others. Compile this with our now 'Op Minimised' bodies and the wives, girlfriends and ladies of Yorkshire will be receiving a pleasant surprise on our arrival home this summer!

## **BURMA COMPANY**

*Maj SM Humphris*

After a very busy year which included BATUS and Op TELIC pre deployment training it came as a bitter blow to Burma Company in June to find out that we would not be deploying to Iraq in September. Without an immediate focus and a gap in our programme, there was one guarantee for Burma Company.....we would not be filling it by going to Afghanistan.

It came as a big surprise then when we found out on the 9th of July that we were to form the core of a Battle Casualty Replacement (BCR) company group who would back-fill Op HERRICK 10 theatre units. As it turns out there are no guarantees in the army - we were going to Afghanistan! To produce BCRs on this scale is a new departure for the British Army and the task of force generating us to back-fill, in rapid order, not an easy one. To actually get to the stage of deploying

would be a colossal task, involving many late hours, weekends worked and favours asked. Nevertheless the soldiers met the challenge with real professionalism and a smile.

The original requirement was for us to resource 140 posts – a company headquarters, 3 platoons, a multiple (who would deploy early) and a fire support group. One working day (and some midnight oil) later we formed up in Thetford, Norfolk for training and testing courtesy of the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG). On parade and formed into 5 platoons were an amalgam of Burma Company, a platoon plus from Corunna, with the addition of elements of the Brigade Operations Company and Hook Company. The aim was to get the soldiers who had conducted the pre-Iraq training to re-focus on the significantly different environment of Afghanistan. There are clearly significant differences between the two theatres, so it was worthwhile spending this period capitalising on what was relevant from the Iraq training and adapting to new tactics, techniques and procedures for Afghanistan. We enjoyed a day's pre-deployment training before we were then tested on a 'Green Zone Battle Run' (think six hour advance to contact in a river) and urban patrolling, making use of the new, and excellent, Afghanistan Village complex. Though the 'Village' is a fantastic and very realistic training facility the thing most of the boys will remember was the Green Zone attack. This battle run was eerily realistic as the men were put through their paces. A rich combination of two metre high vegetation, a network of rivers and streams, and an aggressive and fast moving enemy constantly trying to outflank us, made for a harsh introduction to operations along the River Helmand. To add to this challenging environment, a number of casualties were inflicted on



the Company to test the MEDEVAC chain. Despite the company being very well trained for Iraq, to compress our training was an extremely tall order, but one that the soldiers rose to superbly. They gave a magnificent account of themselves.



**RSOI Fire and Manoeuvre drills.**

With almost everything complete, the Company managed to squeeze in two nights at home to say goodbye to loved ones in Yorkshire before we formed up to deploy on the Sunday and suffer the ravages of the RAF's flight plans! The vast majority of the soldiers had not previously been on operations; many had never flown before and only a handful had previously fought in Helmand Province so many of the boys found themselves on new, nervous but exciting ground when we at last landed and started our in-theatre training. The greatest threat is of course that of the Improvised Explosive

Device (IED), whether that it be initiated by pressure, command wire, command pull or remote control. Indeed the majority of us were replacing soldiers killed or horrifically maimed by these indiscriminate devices. We focused a good deal of our training on countering this threat but also worked hard on contact drills, compound clearance, battlefield casualty trauma and of course heat acclimatisation. The heat is overwhelming here – indeed we could not have picked a worse time to deploy given that the temperature in Afghanistan peaks at the end of July! Working in 47 degrees is unpleasant at the best of times but when that is coupled to the requirement to operate in OSPREY body armour and carry the breathtaking weights one has to patrol with, heat acclimatisation becomes very necessary and necessitates the consumption of 10 litres of water a day. Again the soldiers rose to the challenge superbly and despite suffering three heat casualties in this first week we deployed to our theatre units in good order on the 2nd of August.

There are now Dukes throughout theatre and we are in the unique position of being able to corporately gain a pan Helmand perspective on the campaign. This is exaggerated given the British ambition this year in Afghanistan. Task Force Helmand have sought, with the resources they have available, to energise the momentum against the Taliban Insurgency, all the while seeking to develop better standards of governance and improve the day-to-day lives of the Afghan people. The mechanism for doing this has been the prosecution of Op PANCHAI PALANG (Panther's Claw). This operation has involved the kinetic clearance of Babaji (the ground between Gereshk (the commercial centre of Helmand) and Lashkar Gah (its political centre)). The focus of the operation has been to create some



**Op  
BARMA  
ROCC  
Drills.**





**SM Clarke  
prepares  
for a  
patrol.**

operational space to allow Task Force Helmand to move to Op QALBE PALANG (Panther's Heart), which is the facilitation of secure, credible and inclusive presidential and provincial elections in Helmand. Unfortunately this has meant that Op HERRICK 10 has been the bloodiest tour thus far. The fighting has been savage and soldiers have been pushed to their physical and mental limits in extremely difficult circumstances. The Task Force has generated tempo however and seized some resultant initiative. The challenge now is to keep this momentum and be able to resource 'the hold', so necessary to counter the insurgency.

It has been humbling to see how young soldiers have stepped up and performed. At the time of writing, soldiers from the Battalion are involved in operations against insurgents all over Helmand and are giving first class accounts of themselves. They are continuing in the age old Dukes fashion of knuckling down, without complaint, and distinguishing themselves with every challenge thrown at them. They have been fine ambassadors for the Regiment and for their country. They are genuinely making a difference in a country that badly needs our help.

## **BRIGADE OPERATIONS COMPANY (BOC)**

*Capt S Farley*

Having completed the COTAT course we deployed on the Brigade Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) fully prepared for anything the Field Training Group (FTG) could throw at us. The resources at our disposal were extensive and the

Company had the facility to practice Heli interdiction, and Airborne reconnaissance in actual helicopters rather than Heli Bedford. With a glut of equipment the Company was able to fully test and resource itself to a level we could expect on Operations. The live firing package on the final day of the exercise was a superb final test for us. With a fairly rank heavy audience we deployed by Merlin onto the area for a company advance to contact. We did not have to wait long for the enemy to



**Capt  
Si Farley  
on the net.**



turn up and the BOC were in the thick of things. In quick time the Company were rolling through positions and continuing the advance. The benefits of all the ACFT's, CFT's and training wearing Osprey was obvious, as the BOC manoeuvred without hindrance across the ground. After some long nights and close encounters with the local population the BOC achieved a very respectable B grade from the COTAT staff.



**Fire Support from the Recce Platoon.**

The BOC readied itself for the next set of challenges we were to face. Having received the news during COTAT that we would not be deploying to Iraq there was a certain amount of excitement as to where we may be utilised. As ever we were to train to be prepared to deploy world wide at short notice so rather than rest on our laurels and bathe in our success from Lydd we focused on possible tasks and constructed a new training programme. Continuation training would take the form of three separate exercises. Firstly, a weeks hills training in the Brecon Beacons for fitness was devised by the King's Royal Hussars (KRH) and the Company soon found itself traversing some of the routes undertaken on selection. Some of the Company obviously took to this more than others with nearly a dozen of the men enrolling on UKSF selection in 2010. The second week's training was conducted at Pirbright and was focussed on a refresher course of the low level skills we learnt at Lydd with pistol and snap shooting ranges and the skills house at our disposal. Strikes operations were still the order of the day and we conducted several company level strikes with free thinking enemy. Week three was a revert back to our core business as recce platoons with an Observation Post (OP) exercise conducted at the BOC's home ground of Dartmoor. The Company deployed on what was a rather pleasant Sunday evening into OP locations they would occupy for five days. Dartmoor being true to form, the weather closed in almost as immediately as the Company deployed and once again the wind and rain battered the soldiers on the ground. The weather did lend itself to a testing environment as the principles of OPs were tested to the full. Survivability and sustainability were at the forefront of most of the soldiers minds as they settled in for what was going to be a mentally and physically challenging week. Come

ENDEX the Company collapsed back to there unit locations for a well earned long weekend.

At the time of writing this article the 3 YORKS element of the Company have successfully completed the coast to coast challenge and raised in excess of £3000 for the Army Benevolent fund and Help for Heroes. With two separate events simultaneously crossing the country in the North and South, by the end of the challenge we will have covered nearly 1000 miles between us. We managed to complete this task while providing 11 men to Afghanistan who deployed on very short notice seeing out Op Herrick 10 as Battle Casualty Replacements.

Come the 4th of August 2009 the BOC will re-form into its separate sub units. As a concept we have vindicated the Brigade's decision to form what will become the BRF in the future. The 12 Brigade Operations Company had drawn together separate sub units under one company and delivered mission success. There will always be an element of disappointment that we did not deploy on operations as a formed body and the question of whether the Army got return of investment. However, as the blueprint for what is to come we can be proud of what we achieved - in the long term the lessons we learnt will answer expenditure questions and add weight to the formation of future BOC's/BRFs.

## **RUGBY REPORT**

*Capt RJP Carman*

Despite an inconsistent Union season it was important to keep our focus on rugby throughout the summer. With so many talented runners in the squad there was plenty of opportunity for trophies in both 7s and League. The 7s season started well with a trip to the Pocklington 7s in Yorkshire. Although we were missing several key players the team made it to the final against 17 Port and Maritime Regiment and were narrowly beaten in a thrilling contest. In mid March the Army 7s qualifying commenced – initially played as divisional tournaments. 3 YORKS qualified outright by making the final of the 4 Div 7s and moved through to finals day in mid June.



**Army 7s day.**





**Squad photo after a great win.**

Always a fantastic occasion, this year did not disappoint as the squad progressed into the final of the plate competition. Sadly, due to tired legs and some early handling errors 3 YORKS lost to 1 Royal Welsh 19 – 17.



**The Dukes 'hit up' the centre.**

It was at this point in the season that the League training began take priority. Until this moment, the 7s and League had shared equal importance but with the team waiting to play 7 RHA in the semi final of the Yeoman Cup, there was only one very clear focus. Due to operational commitments it was not possible to find a date that suited either team, and it is a testament to the rugby playing ethos of both units that a fixture was ultimately arranged. With so much history between the sides the match would have made an excellent final but 7 RHA, lacking game time and match fitness were beaten 36 – 23 by an ever improving Dukes side. The Yeoman Cup final was played at the Aldershot Rugby

Stadium against IRSME. With at least 300 spectators (including Corunna Company complete) there was a great atmosphere throughout the stadium. The team were excellent on the day and for the first time in the season actually resembled a rugby league side! Early tries in our favour only brought on forced mistakes from the opposition and after a compelling 80 minutes the Dukes lifted the Yeoman Cup having won by a comfortable 48 – 16.

We are now well prepared for the Union season ahead and with the planned return of Burma Company (where most of our squad reside) from Afghanistan in November and the continued influx of rugby players from 1 and 2 YORKS, we hope to build on this summer's success.

## **FOOTBALL**

### ***Capt N Wilson***

Football is coming back into fashion after an enforced break since the Army Cup final of 2008. Since playing in the final we have had little chance to put a team together and the inevitable moving of players has changed the side a somewhat. However, the competitive spirit is still there amongst the team and thus, we travelled to the traditional season opener, the Infantry sixes.

The Battalion has a decent (recent) record at the competition having made the semi final in 2005, quarter final 2006, winners 2007 and now semi-finalists in 2009, narrowly beaten in a penalty shoot out after full time. The competition is something of a battle with the best of the Infantry eager to get silverware on day one of the season, this term 20 teams entered and we were drawn into a particularly hard league for the group





**Capt Nick Wilson gives his half time speech.**

stage. Nevertheless, we made it through in fine style managing to be the only team to comprehensively beat the Lancs who would later make it into the final.

With six wins on the board we were drawn against the Rifles in the quarter final and again we swept them aside, easily beating them three nil. Next came the Scots in the semi final, we totally dominated the first half and had no less than five shots on goal and indeed missed a penalty opportunity that struck the upright. The Scots hardly touched the ball throughout. The second half was a more even affair but petered out with little chance going to either side. So after a sack full of missed opportunities we faced a penalty shoot out. This is where we were always going to struggle as both of our Keepers are currently in Afghanistan, and so Pte Dave King would try his best to keep out the thunderous strikes - he did well. In the end it was a missed strike from one of our players that would seal the deal for the Scots who knew they had been extremely fortunate to go through. Fittingly although somewhat surprisingly they went on to win the tournament in a frankly unremarkable final.



**The Dukes on the ball against the Rifles.**

There were plenty of plusses to take from the contest I will highlight just two. Firstly, Corporal Kev Gill is back and still as fierce in midfield as ever, having won the player of the tournament in 2007 he was on track to do the same again. Had we made the final, I am sure he would have regained his crown. Secondly, newby rookie Pte Paddy (Lewis) Carrig had a fine tournament. His footballing credentials read very well for the future of the Dukes XI – he hails from the Huddersfield Town FC academy and their loss is our gain. He has slotted straight in both in terms of attitude and ability, he will have super potential once he adjusts to the Army style.

The season ahead hangs in the balance – on the one side we will be hugely successful if the deployment to Afghanistan does not go ahead, allowing us time to compete. On the other we may find most of the team deployed as part of the Battle Casualty Replacement Company, we will see. There is just one aim this season – bring the Infantry Cup back to where it belongs.

## **SAILING REPORT**

*Capt RJP Carman*

The Infantry Sailing Regatta was held in late May in Seaview, Isle of Wight. With a record number of boats entering the competition this year it had all the makings of a challenging and exciting three days sailing. Sadly, day one of the event was called off due to high winds and the crews were left stranded in the club house. To everyone's relief, on day two the wind dropped a little and the Regatta was officially underway. The 3 YORKS boat, containing one of the heavier crews, experienced some excellent early races by capitalising on the strong winds and finished the day in 4th place. On the final day the wind had dropped considerably and the crews diligently rehearsed their spinnaker drills in the hope of gaining that extra advantage. However, as the winds changed so did the luck of the 3 YORKS crew and much of the day was spent scrapping for positions in the middle of the fleet. By the end of the regatta the 3 YORKS boat had slipped to a still very respectable 6th place out of 20. In late afternoon on the third day the competition organiser, 3 YORKS Commanding Officer,

awarded the prizes for the best crews and we all departed a little more bronzed than before.



**The CO, 21C and RSO (blue boat) challenge the lead.**

## SHOOTING REPORT

*Maj C J Schofield*



**Young Guns.**



**Pte Drury takes the last pair as Sgt Green wills him on.**

It was perhaps inevitable that having asked for so much time off to attend Army clay target shoots that the Commanding Officer would demand pay-back. So this is how I found myself at Middle Wallop with bunch of armed and potentially dangerous officers and SNCOs wishing to develop their shooting prowess. My problem was further compounded by the fact that I had probably ever so slightly exaggerated my ability as a shooter and certainly as a coach.

The Battalion's plan has been to qualify a number of people to be able to run a clay target shooting range. Warminster has a potentially excellent area and all that was needed was permission to shoot from Defence Training Estates and qualified staff. The first part of qualification for the Safety Officers' Course was completed at Sandhurst and by all accounts was very ably done by an excellent instructor.

For the second phase the Commanding Officer turned-up resplendent in his full shooting regalia but without his usual loader, who was away on his pre-season summer holiday in Barbados. It was therefore the Second in Command Major Nigel Rhodes who had been entrusted to carry a very smart pair of best London

guns. After a number of awkward questions from the Quartermaster Technical, Captain Sean Caine, who was clearly determined to get a Distinction, I could procrastinate no longer and had to show them how to hit a target. I thought that it went very well to hit at least 2 out of the first half dozen - it was an exceptionally windy day. Admittedly I didn't continue in such good form but anyone can have an off day. Thankfully I had brought plenty of ammunition. Thankfully the grown-ups less the Adjutant had to leave early and so it left a small but determined band to finish off the ammunition. The Adjutant has many nicknames but he has now added the title 'Smoker'. This is a handle reserved for those who don't just hit the target but turn every last piece to dust. So it was that Lee 'Smoker' Pearce won the impromptu competition. In the team competition the 'Sergeants', superbly shepherded WO2 Chris Goddard, narrowly thrashed the officers.

Great news just in from the Infantry Championships. A team consisting of Major Schofield, Lt Goucher, Sgt Green and Pte Drury have won the Infantry Championships. It looked as though it would be down to the last round but Pte Drury didn't panic and broke the last pair for a comfortable win.

## OFFICERS' MESS

*Capt CJ Ibbotson*

In comparison to the last quarter of 2008, the first half of 2009 has seen a somewhat welcomed reduction in the pace of life for the Officers' Mess. The uncertainty of impending operations did little, however, to slow the usual coming and going of mess members as well as including a smattering of weddings. The Mess would like to extend a warm welcome to a handful of new faces; Maj Sam humphris as the new OC Burma and PMC, Maj Nick MacKenzie as the new OC Corunna, 2Lt Alec Hammond as OC 7 Platoon and 2Lt James Douglas as the new Det Commander.

The Mess also extends congratulations for the wedding of Capt Mick Cataldo and Laura Smith. We wish them all the best for the future and extend our congratulations to Capt Simon and Alex Farley on the birth of their daughter Rose in July. Congratulations, also, to Maj Zac Stenning MBE on his promotion to Lt Col.

Our Silver member, Lt Ian Martin, has been trying to sell an abundance of silver elephants purchased during more affluent times, including one to his sister. Still struggling he has been handed the opportunity to 'pass



the buck' after deploying to Afghanistan with the majority of subalterns. They follow on the heels of Capt Patrick Dennien and Lt Henry Stow who were trawled for a 6 month deployment just after returning from Christmas leave.

Other notable arrivals into the Mess were a number of external attachments and included 2Lt Nathan Torbett and 2Lt Joe Williamson from the AAC. The fresh faces provided a good amount of humour, especially when 2Lt Torbett was overheard boasting to various pretty women in Bath that he was 'an officer in the Infantry'.

With the absence of Maj Matt Palmer as PMC, the task of organising the Waterloo dinner night fell onto the shoulders of the Mess Secretary, Capt Chris Ibbotson. Under the watchful eyes of Capt Rogers, the LAD produced a superb spit for our pig to be roasted on. We welcomed a large number of guests including Col Wilf Charlesworth OBE, Col Simon Newton MBE, Lt Col Smith and a number of OCds from Sandhurst.



**An ample Hog Roast.**

The Yorkshire Regimental dinner was saw a huge mixture of Yorkshire Regiment officers from across all 4 Battalions in attendance with the guest of honour, HRH Duke of York (Post Nominals). With approximately 150 guests in attendance, the event finally spilled into York where the black tie dress was welcomed by door staff and locals alike.

The Battalion also held a 'Dukes' dinner night at Sandhurst with approximately 50 guests in attendance. This event provided a good opportunity for all Dukes past and present to catch up on recent events and talk about the usual Dukes topics. The dinner was held in the Indian Army Memorial room. The most notable event of the evening was the Col of The Duke Of Wellington's Regiment, Major Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVBO OBE, standing down after 7 years and handing to Col Nick Borwell.

With almost every liver-in of the Mess deployed on some operational context or other, the Mess has recently been a shadow of its former self but looks forward to the coming second half of the year once all members have returned safely.

## **WOs AND SERGEANTS' MESS**

*CSM (W02) G Walkinshaw*

It's been a very busy period within the WOs & Sgts' Mess during the last few months. The Battalion have undertaken a very hectic period of pre-deployment training for Op TELIC which involved all personnel. After a lot of preparation in then emerged that the deployment would involve a Company rotation and in May Alma Company deployed taking a number of our Mess Members with them. In addition to our deployments to Iraq there were also a number of Mess Members that deployed as individual re-enforcements to Op HERRICK. We look forward to their safe return.

There is always a constant change of personalities within the Mess and in March we said farewell to WO1 (RSM) Scott Moroney upon his commissioning into the role of Regimental Career Management Officer for 2 Yorks and we welcomed WO1 (RSM) Lee Wildey into the chair. In addition both of the RQMSs have changed during the past few months; WO2 (RQMS) 'Mik' Stones moved on upon promotion to WO1 and he has been replaced by WO2 (RQMS) Darren Szymanski, and WO2 (RQMS) 'Jimmy' Carter has commissioned into the AAC and been replaced by WO2 (RQMS) 'Gaz' Gazzard. It is always sad to say farewell to Mess Members but we wish them all the best in their new roles. We would also like to congratulate the following members on promotion into the Mess: Sgt Lighthowers, Sgt Smith, Sgt Claydon, Sgt Winchurch, Sgt Edley, Sgt Marsh, Sgt Kipling, Sgt Pears, Sgt Daniels and Sgt McAllister. In addition the following members were promoted to the rank of CSgt: CSgt Garbutt, CSgt Stroyan, SSgt Cowley, CSgt Anderson, CSgt Farrington, CSgt Roper and CSgt Foster.

This year's Mess entertainments programme has been 'second to none' with functions running every month. In May we held a families BBQ which was a great success with bouncy castles, paintball games and a mass of kid's games to occupy the energetic youth. The food was in great supply and the weather could not have been better.

In June the function involved eating from bins and drinking from paper bags in the form of a 'Tramps Night'. For some attendees it seemed worryingly easy to adapt to this way of life but it made for an authentic feel. The mess became adorned with a London underground theme displaying graffiti on walls and newspapers on the floor. The sale of 'The Big Issue' and the odd busker and beggar topped off the effect coupled with burn barrel smoking areas.

In July we held a 'Generations Day'. This was a chance for the non military family and friends to get an idea of what we do in our day to day lives as a soldier. It began with a well attended Friday night reception that ensured our guests were well prepared for what was to come. After a good breakfast and a health and safety brief the guests were drilled by the RSM to the waiting minibuses. They then went through a series of military stands that involved live and DCCT shooting, Warrior rides and visits to military equipment. The day culminated in a Regimental dinner which was well received with some 'die hards' staying until 0530hrs. Finally our guests were invited to Sunday lunch before their departure. Overall it was a fantastic weekend that we hope to replicate and improve on next year.



## THE WELLESLEY

*Capt RJP Carman*

The official opening of 3 YORKS' new Super-Diner took place on 01 April 09 at Battlesbury Barracks, the Battalions home. The Super-Diner has been named The Wellesley after Arthur Wellesley, The Duke of Wellington. He was a previous Colonel of the Regiment and Commanded the 33rd, one of the antecedent regiments at the tender age of 26.

Coupled with the opening of the Wellesley, the Battalion put on a series of military stands to so the crowd of over 200 guests, many of whom were involved in the construction of the Super-Diner, could gain some insight into the kit and equipment in an armoured infantry battalion. With Warrior AFVs on display and a whole host of the most modern weaponry, many of the guests almost lost interest in the main event.

General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter was the formal guest and he was enthusiastically received. Also a previous Colonel of the Regiment he is currently the Controller of The Army Benevolent fund. The opening was combined with a curry lunch that raised over £500 for the charity.

The new Super-Diner is a fantastic building that provides social, welfare and catering facilities for the soldiers and their families. It is the first evidence of the Allenby Connaught project that aims to improve dining and accommodation for the soldiers on camp. Building on the new accommodation blocks begins later this year and, after the success of the Super-Diner, we are all very hopeful.

**The Drums wait to receive our guests outside the Wellesley.**



General Webb-Carter is shown how to load a grenade



ABF Curry Lunch.



## WATERLOO DAY CELEBRATIONS

*Capt RJP Carman*



The Colours on display during the church service.

In mid June the 3rd Battalion undertook the Battalion's annual Waterloo Day celebrations. Waterloo Day is important to the Battalion for two reasons; Firstly, The Duke of Wellington was a former Colonel of the Regiment of our antecedent regiment, and secondly, the 33rd of foot – another antecedent regiment – were heavily involved in the battle.

This year, with Alma Company still deployed in Iraq on Op Telic CONTINUED, the numbers were fewer but the atmosphere was as jovial as ever. The morning started with a church service in the gymnasium and a reading by the Commanding Officer to remind the Battalion of the importance of the Battle of Waterloo. Prayers were said for colleagues deployed in several theatres and promotions were announced for those who had made the grade on the previous promotion board.

Directly after the church service all soldiers moved to the sports fields to participate in a variety of events to celebrate the day. The main attraction of the day was the Inter-Company Football competition which was won by Corunna Company in a thrilling final against Burma Company. However, there were several other events that pulled the crowds such as the Drop Kick competition, the Wellington Boot Throwing competition and the Strongest Man competition.

After the final competition was complete all participants gathered round for the Commanding Officer's prize giving. Burma Company was awarded the overall winner but a great day was had by all.



Pte Bainamoli wins the Strongest Man competition.



Corunna Company versus Hook Company at Football.

## SCHOOL'S DAY

*Capt RJP Carman*

In late July Corunna Company hosted a School's Day for several of the local schools in the area. Despite being a busy time for 3 YORKS, with one company away in Iraq and another preparing to leave for Afghanistan, it was considered important to keep in touch with the local community by holding events such as this.

The day itself consisted of a series of stands for the pupils to rotate around. Due to some extremely heavy showers the 'wet weather plan' was implemented and many of the stands were moved into the garages. The garages themselves are extremely large buildings, built to accommodate the fleet of Infantry Fighting Vehicles that the Battalion uses on exercise, so fortunately there was no lack of space. Stand one was a demonstration of the Gun Run, a military race that is designed to test strength, speed and stamina. During this event participants are expected to disassemble a model light

artillery piece, carry its many parts over an obstacle course before reassembling it on the other side. Now a race of tradition, this event was first designed to train past soldiers in the Artillery how to move the weapon in exactly that way. Stand two was a series of minor stands that displayed equipment such as the Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle, the Javelin Anti-Tank Missile System, The 50 Cal Machine Gun and the 40mm Grenade Launcher. Many of these weapons are currently being used in Afghanistan. Stand three was a simple 'question and answer' stand where the pupils were given the opportunity to ask some of the soldiers about their experiences in the army.

After 3 hours of informative stands the pupils of New Close and Kingdown School returned home much better informed of what goes on behind the wire in Battlesbury Barracks.



**The pupils are shown how to be a Sniper.**

## THE FREEDOM OF ROTHERHAM

*2LT W Sutton*

The 3rd Battalion faced cheering crowds as they marched through Rotherham enacting a tradition that goes back to the days of Rome. Soldiers from The Dukes conducted a Freedom of The Borough Parade on August 3, an act which was first exercised by Roman citizens to celebrate their freedoms and rights as citizens of that great city. The tradition endured and adapted through the Saxons, William the Conqueror and the Middle Ages until today when it was British Army boots that struck the cobble stones in echo of those Roman sandals.

The 3rd Battalion was met with a fantastic response from the people of Rotherham who came out in their hundreds to line the streets along the entire parade route. Proud family and friends watched the soldiers while some even witnessed complete strangers coming up to shake soldiers' hands after the march. A Colour Party of officers and warrant officers carried the Battalion's Colours and were accompanied by two honour guards of 36 soldiers each from Corunna Company.

After marching through busy streets the parade was





**The Parade march past the Town Hall.**

met by Rotherham's Mayor, Councillor Shaukat Ali, and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, Colonel CJ Tattersall. The Mayor acknowledged the strong links between The Yorkshire Regiment and the people of Rotherham while drawing attention to the Battalion's recent deployment to Afghanistan. The soldiers also wore desert combats in recognition of Alma Company's recent tour in Iraq.

The Battalion Second in Command, Major Nigel Rhodes, then asked permission to exercise the newly granted freedom rights by marching "through the city with Colours flying, bayonets fixed and drums beating." The Battalion's Corps of Drums carried out a victory beating to cement a historic day which is the first time The Yorkshire Regiment has been directly granted a Borough Freedom since its formation on June 6, 2006.



**The Parade awaits the Mayor's address.**



## BOC CHARITY RUNS

*Capt S Farley*

With the Brigade Operations Company's (BOC) end in sight the challenge was set to the soldiers to plan an adventure training expedition encompassing the BOC's ethos of 'always that little bit further' which would be put to the vote. With several options, including a 10 day escape and evasion exercise (which didn't arouse much excitement), it was decided that a coast to coast run would be the order of the day. With the expedition organisers as Sgt McGregor and SSgt Dunn two routes were devised which would traverse the recruiting areas of all cap badges represented by the BOC. We would aim to use the event as a recruiting opportunity and a chance to raise money for the Army Benevolent fund and Help for Heroes campaigns. Both charities deserving our support and being all the more poignant given the departure of 120 soldiers and officers from the 3rd Battalion to Afghanistan a week before the event.

The northern route would see competitors crossing the North of England from Blackpool to Hull, a route that would see the team stop at Skipton, Huddersfield, Leeds, York, Scarborough and Hull. The total distance would be

420 miles allowing for the safest route. The team in the south would start at Landsend and follow the coastal path to Dover via Dartmouth, Plymouth, Weymouth, Poole, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Brighton, Hastings and Dover (with a short stop at Lydd to say hello to COTAT) - their route would cover 450 miles. At the start of the planning process the company had upwards of 100 soldiers to draw from to compete but the nature of the British Army saw the BOC pulled in several different directions resulting in the final number to take part at 24 with only 16 runners able to compete and 3 YORKS and the LAD the only cap badges represented.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon the two groups left for their respective start points. The first two days of both legs were the most gruelling with runners covering up to 30 miles individually on each day. The support from the public was evident from the start with generous donations given to the support staff who were collecting as the runners passed through the towns and villages on the way. The evenings were a chance for the soldiers to



The Commanding Officer joins Maj Zac Stenning MBE for one of the legs.



get home and visit friends and family after a tiring day on the road with the following day's team collecting in and around the pubs and clubs of the towns we stopped in. Thanks should go to all of those who helped with accommodation from the freeing up of TA centres to the provision of free campsites. Over the course of the week the BOC managed to raise nearly £10500 for the charities. It was a great experience for all involved.

The support from the public was humbling and people showed their appreciation of what the Army does through donations and kind words along the way. At no point did we feel anything other than extremely well appreciated and supported. As a swan song for the BOC the Coast to Coast event was a good one and we finished our time together on a high, all be it with tired legs.

## KAYAKING AROUND BRITAIN

*Lt Col TG Vallings*

It was a great privilege to join Eric Innes for 2 days in August during his epic voyage paddling around mainland Britain for Help for Heroes. Eric served 22 years in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and retired as a Colour Sergeant whilst the Battalion was in London. His son is serving in the Parachute Regiment and recently returned from Afghanistan. It was at his son's medal parade when Eric saw the extent of some of the soldiers' injuries that he decided he must do something for those soldiers that had received life challenging injuries.

Eric left Blackpool on 6 June 2009 and has already been through the Crinan and Caladonian Canals, down the East Coast, battled strong south westerly winds to Lands End and has just at the time of writing crossed the Bristol Channel. He plans to paddle up the coast of Wales and finish in Blackpool on 29 August 2009. He has already raised over £7000.

In typically Eric fashion he has not made a big fuss about this trip. He has just got on with it, keeping it as

simple as possible. He keeps land on his right, stops once the tide turns against him and sleeps on the beech or where he can find a bed. He navigates using a well used road atlas strapped to his deck and only uses his GPS when he has too. He doesn't waste time agonising over whether he should or shouldn't, he just digs in and paddles hard. Whenever Eric is faced with what seems like a major problem or issue that would keep most of us on land he says "no problem – we'll be all right" and paddles his way out.

I was fortunate to paddle around Lands End with Eric and on to St Ives – some 20 nautical miles. Then after some ale and a bite to eat we paddled the next day a further 20 miles onto Penhale Camp near Newquay where we were really well looked after by the Commandant and his team. We had paddled 40 miles on two tides and high surf – enough of a challenge for me but of course, "no problem" for Eric.

Quite simply, an outstanding achievement from a remarkable person.

## Keep in touch with the Regiment and your old service friends and colleagues through:

- The Iron Duke, the Journal for all who served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Published twice yearly, price £10 per year.
- The Duke's website, {HYPERLINK "<http://www.dwr.org.uk>"}, for latest news, historical information and an opportunity to comment through the forum. Contact {HYPERLINK "<mailto:editor@dwr.org.uk>" } with your news.
- The Association's programme of events, Branch activities and a number of informal get-togethers. The current programme is inside the back cover of this issue.

# HMS IRON DUKE



Navy Command

The Commanding Officer  
HMS IRON DUKE  
BFPO 309

Email: 309-co@[a.dii.mod.uk](mailto:309-co@dii.mod.uk)

Since the last issue of the journal HMS IRON DUKE (IRDK) has had a major change to her programme. Having returned to the UK in late December 2008, the plan had been to deploy to the Middle East in October 2009, however, in late February we were informed that we were to return to the Caribbean in June. Additionally, we were given only six short weeks to prepare for the arduous task of going through Operational Sea Training (OST) in order to prove that we were fit to deploy. A hectic period of preparations followed, before we arrived in Devonport Naval Base, Plymouth, for four weeks of high intensity training under the auspices of Flag Officer Sea Training. This period of intensive training saw IRON DUKE's Commanding Officer taking charge as Commander of a Task Group of 6 Ships and over 1000 sailors, including the RN's newest destroyer, the Type 45 HMS DARING.

During the training the Ship's Company fought off sustained attacks by aircraft, submarines and surface units whilst dealing with internal damage such as fires, flooding and casualties all designed to test the ability of the Ship to maintain her Operational Capability. In specific preparation for this deployment, we rescued sinking ships, restored essential services to islands hit by hurricanes and conducted SAR. In short, every aspect of warship operations was trained and tested and every Thursday IRDK went to war in a multi threat exercise designed to test her war fighting skills.

The weekly 'Thursday War' is the Royal Navy's ultimate exercise designed to test the war fighting capabilities of the units involved, with ships, helicopters, fighter jets and submarines all taking part, taking place in the waters south of Plymouth. The Command team, who fight the battles from the Operations Room, are put through their paces to control the situation and achieve

the mission, whilst damage repair teams keep the Ship fighting despite numerous 'hits'.

The last Thursday of OST is the final test when the team from FOST come on board solely to assess the capabilities of the Ship. OST was 4 weeks of hard work, the training was intense and the learning curve was steep, especially after so short a period to prepare, however, during that final Thursday War we prevailed and Flag Officer Sea Training (the 2\* Admiral in charge of all RN Training) who was onboard assessed us as ready and capable to conduct high intensity war fighting anywhere in the world.

On Wednesday 17 June 2009, after two days spent filling every last nook and corner of the Ship with supplies and disaster relief stores, we took the opportunity in the morning to welcome onboard many family members. IRDK sailed at 1400 with the Ship's Company lining the decks in the traditional 'Procedure Alpha' and waved our loved ones goodbye as we passed Round Tower and set sail for the two week passage to cross the Atlantic.

After an uneventful crossing of 'the pond', we visited Key West, Florida to conduct arrival briefings. Key West is the home of the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (South), who lead the international counter-narcotic smuggling efforts in the region. Our visit allowed us to meet their Headquarters team for briefings, install specialist equipment, and most importantly to embark a US Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET). We also hosted representatives from all of the British Overseas Territories to exchange information about disaster relief plans and capabilities.

Since Key West, we have visited the Cayman Islands, where we conducted a disaster relief exercise with the island authorities and a joint training exercise with the







marine police. A visit to the French island of Martinique was also carried out to conduct meetings with the French forces based in the region. In between exercises there was a chance for some fun. The unbeaten rugby team (it had already triumphed over a US side in Key West at the start of the deployment) took on the armée de terre on Martinique. The French were seven men short of a full squad, so the Iron Ducks (as the rugby team are known) kindly loaned them the requisite players. It didn't help the French; Iron Duke built up a 34-7 lead before the soldiers waved the white flag and decided enough was enough. We also conducted a 2 week maintenance period in Barbados. Because of the Hurricane season this was done earlier in the deployment than is usual order to minimise the chance of disruption to the planned maintenance if the Ship had been activated for hurricane relief operations.

In addition to support to the islands during hurricane season, we are conducting counter-narcotic operations. In the last two and a half years the Royal Navy has seized in excess of 20 tonnes of cocaine in the Caribbean region and we aim to add to that total. One

of our main assets is our Lynx helicopter which is used to search for and stop suspect vessels. Working as part of an international task force and with the LEDET embarked, the Royal Navy is well placed to disrupt the flow of cocaine out of the region. So far this year we have seized one vessel carrying approximately 720Kg of pure cocaine and interdicted a second which threw its cargo of about 150Kg overboard. In the case of the first vessel, the personnel were detained, the drugs were seized and the vessel was destroyed. The personnel and drugs were handed over to the US authorities for prosecution in the United States. This has been a very successful start to HMS IRON DUKE's deployment, interdicting Europe-bound cocaine worth at least £39 Million at wholesale prices, and a street value of many times more than that.

In this part of the world, the primary method of smuggling is using 'go-fast' vessels. These are purpose built speed boats with multiple engines which conduct high speed transits from South America to the Caribbean Islands. Interception of these vessels is a team effort, requiring close cooperation between



surveillance assets, generally either our helicopter or one of the maritime patrol aircraft operating in the region, and the Ship. When a suspicious vessel is detected, the Ship must manoeuvre quickly into position to intercept and spring a trap ideally preventing the traffickers from dumping the cargo over board before they can be detained. The vessel must be forced to stop which, if they don't comply with instructions given, may require the use of snipers to shoot out the engines from the helicopter. To accomplish this, the Royal Navy uses snipers from the Royal Marines who use the AW50. 50 rifle, or when a show of force is required the M3M .50 machine gun.

We are now focussing firmly on the tasks ahead. Our primary job is to offer reassurance to the British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean during the hurricane season

and, in particular, to offer support if they are hit by a natural disaster. Hurricane Bill was the first of 2009, and we were ready to support any of the islands in case they were hit. In the event, despite growing to Category 4 status, (the strongest is a Cat 5) the hurricane remained to the north of the Caribbean islands.

The current plan is to return to the UK in December, after which we will spend the start of 2010 conducting maintenance prior to commencing the pre deployment training cycle again, this time in preparation for a deployment to the Middle East region in either late 2010 or early 2011.

Afternote: after this piece was written, at the end of September HMS Iron Duke was in all the national media for a very successful capture of the largest drugs haul ever; some four and a half tons.

## ISRAEL

*By Col Peter Mitchell OBE*

*Colonel Peter Mitchell OBE assumed command of 1 DWR in November 1972, mostly when the Battalion was based in Ballykelly with elements of it continuously on operations in the City and County of Londonderry, Northern Ireland.*

### Thoughts on Israel 1983-1985

In early 1983, after a year's training, my wife and I and landed at Ben Gurion airport outside Tel Aviv to start my tour as Military Attache at the British Embassy in Israel. I had previously had 2 years at the Embassy in The Hague, so I had experience of diplomatic life and what it involved, although I knew from various briefings that the working environment this time would be very different.

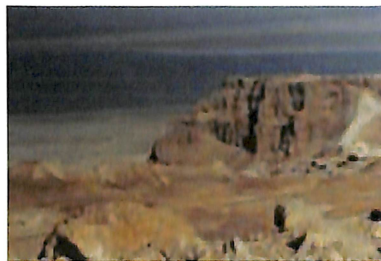
I had arrived at a most interesting time in the region. In June 1982, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), after considerable cross border PLO activity from southern Lebanon, had advanced over the border, bypassing UNIFIL outposts. Syria, who regard Lebanon as a surrogate state, had intervened and in major engagements the Syrian airforce had been defeated and in the Bekaa valley in western Lebanon, the Syrian army had sustained serious armoured and air defence missile losses sufficient to keep these forces out of consideration for the remainder of the operation. The IDF had advanced and at the time I arrived was occupying the southern half of Beirut (I was able to pay a short visit to the small British Army contingent before the international force was withdrawn after the bombings of the US and French compounds) and maintaining a line along the mountainous main road running to Syria. It quickly became clear to me that Israel had impaled herself on the Lebanon hook and as it turned out, would spend many years trying to find a way out of the mess. The occupation of southern Lebanon had a number of unexpected and serious by products. For the first time the IDF had to deal with drugs which were sold by local dealers to young and bored conscript soldiers. Inevitably and inexorably the drugs then found their way into Israel which at the time had no drug culture and indeed a large proportion of Israelis did not drink alcohol either. Second the IDF was

subjected to the first female suicide attack when two attractive young women drove up to a army check point and engaged the sentries in small talk before exploding the bomb in their car. Even to a nation accustomed to over 300 security incidents a year within it's borders this was a terrible shock.

There was a second major conflict in the region at this time - the Iraq/Iran war. Israel, having bombed the Iraqi Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981 was giving clandestine equipment support to Iran since at that time, Iraq was vehemently anti Israeli and giving support to "resistance fighters". This policy was ironic, given later developments in the relationship between the two countries, but a good example of Israeli clearheaded thinking about their security - "my enemy's enemy is my friend"

After settling into our house in Herzliya Pituach, some 6 miles north of Tel Aviv, I started to meet Israelis and travel around the country.

Israel is about the size of Wales and at that time had a population of three and a half million, the majority being Jewish but there was a sizeable Arab minority (about 15%) mainly living in the Galilee, including about 100,000 Druze. The Druze are a distinct Arab religious but non islamic community living in the hills of Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, who, in Israel, are assimilated and many serve in the security forces,

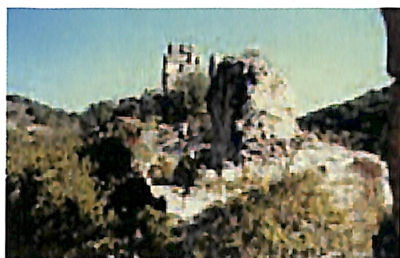


**Masada with Dead Sea in background Scene of Roman siege of Jewish resistance in A.D.70**



particularly the border police. In addition there were the Occupied Territories of the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza; the latter two with large Arab populations, many of whom worked in Israel. Israeli settlements established in the occupied areas were already a major source of controversy and conflict and were bound to enlarge with time due to population growth

It is a most beautiful country, stretching from the rolling hills of the Galilee (not unlike parts of Devon) in the North, along the coastal plain which is heavily developed, down to the Negev which the Israelis have turned from a wilderness into an agricultural heartland by bringing water from the Lake of Galilee by an enormous underground pipeline. To the west, there is the strategically important Golan Heights, overlooking northern Israel and the Galilee and which was captured from the Syrians in 1966. The Golan has two other important features; it controls the water of two streams running into the river Jordan, and it also overlooks the plains running to Damascus. Water, of course, is the critical commodity in the region and control of headwaters has been the cause of many conflicts in the past and this is likely to be aggravated in the future as populations increase and the demand grows.



**Ruined  
Crusader  
fort in  
Galilee.**

Historically, for the past 2000 years or so up to 1947, the land of what we now call Israel has been occupied; first by the Romans, then Muslims who were ejected by the Crusaders, who in turn were defeated by Saladin which led to the Ottoman empire lasting until 1917 after which it became a British Protectorate.

As a result of all this, there are some ethnically interesting by products - I once had lunch in Jerusalem with a Christian Palestinian with an Italian surname who traced his family back to the third Crusade. There are also a few fair, even ginger, headed and blue eyed Palestinians descended from various European sources.

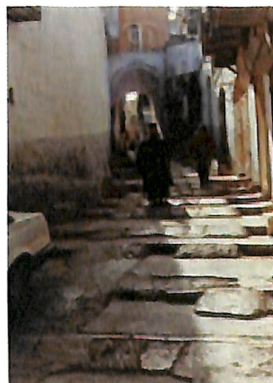
The Israelis are themselves ethnically diverse as a result of the movement of Jews around the world after their expulsion from Israel in the first century (the Diaspora); the ashkenazi are from Europe and Russia, the sephardi are from the middle east and North Africa., but I met Israelis from India including a fighter pilot from Goa, who told me there is a local tradition that Jesus visited the subcontinent at some stage before his public life. Also during my tour, the Israelis mounted a covert rescue operation (Operation Moses) for some 8000 Falashas (Abyssinian jews) who were brought with US air force assistance via Sudan and Europe to Israel where they were settled in the south of the country.

Israelis are intelligent, argumentative, well read, have

a strong work ethic and are sentimental about many things, yet they are also totally single minded and ruthless where the vital interests of the state are involved. Israel has a sophisticated industrial base, but in the final analysis it is largely dependent upon the United States for financial and political backing. The Jewish lobby in the USA is an immensely powerful political force which no President can afford to ignore and Israel is not slow to take advantage of this. At that time the USA provided around \$10 billion a year in grants, loans and donations from Diaspora Jewry - interestingly, German reparations to the state and individuals were also a significant feature in the economy.

Over the next nearly 3 years I got to know the IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) well, particularly the Army, which is by far the largest element and had a small regular cadre of senior officers and NCOs with a conscript force. The standing units organized into Brigades and Divisions were deployed along the borders and as garrisons in the West Bank and Gaza. After full time service, conscripts went into reserve units which form the bulk of the Army and were subject to regular annual training and also emergency call outs for which there is a most efficient system. Interestingly, although females are subject to conscription, they are not employed in active roles in front line units - I was told this was a direct result of experiences during the War of Independence 1946/7, when women had fought alongside the men and proved to be a distraction to their male comrades particularly if becoming a casualty.

Since Tel Aviv is only a few minutes flying time from Syrian airbases, and at the closest the West Bank is only 12 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, warning times of an attack are minimal and so the IDF had a major investment in intelligence gathering of every type so as to give as much warning as possible. During my time there were a number of occasions when alert states were heightened and precautionary measures taken. So Israel is the local superpower with well trained, well equipped and well led military forces capable of fighting an integrated combined arms campaign on more than one front and it's ability to do so had enabled her to win four wars against vastly larger forces. It has nuclear weapons, the means to deliver them by missile or aircraft and her neighbours do not doubt that, if the survival of the state was at risk, she would do so.



**Greek orthodox  
priest in street  
of Old Jerusalem.**



I found Israel a land of contrasts. It is a country founded on religion and yet relatively few Israelis go regularly to synagogue, although they all know the Torah and in many cases know a great deal about Christianity and Islam. Nevertheless, the Orthodox community who believe totally in the God given right of Jews to live in the whole land of Israel (including Judea and Samaria i.e. The West Bank) exert significant political influence through their control of the extreme right wing minority parties without whose support neither of the main conventional political groupings could maintain power. Therein lies the great dilemma for the only true democracy in the region, since Israeli foreign policy towards her neighbours and the Palestinian issue is bedevilled by the problem of satisfying the conflicting political, security, economic and strategic issues regarding the occupied territories.

A large part of my time was spent travelling the country, including the Golan, West Bank and Gaza, which I was able to do without restriction, although very occasionally I did have a slight differences of opinion with local security, and I took the opportunity to visit many historical and religious sites, including Sfat in the Galilee which has continuous Jewish population for over 2000 years and where every night bread and water are put out for the Saviour should he pass through the village while the people sleep.

It was a great experience which I thoroughly enjoyed on both a personal and professional level; Israel is a fascinating place, with an immensely powerful religious and historical basis and populated by an intelligent, well educated, highly motivated and attractive people totally united in their belief in Eretz Israel, and at odds with each other and the world over practically everything else.

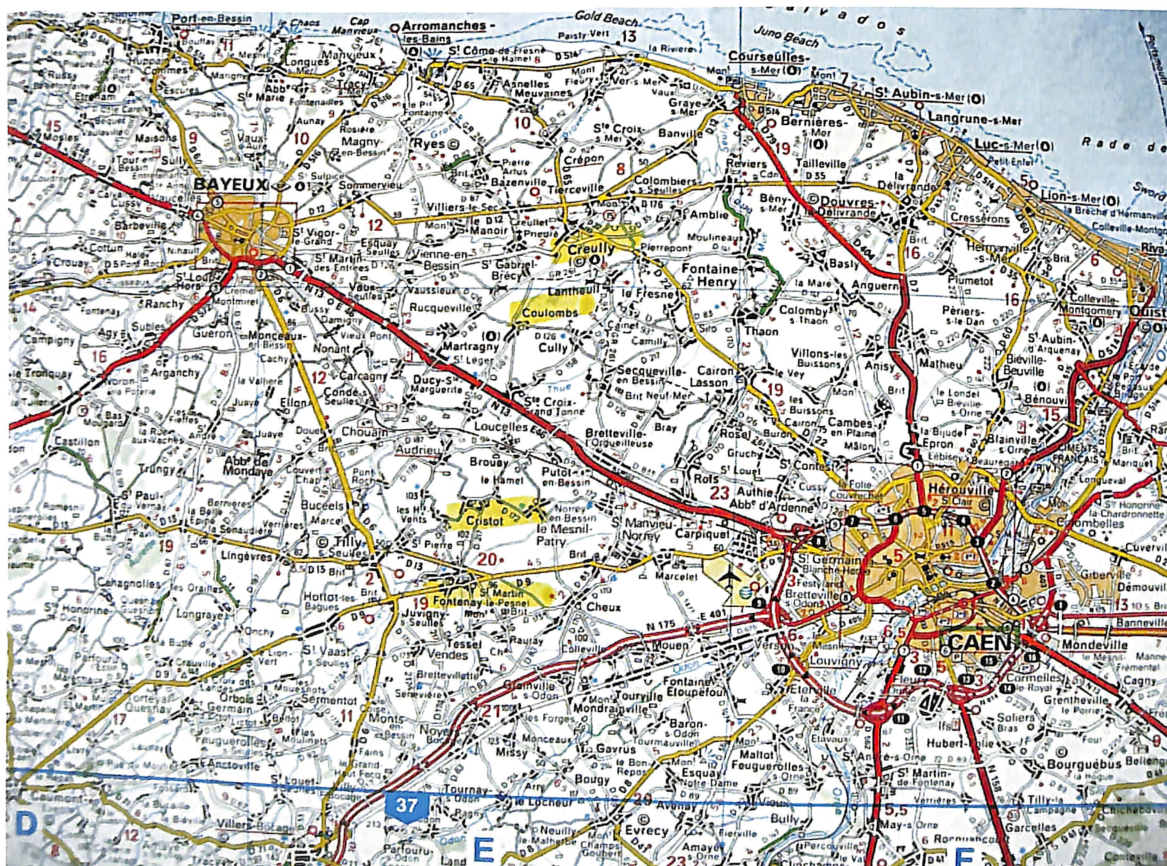
## 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMANDY LANDINGS

*Reported by Dr Bob Duncan*

*Bob Duncan was a platoon commander in 1/7 DWR when it landed on Gold Beach on 9 June 1944.*

For the 65th Anniversary of the D day landings in France, I was fortunate to secure a place on one of the splendid British Legion Poppy Tours and visit the beaches and areas of combat experienced as a 20 year old platoon commander with 1/7 DWR 49 Div (Polar Bear) in 1944.

It was possible to trace the route of my old B Company (Major Bernard Kilner) from Gold Beach inland through Colombes and Cruilly right up to Hill 102 near Cristot, where I came to an abrupt halt on 18 June 1944!







**“At the Reception after the Bayeux Service”.**

I searched in vain for other Dukes veterans but was delighted to find a Duke playing in the Kings Division Band during the morning service in Bayeux Cathedral. I visited graves of fallen comrades and enclose a few photographs.

Pressed for further information, Bob responded as follows.

**“Bob Duncan at the grave of a fallen Dukes soldier”.**



With regards to 1/7 DWR 49 Division there is an excellent book about the Polar Bear Division in Europe. In it is described the first frontal assault on to Hill 102 - (there is a spot height 103 on the map, just to the left (West) of Cristot) – made by the Dukes. For my sins I led 10 platoon and got wounded that day. Captain Frank Schalis A Company was killed and Lieutenant Delaney 11 Platoon was wounded. Our third platoon commander was Nick Lambert seconded from Canada and French speaking. He lasted a bit longer but according to the book was subsequently injured by looters!

I don't think any of our original platoon commanders saw it through to May 45, but those “a bit further back” managed to survive. I recall Captain Pyrah (Transport), Leslie Denton (Adjutant), Hugh Le Messurier (B Company 2i/c) and Barry Kavanagh.

The Regimental history records the actions of 1/7 DWR as follows –

“On 17 June 1/7 battalion (Lieutenant Colonel JHO Wilsey) which had been in reserve moved forward into the battle area preparatory to an attack on Fontenay Le Pesnil. The country in which the troops were operating was thick bocage; copses, woods, small fields, tall hedges and sunken roads with eight foot banks all of which restricted both visibility and fields of fire. It was hardly suitable country for the Battalion's 330 folding bicycles, so the CO ordered them to be temporarily put in a wood. There they were run over and squashed by a squadron of tanks – much to the relief of the Battalion. On the following day the Battalion was in action in the

area of Le Parc de Boislonde from which 1/6 DWR had earlier been forced to withdraw (having taken casualties of 19 officers and 350 men killed and wounded). On 22 June it was relieved for a few days before taking part in 49 Division's attack on Fontenay Le Pesnil. Throughout the 25th and 26th June the Battalion was heavily engaged against strong German defences, which included elements of two Panzer divisions. The final assault started on the afternoon of 26 June when the German positions were attacked by the tanks of the Sherwood Rangers supported by the 1/7th and the whole

of the divisional artillery. By the evening all the objectives had been captured. The battle had cost 1/7th some 120 men killed and wounded. It earned the Battalion the Battle Honour Fontenay Le Pesnil."

Bob Duncan is a founding member of the Chiang Mai (Thailand) branch of the British Legion, and meetings are held monthly in the Olde Bell pub on Loi Khro Road. After the war he qualified as a dentist and after an adventurous career in various parts of the world including South Georgia, Guyana and Hong Kong he settled in Chiang Mai, and also has a clinic in the Seychelles.

## THE ROAD FROM DAMASCUS

*By John Wilson*

It was a little over three weeks after the end of WW2 in Europe that 1 DWR was despatched to Syria at very short notice. We drove from our camp near Asdud (known as Isdud in 1945) to the border, where we waited for dawn before crossing and taking the road to Damascus.

The reason for our hurried departure was not explained until several days later – "to assist the French to remove themselves from Syria". There had been some unpleasantness. Some Syrian soldiers had murdered their French officers and French artillery had shelled the Citadel in Damascus from the airport. There had been casualties. To this day I have no comprehensive idea of what the Battalion did – everything seemed to be piecemeal. My own experiences and recollections probably reflect the situation.

After standing by 2 Sherwood Forresters on the airport perimeter for a couple of days, D Company joined the rest of the Battalion on Damascus Racecourse, under the imposing shadow of the Mosque of Selim the Grim. Tasks were varied and scrappy but individually successful and our objectives were achieved. After an adventure to find a regiment of Druse cavalry which had set out from Soueida "to help their friends in Damascus" I was given the task of escorting the transport company of the Syrian component of the French Army from Damascus to the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

I was only mildly surprised to find that it consisted of a lot of small carts, drawn by single donkeys, and some larger carts, drawn by a pair of mules. The Syrian Company Commander rode a rather nice grey horse and his sergeant major a large bay. The pay code

puzzled me. From his pay the Sergeant major told me, he had to feed himself and his horse. He had only enough left to buy himself a daily bottle of Arakh and a loaf of bread. He carved hunks of bread using a vicious looking dagger and used the same dagger to put the bread in his mouth – no butter, no jam.



**Escort to the Syrian transport company  
on the road from Damascus to the  
Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, June 1945.  
L/Cpl Woodthorpe mounted.**

The escort consisted of a section of my Platoon, a 15 cwt truck and a Bren gun carrier, but no radio. We set off, with me leading in the carrier and the infantry section in the rear of the truck. There were immediately problems – the animals were not used to motor transport and bucked and reared in terror. Later it was clear that they were totally out of condition so that even slight gradients were taxing.

As we camped by the roadside at the end of the first day, the Company Commander said there were two passes ahead and he was sure that the animals would not be able to negotiate them. I suggested it might be possible to send the loads ahead by lorry and I then drove back to Damascus and arranged for it to be done. A West African convoy of 3 ton lorries duly arrived at dawn and transferred the load. Before we resumed our journey I borrowed the Company Commander's horse so that I could communicate more easily with the rear of



**Mosque  
of Selim  
The Grim,  
Damascus  
June 1945.**



the column. LCpl Woodthorpe said he could ride the horse so he became the “Detachment Runner”; (trotter might be a better description).

As we approached the first pass we realised that the donkeys would not make it without help. The solution was to drag each donkey and cart to the top, one by one, using a rope attached to the Bren gun carrier. Apart from the panic amongst the animals, the midsummer heat and the slow pace caused the engine to stall frequently. On the following day we repeated the procedure on the next pass and reached our destination on the afternoon of the third day.

## TRAVELS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

*By Bob Campbell-Lammerton*

Down Under during the first quarter of 2008, I had the privilege and very great fun of staying with Charlie Renilson in Sydney, and with Sam Basu (always known to me as Ratu Meli Vesikula) in Suva, Fiji Islands — where I also had various meetings with Bill Parrot (always known to me as Bill Pareti). I missed the elusive Tom Waqabaca by only a week! I can report that they're all in very fine fettle (see snapshots.)

From that fabulous flat of his in Cogie Beach, Charlie



My one vivid recollection of the journey was the startled look on the face of the QM of the Sherwood Foresters who was being driven in a jeep towards Damascus. As I pulled the first cart over the top of the pass his driver swerved violently to avoid us. It was some 60 years later that I realised that I had been driving on the wrong (left hand) side of the road for three days.

I was sorry to leave my Syrian friends. After lending us his horse, the Company Commanded had ridden with me in the carrier and we got on very well. The Syrian expedition was one of the “fun” periods of my service with 1 DWR and left me with very fond memories.

remains as busy as ever with matters Rugby League (selecting) and Rugby Union (talent spotting); whilst 'tu Meli remains deeply involved with Youth and the constitutional future of Fiji. The latter heads up an ‘Action for Life’ programme for 15-25 year olds, and has established the first residential centre in the Islands under the auspices of Initiatives of Change (see [www.au.iofc.org](http://www.au.iofc.org)).

I became greatly involved in the Action programme, in which young people from all backgrounds, races and ethnicities live together as the basis for building a better future, to learn to understand one another. I was in my element in this respect, of course. 'tu Meli is also significantly involved with the Constitutional Forum and National Council for Building a Better Fiji (NCBBF), as well as having carved a magnificent role in helping potential Fijian applicants gain an enlistment into the British Army. After 20 years of being the secretary to the Suva Golf Club and the Fiji Golfing Association, Bill has been enjoying what he calls ‘a quiet, an intended, long retirement’, whilst his wife Olivia, remains in a top position in the Tourism Industry.

[Bill has asked me to connect with any former Duke who'd be interested were he and I to organise a brief focussed visit to Fiji at some point during the next 24 months (no details yet). Maybe this is of interest to some of you? Please connect with me on [bobcl@talktalk.net](mailto:bobcl@talktalk.net) should the idea in any way appeal to you.]

My first brush with Fiji was at Strensall when some





of 'the 212' young Fijians passed through my hands in 1961 when I was a Yorkshire Brigade Training Subaltern there (see photograph of the Strensall Commoners preparing for their matches at the Harrogate Sevens if that year!).

Happy Days!

Rigby photograph: The five Fijians in the line are from left to right, Semi Korotoga (1 PWO), Bill Pareti, Bill Vuro (both 1 Y and L before moving to 1 DWR), Seru Vunivalu (1 PWO) and Ponijasi Sotia (1 DWR later SAS). I'm on the far left, and Mike Stacpoole is in the middle (can't recognise the rest!).

### CHINA GILL'S 27 YEARS IN THE DUKES

*In the last episode of China Gill's 27 years in the Dukes, he had just landed at Anzio on 23 January 1944 with 1 DWR, and after unloading transport the Battalion moved off into its designated area. He is back to being the Rations NCO, and no doubt much happier than when he was a rifle platoon sergeant in action in North Africa. This account is taken directly from China Gill's handwritten memoirs, and is produced as he wrote it, except for some abridgement.*

The next few days were very quiet, everyone digging in, this proved difficult at first as being so close to the shore wherever one dug water was encountered after a few feet, so by trial and error it was sometime before everyone was satisfied. Myself and the butchers dug out a square about 3 feet deep a tent erected over, that was my ration store. By now we had located the Div Supply Dump from which we drew our rations daily, it was all "compo" rations for a few weeks, then as the supplies came by sea from Naples daily we gradually received fresh rations.

Air raids become more frequent at night. The jerries were dropping bombs that exploded a couple of feet above the ground; this meant the troops' dug out had to have some sort of a protective cover such as tree branches and a covering of soil. At this time I had my luckiest escape during the war.

The MT Tech Sgt Ron Flowers and myself dug and shored a trench to sleep in. The Dukes area was bounded by a path, our area being on the south side. But we dug ours on the north side of the path, everyone else was

south. One day the Sherwood Foresters moved their 'B' Echelon and their area included our dug out. We were ordered to find another spot. The MT Sgt Harry Sims was having a dug out made, a deep one big enough for three, the top covered by tree trunks, then a canvas covering, finally about two feet of earth. Harry, myself and REME Sgt Hennessey then moved in. Sgt Flowers went somewhere with the RQMS.

The dug out vacated by Flowers and myself was occupied by two storemen of the Foresters QM staff. That night there was a heavy air raid, morning came and everyone appeared to be OK. About 9 o'clock the Foresters QM went to our old dug out as his two storemen had not been seen. On pulling back the covers they were discovered both dead. I don't know the cause as the area did not show any explosion, we put it down to concussion. Whatever it was Flowers and myself had had a very lucky escape, my new dug out was only on the opposite side of the path and was bomb proof. I think only about a dozen men knew of our escape and it was soon forgotten.

It appeared the invasion could have advanced almost into Rome but the 5th US Army Commander decided it was too risky and established a front line about 10-12 miles around Anzio/Nettuno. The Dukes were now brought into action taking over from the Guards. On 30th Jan the Bde was ordered to take Campoleone railway station. The next week was to see some of the fiercest fighting of the campaign. I will only mention



some of the action as I was at 'B' Echelon and only visited the action area when accompanying the QM with food and supplies.

After a quiet start the situation changed, the enemy had now received more reinforcements and outnumbered the allied force. The allied push had made a salient about 4 miles deep and one mile wide. The Dukes were at the apex of the salient and were being attacked by tanks, 'D' Coy was completely cut off, decimated by casualties, the rest captured. I mention here that had not the QM obtained my services as Ration NCO I would have been one of the POWs or 'D' Coy casualties.

On 2nd Feb the 2i/c Maj MM Davie was ordered by the Bde Comdr to take over from the CO who was ordered to have a couple of days rest. 3rd Feb orders came for Majors Faulkes and Benson to report to 'B' Ech for a rest. Capt Jacobsen arrived to command 'C' Coy. Casualties were getting heavy, orders arrived for a withdrawal. The situation was so confused the Germans on either side of the salient had been firing at each other. On reaching rest area the Dukes found it had suffered heavily, 11 officers and 250 ORs missing (mostly captured), not a single A/T gun, carrier or 3in mortar got back.

9th Feb 3 officers and 87 ORs had been sent to replace 'D' Coy. This body was from the beach group. The last few days it had rained heavily. The Bn was now to come under command of the Guards Brigade. I was kept busy ensuring the rations reached to Coy CQMSs but unlike the weary troops most nights I was able to get some sleep. I would like to draw attention to the support groups that landed within the first week of the landing. Outstanding was the RAOC Field Ordnance Park. Despite the heavy losses of men equipment and arms, the brens, mortars, carriers and even GS watches were all replaced within 24 hours, ensuring the success of the heavy fighting that took place up to the end of the month.

*It is difficult for China, from the very rear of the Battalion, to give a full picture of events. Readers would do well to refresh their memories of the actions after the Anzio landings as it was some of the most intensive fighting the Dukes faced anywhere. Lt Col Webb Carter wrote "We had gone through Campoleone and the almost miraculous extrication of the Battalion from there after being surrounded. We had fought the battle of the Railway Bed. We were punch drunk, or in the new phraseology 'bomb happy'. Every Company Commander, three second in commands, the Adjutant, the signal officer and the mortar officer were casualties.....A large draft of reinforcements, good lads but quite untried had arrived but were not assimilated. The weather was terrible. To this cheering background I heard we were to relieve the Irish Guards". China continues.*

On 25th Feb the Bn relieved the Irish Guards in the Wadis; this was a labyrinth of fissures in the ground from which movement was nigh impossible by day, snipers on both sides were constantly in action. The weather was extremely atrocious, deep mud everywhere. Bringing up supplies of food was a

nightmare. Troops and jeeps were bogged down, the only consolation was that the jerries were in the same predicament. By day everyone had to keep their head down. Any movement brought instant mortar bombs and shelling.

Before China gives us his view of the beach head battles, it might be helpful to have an overview in mind, so an extract from the Brereton/Savory history follows.

*"The Wadis were cut up by long, deep, heavily overgrown, gullies in which the distance from the enemy was frequently no more than 20 - 30 yards. They had been the scene of some of the heaviest close-combat fighting in the beach head. This first tour of the Dukes was the worst of all. The weather was bad and the Germans numerous. For the next nine days companies, platoons and even sections grimly fought off enemy attacks, under atrocious conditions of rain and sleet and snow. It was also difficult to get rations to the companies. On 1 March D Company put in an attack on one of the wadis, only to be overwhelmed with practically total casualties.*

Having again been withdrawn to a reserve area on the 5th, the battalion could muster only two companies as fighting units, but while in reserve there were reinforced by 250 men from the Royal Fusiliers and East Yorkshires. On 29 March the Battalion, now organised in three companies, again went into the wadis where it spent the next ten days, during which there was a steady drain of casualties, mainly due to mortar fire. From 20 to 30 April the Battalion was in the wadis for a third time, but by now the situation had become comparatively quiet; the German onslaught had slackened.

*On 11 May the great offensive on the main southern front had begun. It was now time for the beach head forces to carry out the original objectives of the landing which was to get astride the arterial roads and railways and thus cut the enemy's communications. On 23 May they finally broke out of the Anzio perimeter.....In their last Anzio battle on 23 May the Dukes lost 12 killed with 74 wounded and missing, including five officers. Thus the battle honour Anzio cost the Regiment 39 officers and 921 other ranks". China continues.*

Before I write about our next moves I will recount a few incidents that occurred during our sojourn in the beach head. Our first casualty occurred before the Bn was in action. The troops were marching along the road when they were attacked by a plane. The only casualty was L/Sgt Haywood (MM) hit by a bullet and killed instantly. On 4th Feb we lost over 250 men with all the bren carriers, the Carrier Sgt Buck Bailey was the only man to escape capture in that area. When he realised what was happening he concealed himself, then as the Gerries were busy collecting the prisoners he gradually moved from cover to cover, eventually he reached the remnants of the Bn who reached the safety of 'B' Echelon. I heard there was an enquiry as to how Bailey was the only one to get away, but it was only to establish he did not leave his post prematurely. He had already won the Croix de Guerre in Africa.

One day a plane approached 'B' Echelon firing its

gun. It kept its height and as it passed overhead it was seen to be a US plane, then its pilot ejected. He crashed through a tree and landed about six feet from the cookhouse. The cook had a cup of tea for him within seconds.

During the wet period all through February I was issued with about six jars of rum each week. The troops in the wadis certainly needed it. I read somewhere that a staff officer reported that the ration strength was always more than the battle strength. I could understand this as I will explain here. Going back to 4th Feb when we lost over 250 men the ration indent would have been submitted the evening before. Next morning I would have drawn three day's rations and immediately distributed it to each Coy CQMS. It was after that I heard of the number of losses. Then as we would have

expected a number of reinforcements the extra rations would have been held for them. If I had under-indented the number of reinforcements may have been larger than expected.

On the break out at the end of May 'B' Echelon were not far behind. The German command had decided not to occupy or defend Rome, it was classed an open City. The Division was therefore withdrawn from the action and based in open country a few miles south of Rome for rest and replenishment. The Dukes were selected to represent the British Army in the march past in Rome, the salute to be taken by General Mark Clark (US Army) commander of 5th US Army.

On 8th June spotless RASC vehicles collected the Bn and drove into Rome. The march past was led by the massed pipes of the 1st and 5th Divisions.

# Association News

President: Colonel Nick Borwell OBE.

General Secretary: Major R. Heron, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA.

## BRANCHES

**Halifax/Bradford:** 7.00 for 7.30pm second Tuesday of each month in the Saville Room, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax. (Change due to closure of the NALGO Bar)  
*Secretary:* Mr P. R. Taylor, 7 Amy Street, Ovenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 5QB.

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

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

**Keighley:** 8.30pm last Thursday of each month at Pop & Pasty Public House, Bradford Road, Keighley.

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

**London:** 12 noon at the Union Jack Club on 17 January 10, 17 April (meeting joint with PWO Association); 27 June and 19 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 WOs' & 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.

## Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance at Bradford, Saturday 3 October

The Association AGM was well attended and was chaired for the first time by the new President of the Association, Colonel Nick Borwell. It was reported that Regimental Funds were valued at £374K, an improvement on this time last year due to better market conditions. The funds receive income in the region of

£19.5K a year, and are used to support the association and its activities. Responsibility for welfare and benevolence grants passed to RHQ The Yorkshire Regiment when the greater part of Regimental financial assets were transferred. RHQ distributed some £79K for these purposes in the last 12 months to people in need





The scene in the Bradford Hilton.

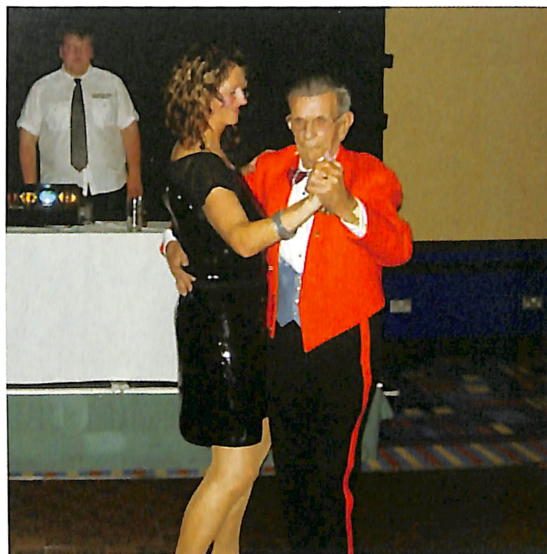


Mrs Mundell, Col Borwell, Lt Col Vallings, Maj Heron and Col Newton





**Col Borwell giving his speech.**



**Sidney Saunderson and Joanne Sharp**

*The President, Col Nick Borwell, gave an address on the activities of 3 YORKS (DWR). In-pensioner Sidney Saunderson and Joanne Sharp demonstrated great expertise on the dance floor, and many old friendships were renewed.*

from all three of the former Regiments, and this figure is sustainable, with income from the days pay scheme and grants from other sources.

The programme of Association events was discussed, and it was noted that there are more activities now than ever before, with both formal and informal events open to all members. The next Halifax gathering will be on Saturday 31 October, whilst the next 33/76 event at Strensall will be on 29 May 2010, (subject to confirmation). The 2010 AGM and Dinner will be at the Bradford Hilton on Saturday 2 October. Also on this day the colours of 1 DWR, which will be marched off parade

on Friday 18 June will be laid up in Halifax (see Yorkshire Regiment News section towards the front of this edition).

205 people had booked in for the Dinner, with 88 attending a reception for veterans of the 79/80 and 81/82 Northern Ireland tours. Brig Dick Mundell, who commanded 1 DWR on both tours, addressed the gathering, referring to the very different conditions of the two deployments, the first in West Belfast, and the second in the countryside of the border area, when nearly all movement was by helicopter.

A very successful evening was then enjoyed by all.

### **Halifax and Huddersfield Branches Day Out**



On 13 June members from Halifax and Huddersfield branches had a day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum (and see below for more about this memorial). A poppy cross was laid at the DWR designated tree by Lt Col W Robins OBE. A good day was had by all. An assortment of wines was available at the rear of the coach! Branch members thanked Pat Harley, Huddersfield Secretary, for organising the day.



### Skipton Branch



*Left to Right standing: Mr D Crawford, Mr B Blood, Mr P Chadwick Col S Newton, Mrs L Newton, Mrs A Blood, Miss A Hesletine, Mr C Harbron, Mr G Bell. Sitting: Mrs P Higson, Mrs S Crawford Mrs M Bell.*

"On Saturday the 20th June Skipton Branch held their Annual Waterloo Dinner, at the Golf Club in Skipton. Our Chief Guest this year was Col. Simon Newton MBE, and his wife Lucie.

A good night was had by all. We had 61 people sitting down to Dinner. This included Mr C Harbron who is the



*Left to right Standing: Mr P Whitaker, Mr R Colley, Mrs P Hesletine, Mr C Harbron, Mr A Rankin, Mr F Armitage. Sitting: Mrs B Campbell, Mrs M Turner, Mrs A Thornton.*

Town Mayor, and his consort Miss A Hesletine attended also there were Mr D Crawford Chairman of Craven District and his wife Sandra. We also had 8 ex Mayors of Skipton which must be a record. At this year's dinner we had guests from the RAF, and the Navy for the first time."



*Left to right, Mr T Schofield, Mr J Yarker, Mr C Battersby, Mr G Bell.*

On Sunday the 28th June it was early morning muster in Skipton. The Branch were helping the British Legion to give the town a good Veteran's Day. With the high street closed it was time to get the displays up, and running. The first there were the soldiers of the Yorkshire Regiment who arrived early at 9.00 clock. (who says the Army can't get up early?).

Gordon Bell of the Branch was there to meet them in town but they beat him to it. As things got under way the town got some good sunshine and thing went off ok.

(And on the topic of the first Veteran's day, see the letter from Mr Bill Craddock MBE on page 95)



### Regimental Church Service

The Annual Regimental Church Service was held at Halifax Parish Church on 25 April 2009. Afterwards lunch was taken in Halifax Town Hall, and the Regiment was honoured with the presence of the Mayor and other civic dignitaries.



The President of the Association, Major General Webb Carter, speaks in front of the Regimental Memorial in the Town Hall. Lady Huxtable is on the left of the picture.

### Annual Dinner of the Regimental Dinner Club

47 officers attended the Annual Dinner held in the Indian Army Room at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Friday 12 June 2009. For some it was many years since they had last set foot at Sandhurst and many memories of days gone by when, young, fit and eager, they prepared for a career as a soldier, came flooding back. Even after so much time one feared that strolling in an idle manner up the steps of Old College, hallowed ground and last ascended 45 or so years earlier at the end of a Passing Out Parade, would provoke a shriek of outrage by a lurking Guards' Sergeant Major.

General Evelyn spoke warmly of his time as Colonel of the Regiment and then President of the Association, and then formally handed over to Colonel Nick Borwell.







*(Top)* Regimental Colours on display in the Indian Army Room.



*(Middle)* Korea Veterans, from Left Dr John Reddington, General Sir Charles Huxtable and Col Peter Mitchell.

*(Bottom)* Old College, RMA Sandhurst.





## SSAFA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Two well known Regimental people, Lady Mary Huxtable and Colonel John Barkshire, have both been honoured with Life Memberships by SSAFA. The framed certificates were presented by HRH Prince Michael of Kent and the citations were as follows:

**Lady Huxtable.** "Mary Huxtable has been closely involved with the Association since 1980. As a service wife she chaired many in-service committees around the world, and then spent 11 years as Branch President North Yorkshire. For 6 years she was Regional Representative on Council for the North East of England, served as a Trustee of the Association from 1995 to 1999, and since 2002 has been Vice President of Council. She sits on the Carmichael-Walker Fund Committee which generously supplies grants to our branches in the North East of England. She retains her links with the North Yorkshire Branch as she was appointed Vice President last year. She has led from the front and as a Trustee was forthright in her views in

favour of the volunteer ethos. In 2002 she was awarded OBE for her services to the Association."

**John Barkshire.** "John first joined SSAFA Forces Help in 1996 as a member of the Investment Committee. He also joined the Finance Committee that year and, when that was combined with the Executive Committee he remained a member until 1999 when it was disbanded. He joined Council as a Trustee in 1999 and the Audit Committee in 2007. It can safely be said that there is not a single area of SSAFA Force Help's broad spectrum of activity that has not benefitted from his advice and wisdom. He brought us a wealth of knowledge and experience of finance, investment and charity management, as well as common sense and humour. He has been a stalwart Trustee, hardly missing a meeting in 9 years – he was persuaded to stay on after the usual term of 6 years because we could not find a suitably experienced successor at the time. His presence at Council meetings will be missed."

## Picnic at Wycombe Abbey



**The crowd round the barbecue, with Keith Best at the far end.**

The following Sunday, 14 June, a number of officers and their families assembled for a picnic in the magnificent grounds of Wycombe Abbey School, courtesy of Deputy Head Liz Best whose husband, Lt Col Keith Best, was Oi/c admin, barbecues and security, the last being rather more of a matter of helping people get past the tight security of the entry key pad controlled gate than ensuring strict compliance with school rules. The weather was excellent and some of the picnics were on a scale to satisfy the most exacting maharajah at his hunting lodge. Others were rather more in the cheese and pickle line, but a very good day was had by all.



**Misses Savannah and Mimi Dijoux (the Editor's granddaughters) sample their picnic.**



## The Hindoostan Open - Golf Day at Hever Castle GC

Stewart Dick arranged the second Hindoostan Open At Hever Castle GC on Friday 3 July and 16 golfers attended. The winner was Ed Culver, with Rob Harford second and Tim Nicholson third. Tiggy Pearson Miles, Grandfather of Simon, won the longest drive. Subject to confirmation the next Hindoostan Open will be on Friday 2 July.

This is an excellent day and all Dukes are very welcome. Try and make it next year.



**Runner up Rob Harford on left, and winner Ed Culver on right, and Maj Matt Stear in the centre.**



**Tiggy Pearson-Miles with Peter Lee. Peter is the successor to Simon Morgan as Convenor of the Dukes London Group.**



**At half way house for a quick reviver.**

## National Memorial Arboretum

Lt Col Richard Ward sent in a copy of the National Memorial Arboretum's publication "Despatches" for Summer 2009. It is full of information, and readers may wish to visit their website [www.thenma.org.uk](http://www.thenma.org.uk) to catch up. One particular short article seems relevant to current events in Afghanistan.

"For many, the most poignant time of the year at the Arboretum is when the stonemason starts the sombre task of engraving onto the Portland Stone walls of the Armed Forces Memorial the new names of those who have died in service during the past twelve months.

Dedicated in 2007, the Armed Forces Memorial carries the names of 16,000 servicemen and women killed on duty or as a result of terrorism since shortly

after the end of the Second World War. It's the nation's only such memorial. This year, the three week process of adding the 66 new names of the people who died in service during 2008 started at 5.30am on 29 April, when stone engraver Nick Hindle picked up his chisel to add the first new name.

"It's a privilege to be asked to do this work," said Nick Hindle. "It's also deeply moving when you know that behind each name there's a family tragedy. Sometimes it's difficult to keep going, because people understandably want to tell you their story."

A dedication event was held on 20 June, to which all the families of those who fell in 2008 were invited."



## 2 DWR in India 1946.

Mr John Cuffley, an untiring correspondent of the Editor's, has sent in the photograph below of B Company 2 DWR in Meerut in 1946. Does any reader recognise himself?



The 2nd Battalion the Duke of Wellington's regiment India 1946.

# Obituaries

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

## Major Jonathan (Jono) Wood

*This obituary is based on part of the address by Brigadier Johnny Walker at Jono Wood's funeral on 28 June 2009.*

Jonathan Wood, universally known as 'Jono', by his family, in the Army and beyond was born in Newcastle a little over 53 years ago. After Prep School at Cressbrook Jono went on to Sedbergh where he shone not so much in the classroom but more so on the games field. He played hooker for the 1st XV for two years and at 19 was in the Gosforth 1st XV at a time when Gosforth was in the top bracket of rugby teams in the country. It was at Sedbergh that many of Jono's attributes were developed. These were recognised by one Tom Dickie who was the Sergeant Major in the School Combined Cadet Force and a much respected 'Duke' who had fought with the Battalion in Korea (See obituary Iron Duke 265 page 103). Tom made sure that he got Jono for the Regiment.

Jono joined the Army as a Potential Officer at Strensall and after Sandhurst he joined 4 Platoon in Burma Company in 1 DWR. Jono had a successful military career – as a Platoon Commander on operations, as a Brigade Adventure Training Instructor, as a specially selected student on an American Long Range Patrol Course in Bavaria, as an Instructor on NITAT – the Northern Ireland Training and Advisory Team and as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion and later a Company Commander on operations in Northern Ireland.

His last job in the Army was as a Company Commander under Alistair Roberts in Holywood,

Northern Ireland before he retired prematurely in January of 1988 having passed the Staff College exam first time.

One of his early ventures out of the Army was the 'Woodies' or garden gnomes. This brought a smile to the faces of all his friends but it was Richard Ward, a former officer in the Regiment, who supported and even backed him. International consultancy, recruitment firms, private security companies in Africa and the Middle East, a role in transportation and engineering construction all followed. But more recently in Baku, Azerbaijan he met and married Stella here with us today whilst from November last year Jono was working for Diplomatic Freight Services an air freight company supporting the British Embassies in the Middle East.

Jono was a dedicated Duke, greatly liked and respected by everyone in the Regiment. He had much to offer and his premature death is a very considerable loss.



**Jono Wood at the Bradford Dinner in 2007, the day after a COP Platoon reunion.**



Lt Col Tim Nicholson writes: I took over Burma Company in Minden from Johnny Walker and with it Jono and 4 Platoon. The CO (Michael Bray) at the time was very keen on competitions, between platoons and companies, and after a series of difficult tests Jono won the inter platoon competition, narrowly defeating Simon Dixon of Alma Company. It was a curious time, with serious cold war deployments into actual pre planned fighting positions interspersed with oddities, like site guards at US Army nuclear ammunition bases, exacting exercises and adventure training in Bavaria (where Jono invariably found a way to break into the kitchen back at camp and make fried egg butties after an evening in the nearest "gastatte"), and over Christmas 1979, a four month tour to Northern Ireland. I stayed in touch with Jono ever since, not least as when he first left the Army he lived near me in Kent, and I even bought one of his "garden gnomes", although they were much more than that; mine was a sort of dinosaur with legs that whizzed round in the wind. What is left of it is still fixed to a post in my veggie patch, where it has consistently failed to scare off the birds. He was a good soldier and a good friend and I shall miss his cheerful optimism and never ending supply of ideas.

### Colonel Jack Webb MC

Jack Webb was the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) of 8 DWR in the North African campaign. 8 DWR converted to an armoured unit and was re-designated 145 Regiment Royal Armoured Corps, landed at Bone, Algeria, in March 1943. In April, in the final phase of the battle for Tunis A Squadron was in support of an attack by the Irish Guards but ran into stiff opposition and ten tanks were knocked out, with some of their crews badly wounded around them.

Jack Webb ignored the dangers of the dark and uncharted mines and volunteered to go out and bring the casualties in for treatment. He set off in his scout car, but finding it impossible to navigate to the battle site, he dismounted and went forward through a minefield with two orderlies. They managed to evacuate the crew of one tank, and he then attempted to reach another, but was spotted by a German who shot at him. 4 men were saved.

Later, in action on the Djebel Bou Aoukaz (see Iron Duke Autumn 2008 page 87 for reference to this battle) a tank was knocked out by an enemy anti tank gun and a crew member severely wounded. The RMO got forward under heavy mortar and shell fire to reach the wounded officer, under cover of smoke from other tanks. After bring him back he returned to collect the two remaining survivors. He was awarded the MC for his actions.

He saw further active service in Italy. After the war he served in Palestine and Hong Kong, and held senior appointments in the UK military medical establishment. One of his patients was Field Marshall Montgomery. He died on 5 April 2009. He is survived by his wife Mary and two sons and a daughter.

*John Greenway writes:*

One of the joys of having had the privilege of editing The Iron Duke is the introduction the role provided to

the wider history of our great Regiment – that is to say beyond just the 1st Battalion and even beyond just the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Iron Duke Issue No 240 of 1999 contains on page 93 the obituary of WO2 (SQMS) Jim Brocklehurst MM. Jim earned his award for gallantry whilst serving with 8 DWR (145 Regiment RAC) in North Africa in 1943, together with the Regiment's then Medical Officer, a very popular and well-respected Captain Jack Webb MC.

In addition, Iron Duke Issue Nos 254 – 257 of 2004/5 contain the story told by Arthur Johnson of his service in 8 DWR, from joining in Otley in July 1940, through conversion to the armoured role, as 145 Regiment RAC, with active service in North Africa and Italy, until his discharge at Christmas in 1944.

Now we report the death of Captain, later Colonel, Jack Webb MC in April, aged 92. The positive and cheerful funeral Mass held in Fleet on 16 April to celebrate his life reflected the love and respect in which he was clearly held by the many who attended, during which his elder son, Kevin, read the Citation for his father's award of the MC.

Michael Gompertz, whose own positive leadership in 145 Regiment RAC is recorded on page 292 of our Barclay History, attended the Service; as did John Greenway, who was very glad to meet him there.

Afternote: Those who attended the Colonel's Battlefield Tour in Tunisia in 2005 will recall following the progress of 1 DWR at Banana Ridge and Djebel Bou Aoukaz. They may also remember that it was 8 DWR (145 Regiment RAC) which provided part of the armoured component of the force which came to relieve the pressure that German counter-attacks had placed upon them. See Iron Duke No 259 of 2005.

### WO1 (RSM) G A France

Geoffrey Alan France died on 13 September 2009 in the West Riding Rest Home, Lofthouse, near Wakefield aged 85. A funeral service was held at Dewsbury Crematorium on Friday 19 September. In accordance with Geoffrey's wishes the service was private and very simple. His brother Major (Ret'd) Peter France ACC, and ex work colleagues from Leeds University and a representative from the West Yorkshire Rest Home, attended. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Walter Robins represented the Regiment and made a short address.

Geoffrey France joined the army in January 1945 and after initial training joined The York and Lancashire Regiment. He joined 1 DWR at Strensall in early 1949 as a Sergeant, when the battalion were training recruits for the rest of the Yorkshire and Northumbrian Brigade, having previously been employed as a Platoon Sergeant at the Y & N Bde Training Centre, Catterick.

When 1 DWR was reformed as a service battalion he became the Platoon Sergeant of the Anti Tank Platoon and spent the rest of his service with the Dukes in a variety of roles. He moved with the battalion to Minden in late 1951 as part of 6 Armd Div. When the battalion moved to Korea he became a Platoon Sergeant in A

Company returning to Support Company and the Anti Tank Platoon in Gibraltar. He remained with Support Company on the move to Chisleton in 1955, Malta in 1956, Cyprus 1956-57 and Northern Ireland 1957-59. Following the move to Colchester in 1959 as part of the Army Strategic Reserve he was present with the battalion during the tours in Kenya in 1961 and again in 1962. During 1963-64 he was CSM of A Company group in British Honduras (now Belize) rejoining the battalion in Osnabruck in early 1964. In 1965 he was promoted to WO1 and posted as RSM of the Yorkshire Brigade Depot at Strensall. He was recalled to 1 DWR as RSM in 1967 in time to take part in the six month UN Tour in Cyprus later the same year. He retired from the army on pension in 1968 just prior to the battalion's move to Hong Kong.

On leaving the army he became a civil servant working for the MOD, initially with a TA Unit in the Midlands and later at the Army Record Office, York. On leaving the civil service he joined the security staff at Leeds University where he remained until final retirement.

Geoffrey France had a long and distinguished army career and in his younger days was a good sportsman having played rugby and cricket for the battalion. Sadly his final years were seriously curtailed by illness which eventually required him to take up a place at The West Riding Rest Home.

### **Mr Edwin Cooper**

Britain's oldest member of the Territorial Army, a veteran of the Royal Army Medical Corps Mr Edwin Cooper, died at the age of 105 on Friday 29 May 2009. Mr Cooper joined the TA in 1924 aged 20, and was called up the day war broke out, in 1939, to train in Folkestone for service with the Royal Army Medical Corps. He saw active service in North Africa with the 1 Bn Duke of Wellington's Regiment, before fighting up the Italian peninsula with the First Army until the end of the Second World War.

He was with the Dukes at Anzio where they took heavy casualties during fighting from the initial landing in January 1944 until May that year.

Edwin Cooper said of his service: "I learnt many things in the TA and I am extremely proud of being a member. The comradeship was great. We could count on each other without a doubt. I loved every minute of my involvement and would join them again tomorrow if they would have me."

### **Douglas and "Tushie" Brisbane-Jones-Stamp.**

*James Hayes writes:*

Many older "Dukes" will have fond and lively memories of the late Douglas Brisbane-Jones-Stamp, whose untimely death in October 1975 was much regretted by the Regiment. Douglas' widow Marion ("Tushie") died in Edinburgh after a stroke, in December 2008, at the age of 88. This was not reported in the last issue of the Iron Duke, but as a family friend, and with consent, I felt it appropriate to send this note, with a few words about them both as I knew them.

Douglas was kind to me during my National Service with the 1st Battalion in Korea and Gibraltar. I got to

know him well during our five-week voyage to Hong Kong with a reinforcement draft on HMT Empire Halladale in early 1953, and later in Gib. where I was his "Silver Officer" on the Mess Committee – acquiring my own fund of "Douglas" stories in the process! Later, he visited me in Hong Kong, and I stayed with him in Singapore. A great regimental "character", and a warm-hearted man, his memory is evergreen.

I got to know "Tushie" and their two little daughters when the families came out to Gibraltar. We maintained contact after Douglas' death, and met up again several times when she visited Charlotte in Sydney. She had many of Douglas' qualities of heart and mind, and we became good friends, exchanging many letters over the years. The Regiment was, of course, an abiding bond, and its history a common interest. There was also early colonial Australian history, since one of Tushie's direct ancestors, General Sir Thomas McDougall Brisbane, had been Governor of New South Wales between 1821-1825.

Tushie was a courageous soul. Charlotte recalls, "Mummy could be very brave. She once came round a corner in Langholm and saw a group of boys beating another young boy. She sailed straight into them and told them to stop it. We all dreaded to think what they might have done to her, but they listened and ran off". Tushie was also public-spirited, working for many years as a volunteer with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, the national charity founded in 1885 which helps serving and ex-service men, women and their families who are in need, suffering or in distress.

### **Mr. Joseph Michael (Mick) Wilks**

Served 3 years with the Dukes in Malta, Cyprus and Gibraltar; died on 20th October 2008.

### **Mr Jim Paine**

Jim Paine died in King's College Hospital on 15 August 2009, in his 90th year. Born within the sound of Bow Bells in 1919, Jim was a true Cockney Londoner.

He was enlisted into our 2/6th Battalion in 1940 and, with them, after minimal training and with only basic equipment, found himself part of the forces which were attempting, with limited success, to hold up the German armoured advance into France. After the withdrawal from France from Dunkirk and other ports in June 1940, the manpower from our 2/6 Battalion was re-trained for the armoured role and, by D Day, Jim found himself part of 246 Special Squadron of 114 Regiment RAC (2/6 DWR). His own account of his service thereafter was published in the Autumn Issue (No 237) of The Iron Duke in 1998. He ended his service in 1945 as a Sergeant Tank Commander.

Jim met and married Joan during his armoured training in Norfolk and their daughters were born nearly a dozen years apart in 1943 and 1955. Joan predeceased him in 1976. After the War he did maintenance work in a number of dental practices and was an active member of his local Bowling and Rotary Clubs.

Jim was a stalwart and popular member of the London Branch of the Regimental Association for over ten years. An active member of a poetry group, he regularly brought us samples of his verse. (One of Jim's



poems is below). John Greenway represented the Regiment and the London Branch and spoke at his Funeral, which was held in a very full Chapel at West Norwood Crematorium on 28 August 2009. Clearly, Jim was highly respected by many others besides us Dukes.

### **A Poem by Jim Paine**

Life ticks away in your quiet room,  
The days go slowly by,  
A hundred memories stir your heart  
And sometimes you must cry  
But Spring creeps through your window pane  
Awakes within your mind  
The happiness of days gone bay  
The joys you left behind  
The one you loved would never wish you  
Drowned in endless pain,  
So you must weave the threads of life  
In pattern once again  
Open doors and windows wide and  
Let the sun shine in  
Maybe from the ashes of the old  
A new life can begin.

### **Mrs Debbie Isles**

Debbie isles, the wife of Lt Col Tim Isles OBE, died on 9 August 2009, following a two year battle with breast cancer. Tim and Debbie were married for 31 years and have 3 daughters. Her funeral service took place at Rawson Crematorium, Hawsforth, Leeds on 20 August.

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

### **Mr George Woodhead**

George, who served with the 1st Battalion in WW2, died on 30th April 2009.

### **Mr John William Hume**

John Hume, who served in the 2nd Battalion of the Dukes from 1934-44, including Burma 1942, died on 24th December 2008, at the age of 93 years.

### **Mr Barry Foster**

Barry, who served in 1 Platoon, A Company with the 1st Battalion in Korea, died on 31st August 2008.

### **Mr Philip Lambert**

Philip, who served in the 2nd Battalion during WW2, including Burma 1944, died on 19th June 2009 at the age of 89.

### **Mr Dennis Frisby**

Dennis, who was a National Serviceman c 1951-53 with the 1st Battalion, died on 9th October 2009. He will be remembered by some as a member of the Battalion Shooting team, but also as the man who over the years produced many of the gold and silver Regimental items, elephant cuff links etc. He was a life-long supporter of the Regimental Association in Sheffield.

### **Major A D Siddall**

Deryck Siddall, who served in the 1st Battalion during WW2, in North Africa 1943 and Italy 1944, died on 6th July 2009, at the age of 93.

### **Mrs Patricia Clarke (Wife of ex WO2 Bill Clarke BEM)**

Patricia Clarke will be remembered particularly by members of the Sheffield Branch of the Regimental Association, for her many years working and organising functions in Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield. Patricia passed away on 6th May 2009.

### **Mr Leslie Arnold Salt**

Former Sergeant Les Salt, who served with the 1st Battalion 1945-48, serving in Egypt, Palestine and Sudan, died on 14th September 2009 at the age of 82. Les was a life-long supporter of the Regimental Association in Mossley. Those who served with him may remember him as the Battalion Welterweight Boxing Champion.

# **LETTERS**

*The Editor reserves the right to edit all letters in the interests of clarity and space.*

### **From Mr Bill Craddock MBE (24 August 2009)**

As a Duke only for a short time 1944/45 but knowing the present Minister of Veterans Kevin Jones MP requested all MPs should do something special for the first Armed Forces Day June 27th. My MP, only lady MP in Tyne & Wear did hold a local event in

Washington, the only one out of the 4 (MPs in the area) on Friday 26th June a wonderful night with 200 ex Forces. The special guest was Colonel Alex Johnson MBE TD DL (Retd) a Sapper whose public talks are for "Help For Heroes" charity. Later on with the 10th DLI (Durham Light Infantry) Association £700 was raised.

### From Mr Joe Bailes (2 June 2009)

I was a sniper Cpl in Korea and a member of the Bisley team. My daughter Kim is married to a Gurkha and publishes a short life story for my children. She also checked my family tree and found 16873 Alfred Bailes 9 DWR died of wounds 27 April 1917.

I went to Yeovil Royal Naval Air Station where my youngest son renewed his marriage vows. The service was conducted by a New Zealand Navy vicar from Wellington and very interested in the Dukes. Two friends of my Daughter in Law saw my picture as a young Lcpl and recognised the cap badge. One said "my husband is in the Dukes" The other said "my husband is a sniper in the Dukes". Unfortunately I didn't get their names.

I returned home via Victoria Coach Station. When I was crossing the road I bumped into General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter. He recognised my face, then saw my blazer badge, asked where we met and I said the Italian battlefield Tour. When I got to the bus station a young Nepalese couple recognised the crossed kukri in my lapel and told me their Father was a sniper in the Gurkha Rifles.

My eldest son was with the Commando helicopters in Desert Storm. He is now in Afghanistan. My second son did Basra and Afghanistan and the youngest Baghdad and Basra, came out traumatised. He is a camp guard at Yeovilton.

### From Mr Cyril Ford (5 May 2009)

In the middle of April I received at RHQ an interesting letter and photographs. The letter is from Mr



Leslie J White and says "Please find enclosed two pictures of a carved panel that I found on a renovation job in Peaslake in Surrey. The panel looks to be carved by hand and is approx 13 by 17.5 inches maybe from mahogany. It has the name Mechlin engraved on the left hand side below a symbol I do not recognise.

Would you have any idea of its origin and would there be anywhere I could send it to be enjoyed by others?"

There is a town in Belgium situated 25 kms from Brussels and Antwerp with a bell tower with the name of Mechelen. Mechlin is the English name for the town of Mechelen. The panel is now at RHQ. The crest on the panel is that of the Dukes, and the carved bell tower is most certainly that of Mechlin, and crest is the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

What is the connection between the house in Peaslake, the Dukes crest and the Mechlin bell tower? I can't find any reference to any Dukes battalions being in the area around. It is a complete mystery as to why the panel was made.

Can anyone who can help please contact me at RHQ?

### From Dr John M Reddington

For those of us who have read the late Maj Gen Donald Isles excellent 2007 treatise on the "History of the Service battalions of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment of the Great War (1914-1918)" the following description may be of interest to readers. It is an eye witness account from a letter written by my Mother at the age of ten and a half from her boarding school (St Catherine's, Guildford). The date is 7th May 1915, and I have included the spelling errors.

"Lord Kitchener and 30,000 soldiers past on Wednesday evening and they took 3 hours and 3 quarters passing the school, & Mrs Baker let us come out of the school and watch them and we cheered and waved and by the time they were quite past we were quite hoarse with cheering. They rested just outside the school and Mrs baker gave them a tin of cigarettes and filled their water bottles. They were so dirty their faces were as black as tinkers and Mrs Routley said she wishes she had some apples to have given them. And one of them threw Marg (her sister) a halfpenny".

It is of interest that Lord Kitchener actually accompanied these men himself, who were perhaps the equivalent of three infantry divisions – presumably too many to entrain for Southampton (their presumed destination). This is a march of approximately 70 miles from Central London. Donald Isles reports that Lord Kitchener (Secretary of State for War) "in August 1914 started to recruit an additional 100,000 men...by the middle of September 500,000 men had enlisted", (preface). The fervent patriotism of the Great War clearly shines through in the account, which still resonates with us today; but we may wonder how many of the 30,000 perished in the trench warfare of 1915-1918.

### From Mr Terry Hissey

In the last edition Matt Wightman recalled his friend Private Mark Rigg who was killed in a road traffic accident in Northern Ireland on 25 November 1988, and asked for help remembering where his funeral took place..

Can you please pass on the enclosed information to Matt Wightman whose request appeared on page 41 of the Spring 09 edition?

The enclosed shows James Mark Rigg's entry in the Armed Forces Memorial Appeal Roll of Honour. It shows that his funeral took place at Dewsbury Moor Crematorium, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF13 3PL.



# The Dukes' Regimental Association

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009/10

Please keep the Editor informed of any changes or new activities

Later dates are subject to confirmation nearer the time

29 October 2009	Halifax Reunion – Wetherspoons
13 November 2009	Trustees' Meeting, York
29 May 2010	33/76 Reunion, Strensall.
18 June 2010	Presentation of New Colours, York
18 June 2010 (Waterloo Day)	Presentation of New Colours to The Yorkshire Regiment, Imphal Barracks, York
19 June 2010	Yorkshire Regiment Parade through York and Lunch
19 June 2010	Yorkshire Regiment Parade New colours through York City Centre, followed by service in York Minster
21 – 27 June 2010	Armed Forces Week

The following 3 YORKS Freedom Parades are planned for 2010, but are still to be confirmed, due to availability of army bands:

Tuesday 22 June	AM Barnsley	PM Kirklees (Huddersfield)
Wednesday 23 June	AM Rotherham	PM Sheffield
Friday 25 June	AM Craven (Skipton)	PM Bradford
Saturday 26 June	AM Calderdale (Halifax).	

*Note: this parade will be followed by the Laying Up of the final stand of DWR Colours in Halifax Minster.*

23-26 June 2010	Armed Forces Week
2 October 2010	Laying Up of last set of 1 DWR Colours, Halifax
2 October 2010	Association AGM and Dinner dance, Bradford Hilton.
2 October 2010	Regimental Association Dinner, Bradford

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](http://www.dwr.org.uk)**