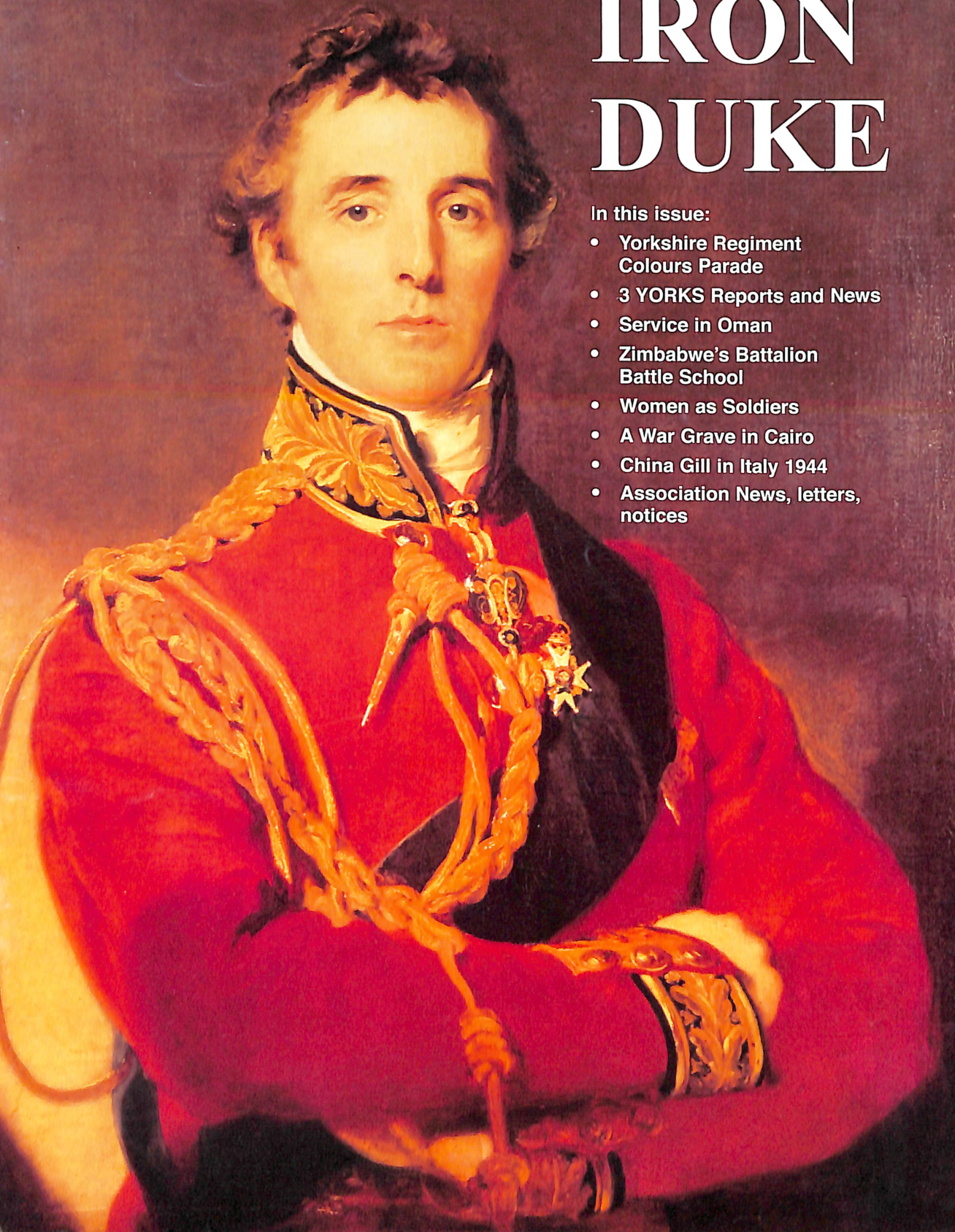


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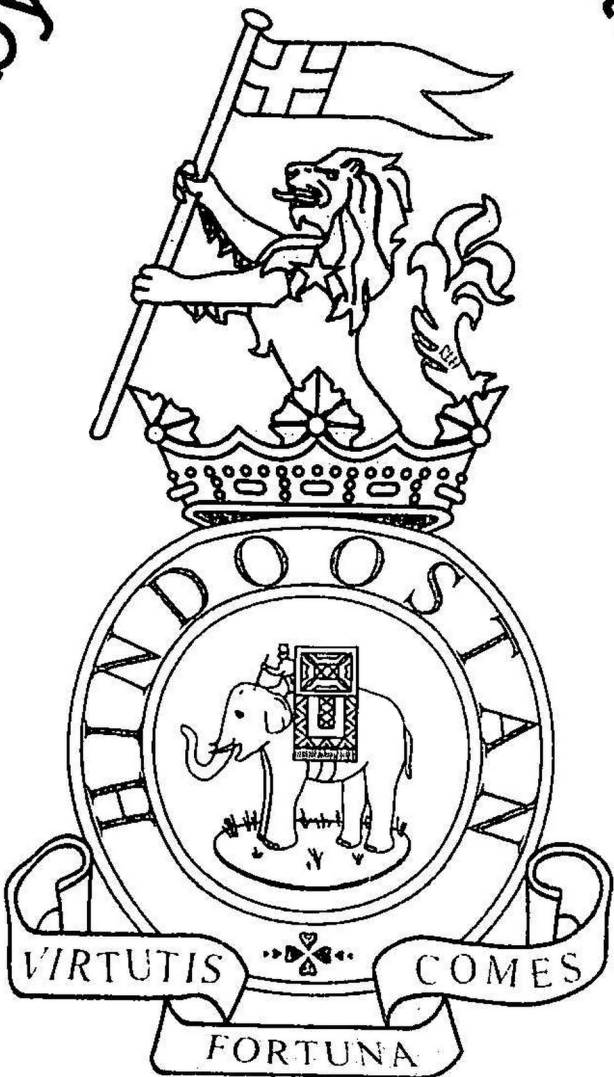
THE IRON DUKE

In this issue:

- Yorkshire Regiment Colours Parade
- 3 YORKS Reports and News
- Service in Oman
- Zimbabwe's Battalion Battle School
- Women as Soldiers
- A War Grave in Cairo
- China Gill in Italy 1944
- Association News, letters, notices



Digitised by The Regimental Archives





Corporal Liam Riley 1988 to 2010.



Lance Corporal Graham Shaw 1983 to 2010

**Both soldiers were killed in action in
Helmand Province Afghanistan, 1 February 2010.**

Their obituaries appear on page 4



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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BUSINESS NOTES

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Editorial

More losses in Afghanistan

Two more fine, young Dukes and a shockingly large number of men from other cap badges have lost their lives in combat in Afghanistan since our last issue. There is really little to say that has not already been said. It is desperately sad, but the nation is inspired, not just by the courage and professionalism of our forces themselves, but by the magnificent behaviour of their families and friends.

In almost every case we hear that the man concerned loved his service as a soldier, and would not have been anywhere else but out there on the ground, doing his job with his mates as he had trained to do, despite the known risks.

We have to cling to the hope that something good and worthwhile will come out of all this. Between 2001 and the time of writing 1686 lives have been lost from 26 nationalities. USA, 1021; UK, 273; Canada, 140; France, 40; Germany, 34; Spain, 28; Italy 22; Netherlands, 21. And so on down to ones, twos and threes from such as Jordan, Latvia and Ukraine. All somebody's sons and more, probably many more, to follow.

An International Brand.

Reading the Battalion's notes one feels almost giddy at the way they all whizz around. Luxury goods companies tend to have the names of glitzy world cities after their names; "Paris, London, New York, Monte Carlo". The Dukes can put "Baghdad, Port Stanley, Helmand and Leeds United" after its name. Not many perfumers or jewellers could say that, though, to be fair, perhaps not many would want to. Not Leeds United anyway.

The serious point is that our old Regiment with its new name is putting itself about and earning an enviable

reputation. The battle casualty role in Afghanistan is one that does not look very enticing, but a better way to show what the Dukes are made of to multiple other units in a complex and dangerous operational environment could not be devised, and this is complemented by roulement in the Falklands. 3 YORKS have been there and got a lot of tee shirts to prove it. Great stuff.

Politics – Through a glass darkly.

If you really have nothing better to do you could look up the main political parties' defence policies on their websites. Both Labour and Conservatives promise a strategic defence review, indeed the former implies that theirs is already well underway but can't be revealed yet. Labour focuses on its achievements and makes quite a lot of the sort of statements that have stretched the credulity of coroners and the media beyond breaking point. The men and families of 3 YORKS will know better than the rest of us how much has actually been achieved.

The Conservatives mirror Labour's review plan, with extra emphasis on welfare for serving and ex servicemen, and a commitment to stick with NATO rather than any emerging EU defence force. Liberal defence policy is harder to find (it is embedded in International Affairs) and again has a review in mind, some welfare led emphasis and a commitment to "relevance", moving away from cold war attitudes to whatever will answer today's problems. They are keen to be "a force for good in the world".

The question is - what must we do to safeguard our country, our people and our interests from external and internal threats of force? If the answer is "a review" then would it have been better if they had all got on with it so we could use the outcomes to help choose who to vote for? But I guess that is not how it works.

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, {<http://www.dwr.org.uk>'}, for latest news, historical information and an opportunity to comment through the forum. Contact {<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.



YORKSHIRE REGIMENT NEWS

Fortune Favours the Brave

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

As previously reported new Colours will be presented to all three Battalions in York on Friday 18 June 2010 by the Colonel in Chief, HRH The Duke of York. The venue is Imphal Barracks, and gates open at 1000. All guests must be seated by 1115, the parade commences at 1125 and lunch is at 1300, with an expected departure time (must be a good lunch) of 1600. The event is open to all serving members of the Regiment and former members of the antecedent Regiments. Each person may also bring one guest. The following day the Regiment will display the new Colours through the streets of York, involving up to 1000 soldiers, cadets, Association Members and allied units. There will be a service at York Minster after parade and then a curry lunch at Imphal Barracks after church. The parade steps off from Clifford's Tower at 1045; all guests to be seated in York Minster by 1120; Service 1130 to 1215; Curry lunch at 1315 and once again, departure at 1600.

A big turn-out for both these events is expected is so book early through The Regimental Association HQ at Halifax. Latest booking date is 7 May 10, subject to there still being any availability.

1 YORKS (PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN)

After a very busy and fragmented 2009 1 YORKS is now functioning as a coherent Bn again, working to a common ethos and standard. A Coy went to the Falklands at the end of February where it hoped to meet up with HMS York. Later in the year BATUS is a possibility.

2 YORKS (GREEN HOWARDS)

The Battalion has deployed on Op Herrick 11 as the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team Battle Group (OMLT BG). It has numerous cap badges in the BG, including 1 RHA, 27 Regt RLC, 4 Bn REME, 261 Sigs Sqn and RAMC personnel. Taking over from 2 MERCIAN BG on Alma Day, a shared battle honour, suitable celebrations took place. The Battalion has been involved in numerous operations, sustaining a number of severe wounded in action cases.

4 YORKS

Last year 45 soldiers from 4 YORKS were integrated into various units within 11 (Light) Brigade during Op Herrick 11, and the Battalion also deployed to BATUS, where annual camp took place. It then focused on field firing training and supporting 1 and 3 YORKS for their deployments to the Falkland Islands.

Welfare

In 2009 the Yorkshire Regiment received over £100,000 in donations and the Benevolence Case Committee has dealt with more cases this year (March to March) than in any of the three previous years, spending over £70,000 by January 2010.

Armed Forces Day

Being celebrated on 26 June 2010. Amongst other events around the UK, 1 YORKS will be marching through Bridlington and Scarborough and 3 YORKS through Halifax where the Old Colours will be laid up.

Obituaries of Duke's Soldiers Killed in Action in Afghanistan

These brave NCOs lost their lives on operations in Afghanistan whilst serving with the Coldstream Guards Battle Group. They will never be forgotten.

Corporal Liam Riley 1988 to 2010

Corporal Liam Riley was born in Sheffield on 07 July 1988. He completed his Phase 1 training at Catterick in September 2005 before joining The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at the time based in Osnabruck, Germany. He completed the Section Commanders Battle Course in 2009 and was promoted to Corporal later that year. Corporal Riley impressed from an early stage. A popular and hugely capable soldier, he was highlighted as a star of the future.

Corporal Riley was a member of a 3 YORKS multiple serving with the Coldstream Guards Battle Group in the Babaji district of central Helmand province. On 1 February 2010 he was the patrol second-in-command of a base security foot patrol south of the Kings Hill checkpoint when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated. Corporal Riley received catastrophic injuries from the explosion and was killed in action.

Corporal Riley had volunteered at short notice to serve in Afghanistan, such was his eagerness to do his duty. There was little doubt that he was heading for the top of his profession. He led by example, with boundless energy and an infectious smile that would spur his team on when life got tough. He was killed by an IED in Helmand whilst returning fire to extract one of his team. He personified all the very best qualities of a Yorkshire soldier; brave, tough and honest. The Battalion has taken the loss of Corporal Riley hard. Yet it has also taken strength from his courage and example. The loss to his family is immeasurable and our thoughts and prayers are with them. He leaves behind his mother Cheryl, his father Michael, his brother Jonathan, his step-father Trevor and step-sister Olivia.

Corporal Riley received a full military funeral service at Sheffield Cathedral on 24 February. His burial was in Killamarsh and the route was lined five-deep with mourners as the funeral party passed through. The funeral was attended by over 1500 mourners, including military and civic VIPs, friends and family and members of the Regiment, past and present.

Lance Corporal Graham Shaw 1983 to 2010

Lance Corporal Graham Shaw was born in Huddersfield on 31 January 1983. He completed his Phase 1 Army training in September 2000 at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick and joined The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Osnabruck, Germany in November of the same year. He successfully completed a JNCO cadre in 2002, promoting to Lance Corporal in the spring of 2004. Lance Corporal Shaw had an infectious personality. What set him apart was he had that rare talent to be not only a most professional soldier, but also great to be with. He had such a broad depth of operational experience that he brought calmness and sensibility to all that he did. He was such a positive and supportive influence on all his team.

Lance Corporal Shaw was a member of a 3 YORKS multiple serving with the Coldstream Guards Battle Group in the Babaji district of central Helmand province. On 1 February 2010, he was a team leader of a base security foot patrol south of Kings Hill checkpoint when he was killed in action by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Lance Corporal Shaw was, typically, leading from the front of his patrol when he was tragically killed by an IED. He was a selfless, professional, excellent soldier, who was also the best of fun. He had the knack of being able to balance both work and play to ensure he got the very best of all that he tackled. He was from Huddersfield and had that Yorkshire fighting spirit in abundance. You would want him on your team, whatever the task. He thrived under pressure and in difficult conditions and had made a huge, positive impact on the Coldstream Guards Battle Group. Lance Corporal Shaw's loss is felt by all in this close-knit battalion, but none more so than by his family and friends. He leaves behind his mother and father, Russell and Karen Shaw and his brother and sister, Steven and Joanne.

Lance Corporal Shaw received a full military funeral at St John the Evangelist Church in Golcar, Huddersfield, on 22 February. The funeral was attended by over 1500 mourners, including military and civic VIPs, friends and family and members of the Regiment, past and present.

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
Intelligence Officer	-	Capt PRJ Dennien

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

Lt Col TG Vallings

Since Christmas I have been literally all over the world visiting Alma Company in the Falklands, our Battle Casualty Replacements in Helmand and taking part in a 2 week exercise with the US Marine Corps in California preparing for their imminent deployment to Afghanistan. Such an itinerary makes one feel more of an international salesman than the Commanding Officer. Throughout my travels I have been struck by the positive feedback and high regard for our soldiers from all who have come across them in Helmand and the Falklands. Their resilience, humility, honesty and professionalism is inspiring and their performance on operations is second to none.

Our Battle Casualty Reserves (BCRs) are deployed amongst the Coldstream Guards Battle Group, 3 Rifles Battle Group, 2 Royal Welsh Battle Group and with 1 Royal Anglian companies in the Grenadier Guards Battle Group. Progress in Afghanistan is slow although there are tangible benefits that the people of Afghanistan are now realising as the focus shifts from defeating the Taliban through kinetic engagements to protecting the people and providing freedom of movement. The improvised explosive device (IED) and sniper / shoot threats continue to hinder progress in delivering security although there are now areas throughout the Helmand valley where the locals enjoy freedom of movement and

greater security with the Bazaars in Lashkar Gah, Gereshk and Sangin now thriving. The next step is to thicken our troop numbers into our current locations and grow the Afghanistan National Army and Police capability to further enhance and expand security.

The loss of Lance Corporal Shaw and Corporal Riley has hit us all hard and particularly Sergeant Dixon's multiple in Patrol Base 1 in the Coldstream Guards Battle Group. I welcomed the opportunity to eyeball each of them in Patrol Base 1 and it was clear that the depth of their loss was matched by their resilience and determination to continue the fight and Sergeant Dixon had them back on patrol the very next day. The Mastiff Group under Captain Chris Ibbotson has deployed into Patrol Base 2 and are providing essential force protection to the Royal Engineers building a road that will link up the Patrol Bases in the Babaji area, benefiting both the locals and the security forces. In the Sangin area of operations Lieutenant Will Sutton and the Drum Major are leading a 3 YORKS multiple based out of Patrol Base Hanjar on the Helmand Canal. They have provided a key role in interdicting insurgent activity trying to cross the canal and provided much needed depth to the security infrastructure dominating the key route up the Sangin Valley. I spent 24 hours with the multiple in Hanjar the day after Lance Corporal Jones was contacted whilst on stag by an insurgent sniper. The round grazed his neck and he went back on stag later that evening. The multiple is close knit as you would expect living together so closely but they have become a true band of brothers and like Sergeant Dixon's multiple one is envious of their sense of purpose and selfless and simple lifestyle.

We also have a four man team under Lance Corporal Symmonds embedded into a 2 YORKS mentoring team in Sangin. The ability with which they have been immersed into 2 YORKS is credit to our new Regiment. I also managed to catch a brief conversation with Private Statham and Private King who are both serving with 1 Royal Anglian as they transited through Camp Bastion from R&R. Private King has been blown up 4 times in his Mastiff vehicle and is so far unscathed, demonstrating its counter ballistic properties and he is looking forward to getting back on patrol. Our

LCpl Shields and Pte Shinn prepare to step off on patrol in Babaji.



Cpl Marshall getting his point across to Pte Augustine.



reputation across Helmand is strong and I am grateful to all the Battle Groups who have received our soldiers and made them so welcome.

Alma Company was once again back on operations having deployed to Baghdad last summer and under the strong leadership of Matt Palmer deployed to the Falklands for 8 weeks 05 Jan – 22 Feb 10. It deployed with a young company made up mainly of soldiers who had only arrived in the Battalion since Sep 09 and they returned tough infantrymen having conducted some excellent and arduous training. They also enjoyed excellent Naval Gunfire Support during a live company raid onto West Falkland from HMS YORK and strong bonds were cemented with our affiliated ship.

Finally a few thank yous to the enablers who have worked tirelessly and continue 24/7 to support our operational commitments. The Welfare Office under Captain Nick Wilson has been immense and provided a rock to all our families through a most testing period. It would be amiss not to also recognise the support we have received from the wider Regiment. In particular our Casualty Visiting Officers Major Andy Adair and WO2 Paul Lowe have been immense and their support to the Riley and Shaw families has been critical. The loss of Private Young, Lance Corporal Shaw and Corporal Riley have affected us all but as professional soldiers we continue to do our job what ever the task and we do it well - they are always in our thoughts.



HMS YORK cruises past ready to support Alma Company with naval gunfire.

ALMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Major M. C. A. Palmer
Second-in-Command	-	Capt NR Spicer
CSM	-	WO2 P. W. Simms
CGWO	-	Colour Sergeant P. A. Bevan
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	-	Colour Sergeant M. Roper
Fleet Manager	-	Corporal T. Moore

1 Platoon

2nd Lieut TH Fleccia
Sgt J. Ellam

2 Platoon

Lt AP Hammond (*on loan*)
Sgt JP Sharrock

3 Platoon

2nd Lieut OCJ Sparks
Sgt GD Thursby

Since its last article, written on return from the Baghdad PROFOR task in Aug 09, Alma has: provided a platoon to Afghanistan as part of the MASTIFF Group; led the Rotherham Freedom Parades; played a major ceremonial role in Pte Young's Funeral; conducted medal parades at the Leeds vs Sheffield Wednesday derby; conducted an Op TELIC 14 medal parade attended by Lt Gen Brown; completed numerous Armoured Infantry cadres; been adventure training in Newquay; and deployed to the Falkland Islands for 7 weeks as the Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC).

The overriding focus has been the FIRIC deployment – which is still classed as operational. With the Battalion having committed one Alma platoon, as well as Burma and Corunna reinforcements to Afghanistan, its biggest pre-deployment challenge was manning the Company. It did so by giving Alma every new soldier that arrived at Battalion in the run up to Christmas. This totalled 49, at an average age of 19, with the last 28 arriving just in time for the first flights out in early Jan. In addition, 5 x JNCOs, 3 x Platoon commanders (one on loan from Corunna) and 4 members of 4 YORKS arrived just before Christmas, making the Coy uniquely fresh faced! In total, the FIRIC Group totalled 9 + 138 and included a Mortar Cadre and Capt Rich Hind's outstanding PRT.

The FIRIC mission is to DETER Argentinean hostility and to REASSURE the local inhabitants that the UK is committed to the maintenance of UK sovereignty over the islands. To do so, the FIRIC is mandated to provide a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Platoon within the military base - known as Mount Pleasant Complex - and a patrols platoon to place a



2 PI advance to contact on Onion Range



Alma Company
Op TELIC 14
Medal Parade
at Leeds vs.
Sheffield
Wednesday
game.



Alma Company on completion of Ex CAPE BAYONET

broad footprint over East and West Falklands. There is therefore scope for the third platoon to conduct some excellent live firing on Onion Range Complex. So, for the first 3 weeks, the platoons rotated through each of these tasks before conducting a Company-led one week joint exercise called Ex CAPE BAYONET. The last 2 weeks of the deployment saw the resurrection of the QRF and patrols tasks whilst remaining personnel rotated through additional training and battlefield tours.



CSM Alma Coy taking junior Alma soldiers through the Goose Green Battlefield tour

The deployment therefore provided an ideal opportunity for the fledgling Company to establish itself with the aim of returning to the UK as a robust, tight knit sub-unit with a solid foundation of conventional infantry skills. Despite being the youngest Infantry Company to ever hit the Islands, it achieved this in style and was quoted by the Commander British Forces as 'one of the best Roulement Infantry Company's the Islands had seen'; an opinion largely influenced by an impeccable discipline record.

The highlights of this professionally rewarding and fun tour included: section level 5-day patrols; incredible wildlife; a range of novel CIMIC tasks such as castrating

and tagging hundreds of lambs; popping in for tea with Capt Mick Cataldo's uncle and aunt who live in San Carlos; noting that Port Stanley is twinned with Whitby; and completing a very demanding Ex CAPE BAYONET. The later being a unique joint experience including: maritime insertion on HMS Clyde (patrol ship); rigid raider launched recce groups; helicopter disembarkation; a live Company raid supported by 100 rounds of NGS from HMS York (type 42 Destroyer); Typhoon Close Air Support; Rapier Air Defence; Lynx Casualty Evacuation play to a role 1 Med facility on HMS York; a 45km 'blank' insertion tab against a determined enemy (Mortar Platoon); dreadful weather; and a monstrous live Coy attack with 81 mm mortar support. We learnt a lot about each other that week!

With a second successful independent Company deployment under its belt, Alma returns to Warminster in a far stronger state than it left it. All are in need of their well earned POTL before tackling the challenges of the New Colours Parade, BCIP 5 conversion and the critical requirement to regenerate our Armoured Infantry capability for BATUS in 2011.



Ptes Makaka and Rokvosolu embracing the tagging season with both arms

BURMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Maj SL Humphris
Second-in-Command	-	Capt D Hayton-Williams
CSM	-	WO2 M Clarke
WSM	-	CSGT s Brighthouse
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	-	CSgt D Nettleton

4 Platoon
 Capt A Bond
 Sgt S Pears

5 Platoon
 Lt S Davies
 Sgt M McConnell

6 Platoon
 Lt R Taylor
 Sgt M Lightowlers

HOME FROM OP HERRICK 10

It has been a frenetic, turbulent and busy time for the soldiers of Burma Company over the last few months. After only two weeks preparation we found ourselves in the worst hit and farthest flung corners of Helmand Province at the hottest and worst time of the year. We returned home in November, re-cocked, are currently frantically re-growing our Armoured Infantry expertise before we then get ready to park it and deploy to Kenya at the end of March. Throughout all of this, there has been one constancy and that is the determination, resolve and uncomplaining no-nonsense with which every soldier, supported by their families, have got on with their lot. It has been, and continues to be, humbling to see.

The deployment seems a long time ago now, but since the Company's last missive, when we had just deployed, much was achieved. The soldiers of Burma Company Group, who deployed on Op HERRICK 10, helped deliver significant, real and lasting security and stabilisation effect on the people of Helmand.

They also helped shore up those British Army units hard pressed and struggling after the demands of the summer. The unprecedented IED technological shift

and preponderance had taken its toll on them; but also took its toll on us. Pte Jonathon Young was killed near the start of the deployment and Cpl Andrew Reid suffered a triple amputation near the end of the tour.

Our return to Battalion in November was greeted with the most rapturous celebrations courtesy of the wives,



Ptes Granger and Bainimoli are delighted to be re-tasked back out on patrol, late in the night.



Burma Company Group deployed on Herrick 10.



**Memorial to
Pte Young, PB Wishtan, Sangin, Helmand.**

girlfriends and families who had worried so hard for us and supported us so incredibly well. The cacophony of noise as we marched onto the Square was incredible and something which we will all remember. It was fantastic to see soldiers finally reunited with their loved ones.

The demands of the tour has helped sculpt experienced and determined young soldiers and they have approached the raft of cadres and courses we have hit in the New Year with serious enthusiasm. They are all stronger for their time away. The company is

currently reduced to a hand-full of soldiers whilst Potential JNCOs, drivers, gunners and commanders all learn their new crafts. This is exactly as we should be and good to see in the tight window we find ourselves in pre Kenya. The demands of growing capability and developing ourselves are significant and never really end. It will be great to get everyone back together to deploy en masse to Kenya, although six weeks away is of course a burden yet again for families to endure. The Company will be supporting the 5 SCOTS Battle Group. Anyone who has been to Kenya will realise what a treat this is going to be. A number of our very new soldiers will have their first taste of being on exercise surrounded by lions, elephants and giraffe, but also have the opportunity to conduct some quality adventurous training; whether that be down on the coast or at 5000 metres at the top on Mount Kenya.

Throughout all this busyness, Cpl Reid continues to make exceptional progress. He is now walking and looking forward to returning to work. His incredible progress is down to three things. The first is the fortitude and dogged tenacity that is the mark of an incredibly strong and remarkable soldier; the second are the superb facilities we, as an Army, now make available for our injured; and the third is the support afforded by his family – his relatives and girlfriend of course, but also his Regiment. Long may it continue.



Families and friends welcome home Burma soldiers from Afghanistan.

CORUNNA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Maj N MacKenzie
Second-in-Command	-	Capt C Ibbotson/Capt I Martin
CSM	-	WO2 C Goddard
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	-	CSgt L Egbury

7 Platoon
Lt A Hammond
Sgt CJ Edley

8 Platoon
Lt N Ross
Sgt RA Matkowski

9 Platoon
Lt W Sutton
Cpl JR Dillon

Life as a Battle Casualty Replacement (BCR)

– The pressures on family life

In July 2009 Corunna company (supported by elements across the Battalion) was tasked to provide the BCR company for Op Herrick 11. As a result of this short notice tasking the company was unable to complete the usual six month pre-deployment training package. Although consisting of all the major pre-deployment training muscle moves (all ranks briefing, Tactical Commander's Cadre, Confirmatory Final Exercise (CFX) and Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX) due to the time constraints all this was achieved in only six weeks. Whilst the training time was compressed the company was still fully trained and ready to deploy.

During the pre-deployment training we lost a number of lads to the Royal Anglian companies that were deploying and thirty members of the company were tasked to form the 3 YORKS/KRH Mastiff Group attached to the Coldstream Guards in Babaji. Whilst this task would see them completing a six month tour what they did have was the certainty of how long they would be deployed for, where they were going and what they would be doing.

On completion of the training the remainder of the

company then went on 5 days notice to move (NTM). The long term effect of being on 5-days NTM is wearing and in some cases extremely stressful. Deploying with the Battalion and all the people that you know is easy compared to deploying alone, as a fire team or a multiple to an unfamiliar unit in unfamiliar and austere surroundings.

The real effect of being a BCR is the increased



Corunna Company on CFX. Operating in a UK style 'Green Zone'.



Corunna Company on Pre-Deployment Training. Short but sharp!



Corunna Company BCR's conduct Op BARMA drill training in Camp Bastion.

pressure and stress on family and friends. The steady flow of casualties reported through the media is a constant reminder to our families and friends of the dangers that lay ahead. In many cases these reports have sparked a phone call from our loved ones asking whether the latest casualties mean that we are deploying. The simple things in life have become complicated, such as planning a weekend away, booking holidays and in some cases trying to cope with the birth of a new baby. During the festive period this notice to move was always at the back of the mind. Never more so when a multiple was tasked to deploy just after Christmas and on Boxing Day when we had to warn off a multiple to deploy in early January 2010.

Once warned off information trickled through slowly as to when, where, who with and for how long.



Sgt Dixon and his multiple take a breather whilst compound hopping in Babaji.

However, many of these questions remained unanswered as the boys got onto the flight to Theatre. Again this plays on the mind and adds to the apprehension one feels prior to deployment. As soldiers we are resolute, we deploy and get on with our jobs but our families do struggle.

Although our notice to move was increased to 10 days the pressure of being a BCR remains, although not so acute. At the time of writing the BCR company is now at 5 days notice to move again. Over 80% of the BCR company has deployed and it is likely that more will follow.

We must not forget our family and friends who we leave behind when we deploy who have supported in our uncertainty prior to deployment but now support us as we are deployed. Thank you.

SOMME COMPANY

Officer Commanding	- Maj L R McCormick
CSM	- WO2 T Cooper
Recce	- Capt S Farley
Mortars	- Capt C Dawson
Javelin	- Capt Obesse-Jecty

The Brigade Ops Company, affectionately known as the BOC slowly broke up over the course of the summer the contingent elements returning to their parent units. The final flourish of the company resulted in an impressive feat of human endurance as the company raised over £10,000 for Help for Heroes in a Coast to Coast challenge running over 450 miles to cross the country straight through our great county of Yorkshire. Like any good commander the OC, Maj Stenning, stayed in command until the last remnants of the Company had sunk out of sight. The decision was taken to reform Somme Company on the return of Mortars from OP TELIC and so on a frantic week in August the company reformed in name but not in body. The majority of the Company where not present to witness this momentous day as they were deployed in

Afghanistan with Burma Company and imbedded with other units on HERRICK 10. Maj Stenning handed over the Company to the new OC, Maj McCormick, on the 6 August prior to summer leave. The Company was sad to see Maj Stenning leave after a busy period of preparing for Operations but wish him luck with his next assignment as a Lieutenant Colonel.

The company has also received a new Sergeant Major in WO2 Cooper who arrives from the Ops WO post in BHQ. The company has received a significant boost in manpower prior to Christmas with new blood arriving from the rifle companies and from across the King's Division. The company is now well placed to start conducting cadres to bring the support weapons skill base up to the required standard. The mortar platoon were fortunate enough to escape Warminster and

Salisbury plane for a South Atlantic summer as part of the Falkland Island Reinforcement Company, attached to Alma Coy, where they conducted a mortars numbers cadre. The platoons have been deprived of their platoon commanders since the formation of Somme Company in August 09, with OC Javelin deployed on Op HERRICK 11 with 2 YORKS, OC Recce commanding The Mastiff Group on the same Operation. The new OC Mortars will join the company in Mar on completion of his Mortar course and deploy immediately on EX GRAND PRIX, leaving a rather lonely OC!

Mortar Platoon on FIRIC

CSgt S Hay

The Mortar Platoon deployed to the Falklands over several weeks with a number of lifts from RAF Brize Norton. The deployment did not start on the best of footings with a 48 hour delay due to heavy snow in Oxfordshire, but after a brief stay in a 3 star hotel the troops got on their way. The following chinks did not fair any better although their accommodation was considerably less comfortable; split between the Gateway House and the departure lounge floor.

The long day light hours of the Antarctic summer allowed the Mortars Numbers Cadre to accomplish a great deal each day, the extra hours allowing some compression of the instruction. The term summer conjures the wrong images for the gale force winds that accompanied the first week of training on Onion Range where the platoon were based for the duration of the Operation.

The boggy terrain, with the absence of any hard ground to place the base plate, created some significant challenges for live firing, providing us with an insight to the challenges the mortar men would have faced in 1982. Bedding in was the most significant hurdle to overcome, after several rounds were fired the process needed to be repeated, providing a good learning experience for the students, but not usual practice in Afghanistan. Pte Lythgoe demonstrated his cat-like abilities as he dived into the mud out of the way as the base plate sank a foot into the mud after the first round,



Sgt Humphries with WO2 Charlie Carter (4 Yorks) show LCpl White how to correctly dress the Brush

unfortunately the incident was not caught on camera. The Cadre battled on overcoming problem after problem to fire 670 HE rounds in 2 days.

Range packages are never the most entertaining time in the evening; this is particularly so on a small Island thousands of miles from home. Night time activities included Platoon bowling in which Pte Barber (King Pin), unable to roll the ball, continued to launch the ball down the track bouncing most of way before missing the pins completely; thankfully his mortar fire was more accurate. Other activities included movie night's mortar platoon style and the occasional game of dam-buster.

The opportunity to escape the confines of Company HQ and operate as independent platoon conducting great training helped form a strong bond in the platoon, brining to together a disparate bunch. The platoon is now well set for the challenges ahead; Grand Prix, Mortar career courses, and Brigade Mortar Concentration in September.

BATTALION WEEKEND NOV 2009

Having made it back from Helmand, Burma Company was in high demand! A series of events greeted us on our first weekend back in Blighty, which comprised: a *Welcome Home Party and Reception*, *Battalion Sports Day*, *the Battalion's Got Talent Show* and *Remembrance Sunday*.

The reception we all received from families and the press was quite a shock. As we marched onto the square in front of the Wellesley the noise we were greeted with was quite incredible and took our collective breath away. The initial shock of being back and adjusting to what seemed like unfamiliar surroundings was pretty strange. However, the nostalgia of dust, austere living conditions and the potential of bumping into the Taliban soon faded as we got fully immersed in the fact that we had finally come home!

Once all the meeting and greeting, and sharing of many beers, had been completed, the Company paraded on Remembrance Sunday. This was, as expected, particularly poignant given the death of Private Young and the recent injury to Corporal Reid. The service was



Cpl Reid joins the Battalion for the Remembrance Day service.

fantastic and a fitting way to mark the end of the tour. Corporal Reid, against the advice of his doctors, made the journey down. His fortitude, enthusiasm and determination to get on with his injuries has been humbling. To see him so bright, chipper and well only a couple of weeks after the IED strike was incredible and to his absolute credit. After the service, we all enjoyed a chat and a brew with Corporal Reid in the Sergeant's Mess. It was fantastic to catch up with him.

We will remember them. The Battalion pays its respects to those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Aside from the Service, the respective Messes held parties and families lunches which were an excellent way again of getting back in the swing of Regimental life. Having the opportunity to catch up with the wives, who have all been brilliant and incredibly strong whilst we have been away. It was nice to put them at ease with all the worrying they have been doing in our behalves!

All in all, an excellent weekend and a lovely welcome home. Great to be back!

3 YORKS OFFICERS' MESS SHOOTING DAY

On a cold Saturday at the end of January, the officer's took part in the final shoot of the season on the Infantry Shoot Chairman's Day. It was an eclectic mix of both eager, experienced huntsman and complete novices who gathered for a hearty 'al fresco' breakfast and got split into our teams. The idea was that the less gifted marksman amongst us had a mentor or spotter to help. Some mentors had to work harder than others and displayed patience above and beyond what should have been expected (those mentors tied to Capt Ian Martin and Lt Rob Taylor spring to mind!). Each team completed three 'drives and beat for the other team when not shooting.

Due to it being the final day of the shooting season, the swarms of birds we were expecting did not come flying out of the different wood blocks. However, when one or two did fly, they flew into a barrage of shot (although I suspect the majority died of heart failure).



The CO watches on in awe at the marksmanship

The 3 YORKS Officers' Mess Shoot Party



Novices tried to comprehend the ‘Bum, Belly, Beak, Bang’ technique, that Major Christian ‘Top Gun’ Schofield taught us the day before. Everyone improved significantly throughout the day and when Major Sam Humphris claimed that he had shot a massive pheasant, a nearby Colonel clarified by shouting through the woods ‘Sam, you’ve got a bloody great huge cock’.

The competitive spirit was rife amongst the officers and who bagged the most birds on each drive got a well earned pat on the back. It is safe to say that the standard of shooting slowly increased throughout the day. Some chanced too much. One young Captain, who will remain nameless, felled the Director of Infantry’s bird - thinking it was fair ‘game’. The day was rounded off with a fantastic and hearty lunch in the Officers’ Mess. It was a great day. Let’s hope this turns into an annual affair – the roast pheasant and woodcock we enjoyed over the next few weeks were particularly tasty!



**Capt Bond
with his tiny
(wood)cock!**

TRANSFORMING SINGLE SERVICE SOLIDER ACCOMODATION IN BATTLESBURY BARRACKS

Major PW McNeil Quartermaster

It had been a long time coming, new Junior Ranks Single Living Accommodation (JRSLA) in Battlesbury Barracks. In the past the camp housed the Infantry’s Demonstration Battalion. Battalions would rotate through every couple of years. Most of the soldier’s time would have been on the training area supporting exercises without spending too much quality time in their accommodation. When the Dukes arrived in

Warminster the barracks looked tired and needed an injection of new life. Thankfully, a plan was already in place - Project Allenby/Connaught is the largest Private Financed Initiative ever led by the MoD and is the name given for the rebuild and refurbishment programme of the Army’s infrastructure for units around Salisbury Plain and Aldershot. Aspire Defence Limited oversees and manages the contract with Aspire Defence Capital



A new JRSLA. Ground Maintenance and landscaping will be completed in Apr 10



Burma Coy pre-stack their personal possessions ready for the order to move

Works and Aspire Defence Services Limited (ADSL) delivering construction, facilities and services management respectively.

Construction of the new JRSLA's followed hot on the heels of the "Wellesley" Super Diner coming into service in Apr 09. With the first 4 of the 36 man JRSLA's being built on the site of the old NAAFI and accepted into Service on 12 Feb 10. The new accommodation is built from modules that are craned into position to create the new accommodation blocks. Each JRSLA has 3 floors with 2 flats on each floor to accommodate 6 men in each flat. Each Soldier will receive an individual room with en-suite facilities, single bed, wardrobe and furniture. In each flat there will be a bathroom, utility room, and store room with secure cages for personal fighting equipment. A communal room is also provided and is expected to improve camaraderie between the flatmates.

Every soldier who moves into this new accommodation will receive a mandatory brief from the QM, Barrack Manager and Simon Rivers (ADSL). The rebuild plan is reliant on soldiers vacating their current accommodation which will then be demolished to allow new JRSLA's to be built. This first phase of the transition has seen soldiers predominantly from Burma and Somme Companies move into the new accommodation.

Approx 20 soldiers from the Mortar PI will occupy rooms on their return from the Falkland Islands and 12 new soldiers from the Infantry Training Centre will also move in later in Feb 10. In total there will be 12 x 36 man JRSLA blocks and 2 x 8 man houses built on Battlesbury Barracks, along with the refurbishment of the Hilton block of a further 72 bedspaces, giving a total of 520 bedspaces available on Battlesbury Barracks. The rebuild programme will be completed by Nov 12.

Pte Sayles in his new room relaxing on his X box.



3 YORKS VISIT TO MONTE CECO

Major L McCormick

Nestled in the Apennine Mountains North of Florence lies the small market town of Palazzuolo Sul Senio. The town is surrounded by the formidable Romagna mountains, its only access route is along the narrow and winding mountain road which follows the river at the bottom of the valley; a wonderful scenic route in most circumstances unless you are in a car driven by Maj Palmer, OC Alma Coy, or being engaged by German artillery fire as was the case for 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Sept 1944. A few miles to the North East of Palazzuolo lies the imposing hill of Monte Ceco, or Monte Cece (pronounced ChiChi) as the Italians call it, the last battle honour The Duke of Wellington's Regiment won in Italy and the setting of Richard Burton's Victoria Cross. The citizens of area have recently erected a memorial in the town centre to commemorate the men who liberated the town and gave their lives to dislodge the occupying German forces from the area. The mayor invited members of the 3 YORKS to attend a parade on Sunday 20 September 2009 and lay a wreath at the memorial for 1 DWR casualties of the campaign. Due to the unavailability of the Commanding Officer OC Alma represented Lt Col Vallings at the event and was support by OC Somme, Maj Liam McCormick. In order to ensure decorum both officers were escorted by their wives, and the Drum Major, Sgt Oxley, also accompanying the group guaranteeing there would be a least one smart soldier on parade.

Members of the Dukes lay a wreath at the scene of the battle.



On the 8th of October 1944 the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment captured the hill known as Monte Ceco to the north east of Palazzuolo. This feature dominated route 'Arrow" which was one of the Allied routes into the Po Valley from Florence. The steep sided mountain was a 1st Division objective and the assault began in earnest on the 3rd of October, after two hard fought but unsuccessful attempts the Dukes were called into battle on the 8th. Three companies

assaulted up the hillside scrambling to within 100 meters of the summit before encountering effective enemy fire. The lead company caught in the open was taking murderous fire from the German Spandaus, when Pte Richard Burton picked up a Bren gun, in desperation charging the nearest German position and destroying it before directing withering fire on the second. The German spirit was broken and Dukes advanced to remove any remaining German presence. For his action Pte Burton won the Victoria Cross. The capture of the summit had been at the cost of 60 dead and 150 wounded, including the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Patrick St Maur Shiel DSO, mortally wounded as he crested the summit. Capt Robbie Burns took brief command of the situation organising the defence of hill repelling several counter attacks, winning a DSO in the process.

The weekend began with some outstanding pasta at the welcome lunch along with some local delicacies, all enhanced by the most palatable and addictive local vino; one or two glasses was never enough. It was in this informal setting that we met up with David Harrap and Danny Fort. Danny had been a young partisan during the war and has lead a fascinating life, which included a period of time living in Yorkshire where he learnt the phrase 'ee by gum' which he used with intonation in most conversations. Without Danny's command of the English language we would have been embarrassed on a number of occasion, an excellent translator and hilarious company. The local historian Romano Rossi, whose father had been the first civilian onto Monte Ceco after the battle, his family owned the land, provided us with a detailed account of the battle and invited our group to see the exhibition on the campaign. Indeed without Ramono's detailed and meticulous research into the battlefield it is unlikely the town would have managed to create such a striking monument and many of the stories would have been lost; his recently published book provided a rich seam of information surrounding the battle. This eclectic mix of personalities was further enriched by the arrival of the St Maur Shiel family, in particular William who was only 5 when his father was killed at the moment of success on-top of the Monte Ceco.

The programme was leisurely, a visit to the local campaign exhibition on Saturday morning followed by an afternoon trip up to the top of Monte Ceco for a short ceremony which involved local members of the Alpini Regiment, the Mayor from Palazzuolo as well as Italian paratroopers. Drum Major Oxley, affectionately referred to as 'The Ox' by our hosts, blew an enchanted last post which drifted through the trees, and low lying cloud which encircled the site, rolling in and out of the remnants of the fox holes dotted over the steep sided

summit. The spell was broken by the Mayor who launched into his flowing speech not realising that there was a minutes silence and a reveille to follow. In true British style the mayor received some dirty looks from The Ox who remained true to his timings and blew the reveille on cue creating some confusion but nothing which appeared to faze our hosts and the speech continued after the a stirring reveille. The occasion had particular resonance for the Italian Paratroopers who had lost 5 people in Afghanistan that week and helped ensure an almost tangible connection with the sacrifices of previous generations.

It was a privilege to represent the Regiment on such an occasion and reminds us all that the deeds of courage committed by previous generations resonates today by inspiring the next generation and proving that service and sacrifice can bear fruit through the years.



The Dukes do their part to develop international relations with some Italian paratroopers.

RUGBY REPORT

Capt Patrick Dennien

With the Battalion answering its commitments in Afghanistan, the Falkland Islands and at home, mounting a robust challenge for the Premiership Cup was always going to be difficult. However, with the

support of the Companies, we managed to get a squad together that did just that.

We were drawn in a 5-team group consisting of ARRC Sp Btn, 12 Regt RA, 1 PWRR and the old foe; 1



Cpl Tuikoro hitting it up against the ARRC



LCpl Balekesinga and Pte Vula close in on the Welsh defence.

Welsh Guards. With players arriving back from POTL preparation was limited, but we fortunately drew ARRC as our first game. Having recently been promoted to the Premiership they were somewhat of an unknown quantity. The match played in Warminster was a great season opener for us. The combination of our mobile, aggressive pack and quick dynamic backs was too much for them and the tries started to flow. The Dukes coming away bonus point winners 66-3.

Our next match was the Welsh Guards at home, a much more challenging proposition altogether. Last years finalists, the Guards were a proven force in the Premiership. With a large, strong pack and 2/3 of the Army front-row, they were not to be underestimated. A close, tough battle, with both sides throwing everything into the game. We struggled against their strong scrum, but more than held our own in all other areas of the park. A last minute penalty however, cost us dearly. Their kicker, who had struggled all afternoon, stepped up and slotted the kick. 11-11. Final whistle. Disappointment at not beating the Welsh was curbed with the knowledge that we were still in the competition. Onwards and upwards.

Next was a trip to Germany to play 1 PWRR. After an exhausting drive to Paaderborne from Warminster, we conducted what can only be described as a 'smash and grab' operation. The team was coming together nicely and really started to play in this match. Against a much larger team, made up predominantly of Fijians, we continued to compete physically and were also playing the rugby. Although tiring late on we came away bonus point winners 10-32. Job done.

Our last game against 12 Regt RA was cancelled due to the snow in the New Year. With 12 RA having beaten the Welsh Guards it was agreed that a draw would be a fair result. This left us qualifying for the next round

seeded 4th and a ¼ final against 4 Regt RA. However, 4 RA pulled out of this game and we were through to the Semis. Against the Welsh Guards again!!!

The Semi was played at The Defence College at Shrivenham. It was a great day for rugby, with clear, breathless skies. The match was again a cracker, with both teams throwing themselves into the contest. Again the Welsh scrum was dominant, but the Dukes pack, although smaller to a man, competed aggressively in all facets. Making big hits and disrupting their powerful lineout catch and drive. Our backs ran hard and straight, knocking down their opposite man at every opportunity. We went in at half time 5-12 down. The second half continued much the same. We were playing most of the rugby with the Welsh creating little for themselves. A Dukes try started in our own 22 and scored in the far corner by Capt Ian Martin had everyone, even the Welsh fans, applauding. With minutes to go we were on the attack, but couldn't find a way through the Welsh defence. At the final whistle hearts sank. We were out, losing 10-12. Spectators congratulated us, saying 'that should have been the final'. We had played well, but just lacked the composure to finish the game off.

Looking forward the rugby club is preparing itself for the Rugby League, with every intention of defending its crown. There are also plans for a pre-season tour to Italy before launching ourselves into next season's campaign.

Dukes Rugby is in good health. We are competing at the highest level of Army Rugby and must be considered one of the top five teams in the Army. We are well represented in the Army setup with Captains Martin and Bond, and are developing an expanding player base within battalion. Next season will see us trying to play more rugby at all levels. We are looking forward to it.

YORKSHIRE REGIMENT IS OUT OF THE EUROPEAN CUP FOR THIS SEASON

Captain Nick Wilson - OC Football

Early December saw a fixture invite for 3 Yorks FC that we simply could not turn down. Business man and multi millionaire entrepreneur Mr Jan Telensky had invited the Manchester United development team to Slovakia to play his FK Poprad team. FK Poprad who hail from the second division of the Slovak league and extra league of Slovakia were well prepared for the visit, Unfortunately United (not joking here by the way!) were busy and so eventually the invite came to us! Understanding this would be a tough test from the outset we departed Luton airport and arrived into some unusual media interest in Poprad airport. The match had been publicised widely in Slovakia and interviews with Hello magazine and TV etc did follow. Like true professional footballers we took in our stride and made best speed for the five star hotel to check out the mini bar. We stayed in Aqua City which is the premier green hotel in Europe; the hotel boasts 12 pools, all of which are heated from an underground natural spa some two miles below ground and cost 6 million pounds to find the water alone. The match was publicised as England XI v Slovakia on all the billboards around town. FK Poprad rub shoulders with the likes of FK Kosice and Slavia Prague who regularly make the European champions league (Poprad have beaten both in the Slovak extra league and are now managed by Stanislav Kohl an ex Slavia striker). And so once the radio and television interviews were out of the way it was time to get down to the business of being hammered by them on match day. I need not tell anyone with any football experience that football is like the layers of an onion, with training and experience you reach the next level.

Over the years I have been in charge of football we have had some great ties against some great sides Barnsley FC Academy and Bradford PA of the Unibond premier amongst them. Unfortunately none of this experience was to help against FK Poprad who were truly an onion bag and a half in front of us! It did take some 16 minutes however for them to score from a 25 yard volley that nearly broke the net. This was followed several times by similar net stretching efforts. Half time could not come quick enough. Once I had time to point out our shortcomings to the beleaguered 11 we set about the second half with three target men to mark out of the game. Strangely we did this very well and began to control some of the game; Pte Shinn even found himself one on one with the keeper and buried the effort past him with much appreciation from the Slovak crowd for his solo effort. For the second half we managed a score of 2 – 1 to Poprad and to be honest we took much satisfaction from that.

All in all a great experience and a few football lessons learnt (the hard way), the game was much like chasing shadows. On the upside Mr Telensky managed to get some attention for his fantastic charity 'Holidays for Heroes' in which he pays for an injured Soldier from Afghanistan to stay in Aqua City for a week all expenses paid quite regularly. Major Terry Butterworth (Ex DWR) administrates this fantastic and worthwhile venture and if we achieved nothing other than experience and raising awareness of this great gift we would do it again tomorrow.

In summary – 3 Yorks will have wait another year to win the European Cup.

The Dukes Football Club pin their ears back from some half-time words of wisdom.



YORKSHIRE REGIMENT SAILING CLUB

Lt Col TG Vallings

The Yorkshire Regiment Sailing Club is in its first year and has been endorsed by the Colonel of the Regiment with a grant from our Trustees. The aim of the Yorkshire Regiment Sailing Club is to develop and encourage our soldiers and officers to take part in all sailing activities (racing, adventure training, cruising, dinghies and yachts) in order to develop leadership, team spirit and seamanship within the Regiment. The Yorkshire Regiment Sailing Club is open to all members of the Regiment and it provides opportunities for those serving to interact at events and regattas with the wider Regimental family.

A committee has been established to provide governance and advice to all activity. The AGM will be at 1830 hrs 17 June 2010 at RHQ. The Committee is as follows: Commodore – Major General A Farquar, Vice Commodore - Brigadier M Bray, Rear Commodore - Lt Col T Vallings, Secretary – Captain J Barker and Battalion Sailing Officers. The Yorkshire Regiment has entered the following Regattas for 2010 and a more detailed programme for 2011 will follow in the autumn edition post our AGM:

The Army Offshore Regatta 10-17 May 2010 at JSSTC Gosport

The Infantry Regatta 22-26 May 2010 at Seaview on the Isle of Wight.

The Yorkshire Regiment have entered a team centred on 3 YORKS into The Army Offshore Regatta and will be holding a crew selection / race training event 10-14 April 2010 on the Solent. So please make yourself known if you want to take part. The Infantry Regatta is a more inclusive event with social and fun sailing activities planned over the weekend 22-23 May. There will be a combined drinks party on Saturday 22 May with the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment and Royal Welsh Regiment. The opportunity to sail the Seaview

Yacht Club Mermaids on the afternoon of Sunday 23 May and enjoy the beaches and ambiance of Seaview. Over the weekend the priority will be to enable the wider Regimental family to interact with those serving and have fun. The accommodation will be available for those attending the weekend activities. The more serious racing starts on Mon 24 May until 26 May 2010 where unit teams will have the priority for the accommodation. All racing is on the Mermaids (26 ft day keel boats) that are unique to Seaview.



The 3 YORKS Mermaid, appropriately in French grey livery!

Individuals wanting to compete in either of these Regattas should contact Captain P Dennien 01985 223651 or Warminster Military (94381) Ext 3651. Finally a plug for the Infantry Yacht, Bold Fusilier a 38ft Vancouver is available for private charter @ £ 160 a day with a qualified skipper to serving and retired officers and soldiers – for bookings contact Yacht Manager on 94832 7389.

3 YORKS ORIENTEERING TEAM

(We all can run and we all think we can navigate so what happens when you put the two together)

Captain S Caine

We have had a steady flow of runners this season but none more so than from the catering department lead by WOII Wilson (RCWO), a veteran Orienteer himself. Many members of the Battalion have tried their hand at the sport from the youngest Private soldier in a Rifle Company all the way up to the Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1) Wildey, plus we have members of the JAMES (Steve) team wanting to run for us.

Given the varied nature of orienteering terrain and the infinite combination of factors that can trip up even the best orienteer, probably all of the team this season have had a bad run.

We organised our first event on a cold wet Wednesday in February on Hankley Common Surrey, where over 300 people both military and civilian turned up. This set us up to organise more events this year if not only to make some cash to keep the team going.

We will continue through this year running in the summer league; goal for this season is to bring new members into the team and get them interested in the sport. The more regular members will concentrate on fitness and navigation techniques. As the team Captain I promise to remember to pay the entry fee for the league next season, this will make it all worthwhile for all the sweat we have shed so far for nothing, sorry team.

REMEMBRANCE PARADE IN WARMINSTER

Major Donald Palmer MBE sent in these photographs of the 2009 Remembrance Day parade in Warminster.



SERVICE IN OMAN – Lt Col Tim Isles OBE

Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue.



In the years between the end of the WW2 and the fall of the Berlin wall, the UK government's response to perceived external threats was encapsulated in its commitment to NATO and the 55,000 soldiers and airmen that made up the British Army of the Rhine. During this period of some 45 years the British army also deployed on a number of operations outside the confines of the BAOR scenario. The war in Korea was by far the largest conflict, but other theatres included a number of internal security operations throughout the world as former colonies and protectorates moved towards independence – Malaya, Cyprus, Kenya, Aden,

Hong Kong. By the end of the 1960s the UK was beginning to be committed to playing a major role in Northern Ireland too, a situation that was to apply for well over 30 years. There was also the hard fought battle to regain the Falkland Islands in 1982.

The British government pursued its foreign policy by other means as well. This manifested itself in a number of ways, including support to nations where a perceived national interest had to be addressed. This support could take many forms, including aid, assistance with the training of the bureaucracy/civil service, the training of police forces and the army – readers will be familiar with the term BATT, short for British Army Training Team. Another means of assistance was that of 'Loan Service'. In this case British army soldiers were seconded ('on loan') to the army of another nation. Whilst soldiering on the plains of northern Germany facing the Russian bear was seen as the *raison d'être* for the post war forces of NATO, serving officers and soldiers could volunteer for periods of Loan Service. Indeed it was actively encouraged by the Ministry of Defence, for whilst not only actively contributing to a given situation at the time, it offered variety, excitement, and the chance of command on operations outside that on offer 'at home'.

The largest post war incidence of Loan Service was the UK's commitment to assisting the Sultan of Oman in his struggle against a communist backed insurgency. These insurgents threatened to seize power, and with it control over the waters of the Arabian Gulf and the narrow Straits of Hormuz. This was the vital route by which most of the Gulf States' oil flowed, and the loss of this primary oil route was seen as a grave threat to western interests, and one that would significantly



**The Author –
hot work**

heighten tension throughout the region. In this little known war, which lasted from 1965 until it was deemed possible to declare peace in December 1975, small numbers of British Army officers and soldiers, together with a similar number of 'contract' officers (who were paid directly by the Sultan, and often ex-British Army themselves) led Muslim soldiers, both Omani and Baluchi, against a determined enemy, or in Arabic, the 'Adoo'. The British Roll of Honour numbers no less than 36 officers and soldiers who gave their lives during this anti-insurgency campaign, but there were many other nationalities engaged, including Iranians, Indians, Jordanians and Pakistanis, who gave their lives as well.

The need for brevity permits only a very short description of conditions that led to the insurgency, and the way that it was dealt with. In the 1960s and 1970s Oman was a little known country in the Middle East. While one nation, it was both geographically and tribally two very separate entities. Control was exercised from the capital, Muscat, in the north, but this power was reluctantly accepted in the south, despite the fact that the Sultan had for many years appointed a high representative to control this southern region, known as Dhofar. In addition he was married to a Dhofari woman, and spent much time in his palace in the south.

**A typical
Oman Junior
NCO.**



At the start of this period (mid 1960s) Oman was ruled by the father of the current Sultan. Described as a courteous man, he had strong views on how he considered the country should be governed, not least due to the sea of unrest that he saw all around him in many other countries in the Middle East, and much of it to do with oil. His approach was to attempt to protect his country from what he saw were the undesirable trappings of western society. He severely limited access to the media by refusing to allow the import of transistor radios. In addition, he discouraged education, including that to do with medicine, and generally restricted any actions that might lead to opening contacts with the outside world. 'Free speech' was not a luxury enjoyed by anyone. Unsurprisingly many younger Omanis left the country in search of a less repressive society, but if, or when, they returned, the seeds of discontent were spread. It must be said though that under the old Sultan,

his strict rules and traditional methods of punishment resulted in a society that was both tranquil and remarkably free from crime.



Looking down to the Indian Ocean

These seeds of discontent manifested themselves in Dhofar, an area roughly the size of Wales. The very first incidents took place in 1962, when sporadic sniping attacks were directed at members of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF.) These early attacks were seen as more a sign of discontent with the lack of development than with any specific aim of overthrowing the system in place. However, the movement grew and the group responsible named itself the Dhofar Liberation Army in 1965, by now showing signs of being a Marxist orientated organisation with the aim of 'liberating' the country and imposing a communist government. It gained further strength following the British withdrawal from Aden a year later, and the foundation of the People's Democratic Republic of the Yemen (PDRY), a self proclaimed communist state backed by both the Chinese, and the Russians was the result. Situated on Oman's extreme southern border, the PDRY offered a safe haven from which the insurgents could re-supply, train and operate. Now greater aims were pursued, along with a new name for the movement, PFLOAG (the People's Front for the Liberation of the Arabian Gulf.) 'Volunteers' were inducted, sometimes by torture if found necessary, and the movement grew unchecked.

By 1969 PFLOAG rebels controlled much of Dhofar and SAF were hard pressed to deal with them. The coastal town of Rakhyut fell and the headman was publicly executed. It must be said that at this time SAF were small in number and poorly equipped. The adoo had AK47s, whereas SAF troops were equipped with (bolt action) .303s. Only the Dhofar capital of Salalah was seen as safe by 1970, and even then there were incidents of the airport runway being shelled.

A new approach was needed, and this came in 1971 in the form of an almost bloodless coup. The current Sultan, Qaboos, took over power from his father and lost no time in setting about dealing with the problem of what was now a major insurgency. He started by announcing plans for development and for education.



He also offered a period of a cease-fire, as well as an amnesty – the latter immediately being taken up by a considerable number of the enemy. These actions alone caused the adoo to redouble their efforts, but, with oil revenues starting to flow, the Sultan was able to push forward with his initiatives while at the same time SAF were to take the offensive to the enemy in the 'jebel', or mountain regions, of Dhofar - this with a view to bringing Dhofar back under control.

This short resume cannot portray the intensity of the fighting or the difficulty of the terrain, but a number of offensives saw this aim achieved. Initially it was a necessary to interrupt supplies, and this was done by forming piquet lines, west of Salalah, and which ran from north to south down to the sea. Further major operations in 1972 saw positions deep into the Dhofar mountains taken and held, often very tenuously, with SAF setting up firebases from which it could patrol. The reliance on helicopters was almost total in order to achieve this success, for there were no roads into the jebel, and, even if there had been, they would have been impossible to secure, given the distances involved.



Mine damage

In 1973 further help was given to the Sultan when the Shah of Iran despatched an Imperial Iranian Battle Group of some 1500 men and a number of helicopters to assist. It was in this year that the Battle of Marbat, a small town to the east of Salalah, took place. Just 10 SAS soldiers, supported by a few local policemen and civilians, kept some 200 adoo at bay, at times in hand to hand fighting and by the use of an elderly 25 pounder field gun, firing over open sights. The enemy suffered such heavy casualties that never again did he use such tactics again, and this action is often considered a turning point in the war.

The final two years of the conflict saw a series of operations designed to fulfil the Dhofar brigade's mission statement, namely 'To secure Dhofar for civil development'. By 1974, the perimeter of the town of Salalah was secure, and piquet lines in the mountainous areas to the west of the town had greatly restricted the movement of the enemy and his supplies from the direction of the PDRY. But he still had free range over much of the jebel, including the wadis and caves to the east of Salalah. These operations, using all arms and services at the disposal of the Brigade, which included Saladin armoured cars, field guns and strike aircraft, brought about the military solution required where contacts took place, but an equally important aspect was the winning of the 'hearts and minds' battle. Much effort was concentrated on developing the infrastructure for the benefit of the local mountain people, there were large incentives given to tempt the adoo to change sides (this a very successful aspect of the policy), and amnesties, along with financial incentives for the handing in of weapons, brought much success. Indeed, whatever other factors contributed to the successful outcome of the war against the insurgents, few would argue that the major one was the overall failure of atheism (i.e. communism) to in any way replace the strong Islamic faith held by the people of the region.

Part 2 to follow next issue.

ZIMBABWE BATTLE SCHOOL – *Lt Col Tim Nicholson*



Nyanga is on the right of the map, a little North of Mutare and below Mt Nyangani.

A Shattered Dream.

Zimbabwe has been much in the news in recent years, and always for the wrong reasons. Tyranny and suppression - bad even by African standards - of human rights; starvation of the people whilst a few cronies of the dictator amass huge fortunes; a strong economy with positive balance of trade and emerging democracy

supplanted by a fragile, corrupt and shambolic political and economic infra-structure. For those of us who spent some little time in the country after its war of independence, and saw it when wounds were healing and there was hope for a bright future in nearly every section of the community, it is all so immensely sad.

A Little History.

Zimbabwe is landlocked, bordered by South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana, and in 1985/86 its relations with neighbours were mixed. South Africa, in the grip of apartheid policies until 1994, was hostile and operated a blockade which was only partially effective, not least because so many of the white population of both countries had close ties and the border is long and hard to secure. Mozambique was in the grip of its own civil war, with a rebel force backed by South Africa on one side, and the government party backed by other African states on the other. Zimbabwe had large numbers of troops in Mozambique mostly trying to secure a supply line to the port of Beira, and they were taking many casualties. Zambia had been the base for most of the freedom fighters/guerrillas (call them what you will) in the war of independence, and was a strong supporter of Zimbabwe. Botswana, an oasis of calm in the Southern half of that disturbed continent, simply went its own way.



Nyanga, overlooked by World's View. The tarmac ends in 2km.

Cause for Hope.

Zimbabwe secured independence in 1980 in a vicious and prolonged civil war, and it was surprising to find how much had been done in five years to get the country back on its feet and looking forward. Agriculture was flourishing – huge fields of maize and cereal crops in the flat and mainly fertile central plains; tea, coffee and fruit in abundance on the higher ground; large herds of dairy and beef cattle wherever grass grew; sheep and goats chivvied along by small boys in the most remote places. From the ground came gold, copper and other precious metals. Despite strict currency and other financial controls the expertise to manage an economy remained in place, and the institutions of law and governance were functioning well in the circumstances.



**Election victory parade at Nyanga, November 85.
Comrade Robert Mugabe (centre)**

The greatest hope came from the people. Some readers will know southern Africa far better than I, but what the majority of the people themselves said then was that what was done was done, and it was time to build a new country. Of course there was a great deal of bitterness – many lives and livelihoods had been lost – but there seemed to be a genuine desire for unity, to move forward.

Life was not “fair” of course; ownership of the country’s assets was a real issue that had to be addressed and anyone who had spent 10 years fighting for their independence was unlikely to agree to allow the losers of the struggle to hang on to all they owned before it started, although what actually happened, and is still happening, could not possibly be described by any rational person as a sensible way to address the matter. But we anticipate. At the time the young especially, black and white, had a vision of a future that they could share. There was a foretaste of Mandela’s “Rainbow Nation”, although it lacked anyone of stature to capture the spirit and turn it into reality. Cicero said of Rome “we have so muchand yet why is it that some ineradicable impulse of the human mind always impels us to foul our own nest”. It is hard to think of anywhere in the world that that has applied so well as Zimbabwe.

In 1985, though, Zimbabwe had yet to chuck out the baby with the bathwater.

BMATT

A British Military Advisory Training Team was in country. Commanded by a Brigadier, it had a quite large team of officers at the Zimbabwe Staff College in Harare; a small group was at Gweru, training artillery units, mainly with Chinese equipment. In the eastern Highlands was the Battalion Battle School (BBS) Nyanga, at the end of the tarmac and the telephone line and close by the Mozambique border, and in place there was an infantry training group, led by myself with half a dozen officers and two Warrant Officers, one the team administrator and the other a member of the SASC.

After the war the Zimbabweans had sought military aid and support from around the world; for example the Brazilians came up with a fleet of armoured cars around which some of the Army’s cavalry units were formed; Pakistan produced a team to train the Zimbabwean Air Force; and the North Koreans were selected to train the infantry. Not a sound choice, but one might be suspicious of the motivation behind their selection. What they did was to create the notorious 5th brigade, based around Bulawayo and the western half of the country, the home of the Matabele tribes who fought as part of the ZIPRA movement and formed the ZAPU political party, who were broadly, and soon determinedly, against Mugabe and his Shona ZANLA/ZANU party. Between 1982 and 1985 it is estimated that 20,000 Matabele were murdered.

Job done, so to speak, the British Army were then invited in to change the direction and nature of the training of the Zimbabwean infantry. Whilst the clever fellows went to the staff college to change minds and policies, simple chaps were sent to the outposts, and I can only say that it was a marvellous job. The BBS took in a battalion (there were two there at a time rotating through at different stages) stuck it into a basic camp in the middle of a large tract of bush that was our “do what you like, there ain’t no range commandant round here” training area, and systematically stripped it of all structure. BBS officers and



2nd Battalion 3rd Brigade march past



A 'Crocodile' (armoured lorry) stuck in the mud.



Driver error! Floods were a problem

NCOs took over, assisted by our team, and started to train all ranks from the ground up.

Thus the private soldiers learned what they had to do and then what it was like to be led by an NCO who knew his job and did it well, whilst the battalion NCOs themselves were taught their own roles and responsibilities. The same treatment for the "Hook Company" elements, the platoon and company commanders, and the specialists. The Mortar platoon especially was a joy to behold, doing everything precisely by numbers, chanting away at the top of their voices as they twanged round after round of pretty dodgy Chinese 3 inch ammunition up and away. God knows where it all went. Over 6 weeks or so we trained and then reassembled the battalion.

Officers and Politics

I only ever met one white officer in the Zimbabwean Army, the CO of a parachute battalion who had a pet lion cub, although there were quite a few elsewhere, especially in the air force. The upper ranks were selected for their political affiliations and the senior officers, then led by General Rex Nhongo, were by then all ZIPRA/ZANU appointees, initially former fighters. At Nyanga the battalion COs were hard nuts to crack – the rest of the battalion got stuck in and really enjoyed themselves – as their first priority was the party line and they had been placed for their loyalty to the Army Commander and ZANU. I can recall only one CO, a former Corporal in the Rhodesian infantry, who was of any use at all in a military sense. Most young officers were cheerful, fun to be with, and keen to improve themselves professionally. The men were a joy to work with; enthusiastic, generally fit, and they had a job that paid a wage, a considerable plus in uncertain times.

At the end of training there would be a pass out parade at Nyanga, and Mugabe sometimes attended in person. Locals would bring him gifts; a couple of cows in the back of a lorry, or a strange assortment of agricultural produce in baskets which the BBS Commandant had to get to wherever the President wanted it to go. Senior officers from all three services turned up in splendid uniforms. Quite a few of the local white business community would come, presumably recognising that here was an ego that needed a bit of stroking, hoping to avert the problems that followed not long afterwards. The crowds applauded wildly – this was Shona heartland – and the women wore dresses and T shirts with his portrait on, and danced and sang his praises. No wonder the man thought he could do whatever he wanted – and he was right. He could and he did.

Some Good Memories.

Mostly when we had finished with a battalion it had a few days leave and then deployed to Mozambique. It was heartening to learn from our contacts (the Government was extremely secretive about such things) that the casualty rates of the trained battalions were hugely lower than those who had yet to come to Nyanga. Our QM advisor and I were invited to a battalion farewell party in Bulawayo; they had only a few days between getting home from Nyanga and deploying to the Beira pipeline, and were determined to have a good time. There was a splendid parade, with wild enthusiasm from friends and families sitting all around the "square" and many impromptu outbursts of drumming and singing at inappropriate moments in defiance of the glares from the battalion's drum major and bandmaster.

After the parade we, families and all, repaired to the gymnasium where each company had its own corner, centred around a vast urn of (I think it was called) chibuku, a sort of maize beer, reinforced with anything else that hands could be laid on. Slightly offset but fairly central were some low tables and armchairs, where the dignitaries sat. In front of us our table groaned with bottles of beer and whisky, dozens of them. As the

evening wore on and proceedings livened up, polite and happy soldiers would come along and ask if they could take a bottle or two, and given the nod tipped them into buckets of chibuku which they then took round their company, filling up all manner of smaller containers. The flow of barbecued poultry and unidentified animals, probably goats, never faltered.

There was chance to canoe on the Zambezi, threading fearfully through vast numbers of hippos and crocodiles, stunned by the abundant bird life. On one occasion we borrowed the Army Commander's speed boat and the driver took us to within a few yards of an extremely irritated bull elephant that flapped its great ears and thrashed through the shallows towards us and at that precise moment the fool stalled the engine! Frantic paddling with hands whilst he strained away at the starting rope. We did a deal with a local fruit estate and chipped in some windsurfers in return for use of their lakeside clubhouse. My family came out and we found a few days to drive up to Kariba and take the boat from the dam in the East to Victoria Falls and a game park in the West. Nearly everyone was hospitable and friendly. A grand experience.

Paradise lost? Yes, for now; but not for ever I sincerely hope.



The training area; as far as you can see and more.

WOMEN AS SOLDIERS – by John G Wilson

John G Wilson is a member of the Press and P.R. Branch of the National Union of Journalists with interests in Defence, Sport and Equality issues. He was a contributor to the 1998 Strategic Defence Review. He is a member of the Royal Institute for International Affairs. (Chatham House). In November 2009 he lectured about women soldiers at the National Army Museum.

The word SOLDIER has many different meanings ranging from a proselytizing Christian, to a narrow strip of toast. I propose to use a more obvious interpretation :- A person engaged in military service.

History, which has mainly been recorded by men, has not served women well. Their roles have often been denigrated or ignored. Following the first Gulf War of 1990/1991 in which some 30,000 American women troops served, General Robert Barrow former commandant of the US Marine Corps – a very macho corps - speaking about women in war said.

“Exposure to danger is NOT combat. Being shot at, even being killed , is not combat. Combat is finding... ..closing with..... and killing or capturing the enemy. It’s killing. And it’s done in an environment that is often as difficult as can possibly imagine. Extremes of climate. Brutality. Death. Dying. It’s uncivilized ! And women can’t do it ! Nor should they even be thought of as doing it. The requirements for strength and endurance render them unable to do it. And I may be old fashioned, but I think the very nature of women disqualifies them from doing it. Women give life. Sustain life. Nurture life. They don’t take it . “

This has been a widely held view, particularly in the Western World where womens’ lives seem to be more valued than men’s’. Where gentlemen are brought up to

show good manners – at least superficially – towards the “weaker sex”. These values now seem to be breaking down in society as women gain equality, and become more like men in their actions. General Ann E. Dunwoody of the US Army was confirmed by the US Senate on the 23rd, July 2008 as the Nation’s first woman promoted to 4 star (full General) rank. She is Commanding General of the US Army Material Command.

But is General Barrow right ? History shows that women can fight and kill.

Herodotus, the famous historian who lived between 484 to 425 BC, quoted the Romans

“THE DAY WOMEN BECOME OUR EQUALS
THE DAY THEY BECOME OUR MASTERS “

Perhaps this is why men have been reluctant to let their woman folk take up arms.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown the fallacy of the American Army’s restrictive rules of engagement for women.

Drawn up in 1992 in response to Congress’s edicts, they are based on the perception of the “linear battlefield .“ The idea that there are opposing conventional armies facing and fighting each with clearly defined front lines, as best exemplified by the Trench Warfare in the First World War. In this type of

“The author recently met these two soldiers.”



warfare it is possible to gauge how dangerous it is, as one gets nearer, and nearer to the front. However with modern “asymmetric warfare” there are no fixed lines, everywhere is a potential battlefield and terms like “forward and well forward “ are meaningless in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In these countries female soldiers are tasked to work alongside all male combat units not only for their special skills (e.g. combat medic) but also for cultural reasons when searching Iraq and Afghan civilian women and providing them with medical care – a concomitant of the “Hearts and Minds” programme to wean the local populations away from the insurgents.

Female worth in “battle” is witnessed by the award of Military Crosses (MC) in 2006 to Private (now Lance Corporal) MICHELLE NORRIS and in 2009 to Able Seaman KATE NESBITT (both of whom were medics), and Silver Stars (America’s 3rd highest combat medal) to Sergeant LEIGH ANN HESTER in 2008 and Private First Class MONICA BROWN in 2007.

As History repeatedly shows, in war pragmatism takes over, and impractical rules are ignored. No general has ever claimed that he has too many troops or resources for the tasks which face him. A nation which mobilizes its eligible women can expect to increase its armed forces by 35%.

Women are undoubtedly made differently from men. They are generally lighter of bone structure and have more fat than a man. They are smaller and have less strength in the upper body, (30%) although their legs and lower body are strong. A comparison of athletic records does confirm that a woman is not as athletically capable as a man. For 100 meters the Women’s World Record is 9,49% slower. The Women’s World Record for the Marathon is 8,8% slower. In the Pole Vault, the woman’s performance is 21.34 % worse.

YVETTA HLAVACOVA, a Czech, on the 5th, August 2006 swam the fastest women’s time (subject to ratification) across the Channel from England to France of 7 hrs 25mins and 15 seconds, the 9th fastest of 1499 swims (crossings). The fastest man is CHAD HUNDEBY in 7 hours 17 minutes in 1994.

But this is not the whole picture. Women are said to be able to suffer pain better than men. They do not feel the cold as much. They fare well in endurance events. Whilst it cannot be denied that a woman is generally physically weaker than the equivalent man of the same ethnicity, her performance is not so poor as to render her incapable of performing similar military tasks. A good woman is better than a bad man.



A WVS member being trained to shoot in WW2.

Much has been spoken and written against the integration of women, particularly in fighting units. Men shall fight whilst women shall weep! Or as Friedrich Nietzsche 1883 (the German existentialist philosopher who challenged Christian beliefs) wrote : “men should be trained for war and women for the recreation of the warrior: all else is folly ! “

Israel is usually quoted by opponents who cite the death of women (circa 180 in the Palmarch) in the 1948 War as a reason for NOT allowing them to serve in front line units. They claim that the wounding or death of female colleagues on the battlefield so distresses the men that they lose their fighting cohesion. Jewish society is introverted around the home and the Mother.

It is interesting therefore that in an internal report in 2007 commissioned by Major General ELAZAR STERN, Head of the IDF (Israel Defence Force) personnel department, it recommended sweeping changes for women, offering equal opportunities to serve in future in ALL army units including elite commando wings. The report was welcomed by retired (female) Brigadier Yehudit Ben-Natan who was the former head of the now defunct Women’s Corps. She has long campaigned for the total integration of women



AB Kate Nesbitt



LCpl Michelle Norris

This Memorial near the Cenotaph was unveiled in 2005.



and rejected arguments that they might get hurt, taken prisoner, or forced to work in uncomfortable and confined spaces with men. She is in favour of all women tank crews and missile batteries and is against allocating tasks by gender.

Thus Israel is following the path of integration of women into the previously all male “macho” units of their regular army. They would not do this if it put the State of Israel at risk. It is the only Country with Military Conscription for women. Complete equality has not yet been achieved, but it is inevitable. The Ministry of Defence is publishing later this year its review of the exclusion of women from close combat roles, consistent with the European Commission (EC)

Equal Treatment Directive which requires it to reassess its policy at least every 8 years.

With strides in contraception and pregnancies, and the increasingly technical nature of war where physical strength counts for less, women will take an increasingly dominant role in the Army. Only recently General Sir David Richards, the Chief of the Defence Staff predicted that one day a woman general would hold his position.

Will states always need women soldiers ? The answer must surely be YES , because as Plato so presciently wrote 2300 years ago -

“ ONLY THE DEAD HAVE SEEN
THE END OF WAR ! ”

BOOKS

“The Dukes 1702 – 2006” and The War Poems of a Young Soldier

THE “DUKES” – A concise history and digest.

This new publication about the Dukes has been compiled by Terry Butterworth, Scott Flaving and Richard Harvey. Copies have been distributed free to serving and retired members of the Regiment. Reading between the lines, the authors must have said to themselves “the Dukes we remember has become 3 Yorks and we want to make sure that our old Regiment is not forgotten as it was. Let’s bring together all the

essential information about the Dukes – history ‘ancient and modern’, regimental titles, names of Colonels and COs and sportsmen and regimental characters, a miscellany of facts and recollections – so that it is all in one place and everyone can read it”. And that is what they have done. Well done them.

It is a wonderful book to dip into, finding some things that were once familiar and many that are new. I especially enjoyed the Soldiers’ Service Memories,

partly drawn from the Regimental Archives and partly from individuals themselves: Clifford Garlic and Eric Mallinson who served with 1 DWR in North Africa and Italy; Peter Walker who was taken prisoner serving with 2/7 DWR in 1940; Bob Dawson and Tom Nowell who fought in Korea. A number of Commanding Officers remember their days as well.

There is a very good section covering specific campaigns that the Regiment was engaged in, and large compilations of excellent photographs, which will bring back memories for many – I even found the back of my own head. There's glory for you! Many, perhaps most, readers will have their own copy by now so I will not take up space with further description but if you have not seen it, it is well worth getting your hands on a copy.

Major Terry Butterworth, in his introduction, thanks Mr Jan Telensky "without whose support and generosity this book would not have been published". We are indeed grateful that it was made possible. TJN.

Historians Request for Memoirs by Forgotten Heroes of the Battle of the Somme.

Historian Hugh Sebag-Montefiore is looking for accounts by soldiers who served in the Duke of Wellington's, and in the other Yorkshire Regiment units: the Green Howards, East Yorks, and West Yorks, or any other regiment, during the July-November 1916 battle of the Somme. This is in connection with a book on the fighting on the Somme commissioned by Penguin which he is researching. The book will focus on the capture or attempted capture of the chain of villages and strong-

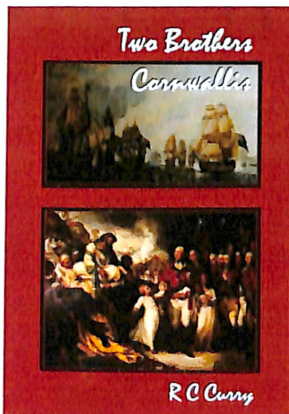
points which had to be overcome if the German line was to be broken and will cover actions involving the 2nd, 1st/7th, 8th, and 10th Duke of Wellington's; 2nd, 1st/4th, 1st/5th and 6th-10th Green Howards; 1st/4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, and 13th East Yorks; and 1st, 2nd, 1st/5th, 1st/7th, 1st/8th, 9th, 10th and 11th West Yorks. By way of illustration only, these actions will include the 8th Duke of Wellington's 14/9/1916 capture of the Wonder Work; 6th Green Howards' 27-29/9/1916 capture of Stuff Redoubt; the 6th E.Yorks' capture of Mouquet Farm; and the 1st/7th West Yorks' 1/7/1916 valiant stand in Schwaben Redoubt. Contact Hugh Sebag-Montefiore at 37 Tanza Road, London NW3 2UA or on 0207-435-1035 or at "mailto:sebags@hsmontefiore.com".

Two Brothers Cornwallis

Readers may recall the article in Number 262 (Spring 2007) by Charles Curry. He has now finished his opus and has been published, details below.

The War Poems of a Young Soldier – John Hollands

John Hollands served as national service platoon commander (12 Platoon D Company) with 1 DWR in Korea and was awarded an MC. He has written a number of books about Korea, including "The Dead, the Dying and the Damned". The poems under review have been extracted from Volume 3 of "The Bloody Hook", his fictionalised memoirs. The poems, as a separate entity, are published by Edward Gaskell at £7.50, and are available from either John Hollands, 2 Orchards farm, Buckerell, Devon EX14 3GJ or Edward Gaskell



Two Brothers Cornwallis

Featured in a previous issue of the Iron Duke, this is a story of the former Colonel of the 33rd of Foot, forerunner of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 2nd Earl and later 1st Marquis General Charles Cornwallis, and his brother Admiral Sir William Cornwallis, in the period from the American War of Independence to Trafalgar.

The author has linked the lives of these two remarkable brothers as they jointly served their King and country during those early years of the British Empire.

Publication is anticipated to be in May 2010 and readers of the Iron Duke are being offered the opportunity to purchase 'signature' copies in the hard back version.

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(publishers) Ltd, Unit 7, Caddstown Business Park, Biddeford, Devon EX39 3DX. It has a number of illustrations, contemporary photographs and water colour illustrations by David Chapman-Andrews.

John Hollands



The poems are attributed to Private Rupert Sandwich, who, unless I have misinterpreted where fact and fiction lie, joined the Army with the Author and was his wireless operator in Korea, and was killed in the third Battle of the Hook. Each poem is preceded by an explanatory paragraph or two, so the context is understood. They follow on in logical sequence: poems about training and getting to Korea; operations and activities prior to the Hook; “The Bloody Hook”; and three poems collectively titled “Epilogue”.

Whether the reader will like them or not is a matter of personal taste. They are quite derivative to Kipling’s “Barrack Room Ballads” with Tommy Atkins getting a few references, but the author is no Kipling. But he clearly is passionate about what he wants to say, outspoken about the trials and awfulness of war, and reflective on the life of soldiers in and out of battle. And the author is clearly a very loyal Duke.

*“Footsloggers we are now, my boys!
Doomed to crawl on our bellies.
Proudly we march under new colours,
Part of the Duke of Welly’s.
Dukes, Dukes we are now, my boys,
Bloody and heroic is our story,
Tommy Atkins was one of us, my boys,
So ours to enhance his glory.”*

A War Grave in Cairo

Bob Campbell-Lammerton sent this photograph opposite. He writes “I took this photo of a fallen DWR man now interred in the War Graves Commission Cemetery in Cairo recently. Stopping outside it wholly by chance for only a few minutes whilst others I was with sorted something, I popped inside walked along two rows and there was the Dukes' crest!!”

The inscription of the stone reads “ 14372 Private F

Chippendale, Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, 22nd September 1915. Unofficial records available on the internet show that F stood for Fred.

The 8th (Service) Battalion DWR served at Gallipoli, landing at Lala Baba on Suvla Bay on 6 August 1915. It was bloody work and the Bn was straight into action against the Turks, who greatly outnumbered them and had the advantage of being well positioned on high ground. Casualties were extremely heavy during operations between the landing and 23 August, the last serious action it was engaged in. It remained at Gallipoli until 18 December, in bitter weather, until embarking for the island of Imbros, now Gokceaca. Agamemnon knew this region well when he led the armies of Greece against Troy over 2000 years ago

CSM Miles’ memoirs tell us that at the end of 23 August when the roll was called there were roughly 250 still standing out of a total of about 900. The full number of casualties were not recorded, but 8 DWR received reinforcements comprising 19 officers and 607 Rank and File, which tallies. From Imbros it was moved on 20 December to Alexandria on HMT Empress of Britain.

We do not have an individual record of Private Chippendale’s part in all this, but he must surely have been in 8 DWR and went through the Gallipoli Campaign and died in Egypt of wounds or other causes.

Further traces of Dukes in far flung (near flung too) places welcome.



CHINA GILL'S 27 YEARS SERVICE IN THE DUKES – ITALY 1944

In the last edition China, Battalion Ration NCO, had landed with 1 DWR at Anzio, been engaged in resupplying the forward sub units during fierce fighting, and then moved North with the break out, finally telling us that 1 DWR led the parade in the march past in Rome, which was undefended. This covered the period January to June 1944, and ended with the Dukes taking a well earned period of rest. Now it is time to move on again. As ever, this account is in China's own words, except where a small clarification is required.

Towards the end of August the Bn rejoined the front line. It appeared very difficult to contact the Germans as they concentrated on withdrawing North, demolishing bridges, roads etc, making hard work for the R.E.s who became adept in constructing Bailey Bridges and using bulldozers and explosives. I was kept busy travelling round collecting rations delivering them to Coy locations etc. B Echelon became a small unit on its own, always isolated from HQ. We were 15 strong including 3 drivers, 1 cook, 1 hygiene OR. All through the rest of the Italian campaign we were some miles from HQ. We were constantly on the move.

The route was now at the beginning of the mountain range the Apennines and becoming more rugged by the mile. I remember one place where the road had been built half way across a large hill, just cut out from the terrain, it had been blown and the R.E.s had managed to make a passage. On the left was the steep hillside, to the right for a distance of some 4 or 5 yards had been shored up but a steep drop made it difficult to place any timber/steel to make it safe. Only one vehicle could use it at a time. The R.M. Police controlled traffic and movement was slow. The only other route for some miles was in use by other divisions. Thankfully I only had to cross this obstacle once.

When we reached the summit I noticed an RAOC Unit was billeted there, then I saw a large pipe leading from a hut that stretched back down the hill. I discovered it was a pumping station that had laid a pipe over the hills. It was pumping petrol from some miles back (similar to PLUTO = Pipe Line Under The Ocean, as used on the landing in France). It certainly saved the problem of getting fuel past the blown up roads.

One of our (ie B Echelon) first stops was just below the town of Assisi. After the day's delivery of rations we had a walk up the hill to the town. Unfortunately we had arrived at the quietest part of the town. Not a soul was in sight and as the war had just passed by we did not bother to walk any further so returned to camp.

The Jerries continued their policy of withdrawing as soon as Allied troops overcame their rearguards. On arriving at the River Arno near Florence the ground was in flood. The R.E.s built a long Bailey Bridge, but the floods were so strong half of this bridge was washed away. I was lucky in finding one of the few roads that was passable. The Coys soon reached the country North of Florence. Every bridge over the R. Arno had been

demolished, except one, that was the well known bridge the "Ponte Vecchia", one of the historical bridges in Italy. All military vehicles were forbidden to use it for fear of further damage but as I approached with my ration truck for some reason I was allowed to cross.

The fighting troops could have advanced more quickly if the supply column could have advanced more quickly. We passed through the east side of Florence and had a spell out of the line. We were based in some open spaces, resting, replenishing and even allowed to go into Florence in the evening. A few wine shops were open. I was with SSgt Bailey and we found to our amazement a club was already operating solely for WOs and NCOs; I believe there was also one for officers.

It was time to move forward, there seemed to be only two roads in use going North up the Apennines, the one on the left for American Divisions called Route 6 I think; our Division used the other known as Arrow Route.

As we gradually moved North the weather became atrocious, roads and tracks became layered in mud. Tank Regts were kept as close to the infantry as possible but it was impossible for them to be used. The Coys were kept in action, and where possible isolated farm buildings were taken over for reserve platoons to have a place for drying clothing, equipment etc. Artillery had difficulty getting guns in and out of positions. Brigade HQ was cut off at one time for 24 hours by streams turning into torrents.

The Bn had the use of a dozen mules; to get rations to HQ took me over 3 hours, then it took them over an hour to reach the forward Coys. Finally a troop of 90 mules were used. An Indian was in charge of each group of about 10-12 mules. On completion of each task the Indian would immediately say "you give me chit sahib". Apparently if he was given this complimentary chit he would be rewarded if he accumulated a certain number.

As Autumn passed the weather turned extremely cold, extra clothing was drawn by the QM. First everyone was issued with string vests (proved to be excellent) then windproof trousers and blouses with hoods. I also had high altitude rations, ie extra tea, sugar, milk and chocolate.

The advance continued through the mountains, the Dukes suffering casualties and the terrain becoming colder and higher. B Echelon was located a few miles from Bn HQ around Borgo San Lorenzo. This proved to be a good base and interesting because an American heavy gun was a short distance in the rear, and a small

landing strip for US spotter planes on our right. The crews were billeted nearby. The mountains only a mile to our front rose steeply. The US spotter planes would fly over the mountain, locate targets and the US gun would send shells over the mountain.

Another item of interest occurred; a fighter plane (US) flew low over the airstrip going round in circles. He must have been in radio contact. After a quarter of an hour circling low over the strip, which was much too short a distance for his plane to land, he came in without lowering his under carriage and skidded to a perfect landing. He did not have enough fuel to return to base and rightly decided to try his luck on the short airstrip.

As the front advanced slow but sure the Dukes suffered more casualties. HQ and B Echelon moved forward. The strength was now reduced to three coys. It was now Sept 1944. Lt Col Webb Carter was appointed GI (Training) of an Italian Division. His successor was Lt Col FP St M Shiel (South Wales Borderers). A period of heavy fighting followed.

B Echelon found their next billet was on a large open space at the base of the mountains, and there were numerous other regiments based there. We were surprised to find a number of tents supplied by the US forces. With snow now being very deep we welcomed the tentage. Like everything American we found the tents had up to date furnishing. There was a small combustion stove in the centre of every tent, the chimney protruding horizontally about 9 inches from the top, then the stove pipe affixed downward towards the ground into a nine inch deep trench running out under the tent flies and then a vertical pipe upwards just above the top of the stove with a conical cover. A load of coke was outside every tent. The weather was now so cold it was very welcome.

8th October, heavy fighting had been taking place. C and A Coys had been successful in taking a crest and the CO went forward to carry out a personal recce of C Coy area when a grenade or shell landed mortally wounding him.

Mount Ceco had to be captured in pouring rain, mud and darkness. Casualties were being moved to the rear by stretcher bearers, MT drivers and any person available. It was here that A Coy runner, Pte Burton showing extraordinary courage won the Victoria Cross. On 9th Oct the Bn returned to the Borgo San Lorenzo area.

Edition 264 (Spring 2008) carried the obituaries of Arthur "Robbie" Burns DSO, OC A Coy in the Monte Ceco action, and of Douglas Emery DCM, a platoon sergeant in Burns' Company. Both of these valiant men rallied the troops under their command on Monte Ceco in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances, in which also, as China says, Richard Burton won his VC.

Edition 263 reported on the unveiling of a war memorial to 1 (UK) Division's men who lost their lives in the bitter fighting of Autumn 1944. Major William Shiel, son of the CO of 1 DWR who was killed as described above, was there, together with Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, whose Father handed over to Colonel Shiel just before this phase of the advance up Italy. In this edition Major Bob Heron reports on the latest visit to Palazzuolo-Sul-Senio, a small town that the Dukes liberated, and which has not forgotten the sacrifices made by members of our Regiment.

As a final footnote to China's story: 1 DWR took 76 casualties during the crossing of the Arno and 72 on Monte Ceco. In the break out from Anzio 39 officers and 921 other ranks became casualties. The Battle Honours Anzio and Monte Ceco were hard earned.

Wellington College Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Maj Gerry Long (Adjt Wellington College)

Wellington College CCF continues to grow, with the new Recruits embarking on all elements of the training with great enthusiasm, be it Drill from the ever vigilant guest instructors from the Royal Military Academy or Shooting under the direction of Flt Lt Roth and Capt Kitty Jack. WO1 Ed Home has been an outstanding addition to the College CCF and has done an admirable job covering for the Adjutant while he was away in Afghanistan.

At Speech Day the Corps of Drums put on an excellent

display and the Sword of Honour this year went to Cadet U/Officer Jamie Whitwell who after two terms as RSM moved up the ranks, with Cadet RSM, Amir Idris taking over for the final term. Jamie intends to go to Sandhurst after University and then on to the Irish Guards, Amir is also looking to go to Sandhurst after University before returning to Malaysia. The Porteus Plate was awarded to Cadet WO2 Ben Bowtell, for his distinguished final year with the Royal Marines Section. Congratulations also to Capt Jim Price for his Bar CCF LSM.

Waterloo Company

The Coy goes from strength to strength, as ever the cadets had a diverse mix of the military and not so military fun, with also the added development of personal development and leadership. The training included drill, camouflage & concealment, plus

exercises involving stalking in the undergrowth, poncho-bivvy building, Skill at Arms, Fieldcraft and patrolling (where Theo Byrd) proved to be accomplished at leading his patrol). Added to this stimulating variety of other training, including first aid, map work (in preparation for

the adventurous training camps at Fremington at Easter and South Wales in the summer), orienteering, field cooking, building survival shelters, the low ropes course, and stretcher races over the obstacle course (where a team from Chindits 1 achieved the fastest combined time of 7 min 32 secs). There were lots of opportunities to shoot too, on the .22 range here, at clays at Bisley (under Capt Carole Blunden-Lee), and, as a finale on the successful Field Day at Gibraltar Barracks in the

Summer Term, an exciting CQB exercise firing lots of blanks as well as live firing with the Cadet GP on the 30m range. We also despatch a Section under Capt Eunice Gillan to 1 YORKS in Munster (Germany) for an action packed spell with the Battalion, all thoroughly enjoy the experience, all have since been in touch with the Schools Liaison Officer looking to turn this excellent visit into a possible career. Our thanks to 1 YORKS for hosting us so well.

Corunna (*Advanced Infantry Company*)

Major Gutteridge and Capt. Granville-Chapman report that this year a larger group of cadets than in previous years volunteered to stay on for a second year in the CCF in Corunna Company. With excellent NCOs in the shape of CSM Lizzie Wedderburn, C/Sgt George Offer, Cpls Angus Farquharson and Fraser Barrett the cadets were rotated through a sequence of advanced infantry tactics. These included section attacks, patrolling and ambushes. The Field Weekend at

Bramley in September had Corunna Coy. Under bashas for two nights - and for once it did not rain! The sections passed through a series of 'rehearsal' stances during the day in preparation for night patrols around the area searching for 'insurgents'. The final morning saw a series of section attacks on the 'enemy' that had been located holed up in a 'fortress' on the area. The best male cadet was LCpl Jack Harcourt and best female cadet was LCpl Biz Mallet.

Alma (*Junior Leaders*) Coy

The main aim of the JLC is to produce leaders and to develop potential NCOs who will instruct the younger year groups in the summer term and beyond. Therefore, the first few sessions were dedicated to the theory of Teaching Practice and how to instruct effectively. As the JLC were a rather large section - 35 in total - we had to divide them down into much smaller groups to practice their new found skills on each other. There were some tremendous efforts at teaching cam and concealment, section attacks, ambush, SAA, etc. Even at this early stage, there were some obvious leaders emerging whose instructional skills were excellent -

Patrick Davies is worthy of note in this respect. JLCs approach to patrolling, however, was rather unique - how they ended up going from staggered formation to climbing trees boggles the imagination!! The next week was section attacks and break contact drills using blank ammunition - we were taking our lives in our hands! However, it was carried out with some skill, despite the fact that they were diving down into freezing cold puddles in one of the coldest days of the year. By the end of the training, I was glad to say that the vast majority were ready to be promoted to NCO status and have served the younger years well since then.

It only leaves me to say goodbye to our Commanding Officer, Lt Col Eddy Heddon, on behalf of all the Officers and Cadets of the CCF thank him for his valuable service over many years, like all good old soldiers he fades away to pastures new, we wish him all the best in the future, Virtutis Fortuna Comes.

Making your
Will?



Please don't forget the Regiment

The Friends of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund was started in 1998. The fund has been and is an invaluable resource in helping to sustain and build the Regiment we are all so proud of and to foster the Regimental spirit it

relies upon. There is much more we could and should be doing in the future and so ensure the Regiment retains its character and place in the Army as a living testimony to all those who have served in our ranks.

If you are able to help the fund through a bequest, or in any other way, please do.

The Friends of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund is a registered charity and any bequests made to it are not subject to inheritance tax.

If you would like any legal help or guidance from the Regimental Solicitor in making a bequest please call RHQ on 10422 361671.

Lunch at Endor — By John Wilson

In the last issue John Wilson's article "The Road from Damascus" described a journey by a detachment of soldiers from 1 DWR escorting a transport company of the Syrian component of the French Army from Damascus to the Bekaa valley in Lebanon. He now recounts further experiences from his tour in the region.

In the early Autumn of 1945 1 DWR had been deployed to protect the pipeline which carried oil from Iraq to the refinery at Haifa. It had been attacked by Zionist terrorists as part of a campaign to pressurise the British Administration to remove the cap on the number of Jewish immigrants entering Palestine. Less than a decade earlier Arab rebels had attacked the very same pipeline to protest against what they considered to be excessive immigration by Jews escaping from Adolf Hitler's Germany.

The pipeline was buried underground alongside an earthen track and a telephone line. We established platoon camps at intervals of 4 or 5 miles and we were to patrol frequently throughout 24 hours using bren-gun carriers.

My camp was overlooked from the North by the Church of the Beatitudes on the summit of Mount Tabor at a distance of about 4 miles; to the East lay the village of Indur, one time home of the Witch of Endor, a biblical celebrity. As well as its human population Indur had a large population of vicious dogs who snapped and snarled at us whenever we patrolled through the village. We were grateful to have a sheet of armour between us and them. To my immediate West the guard duties were continued by Skinner's Horse, a mechanised regiment of the Indian Army.

On the day of our arrival we had two visitors. A local farmer came to say that he would be absolutely delighted if we were to site our latrine on his land – or words to that effect. We made his day! Then a pig farmer from nearby Nazareth came to offer to collect

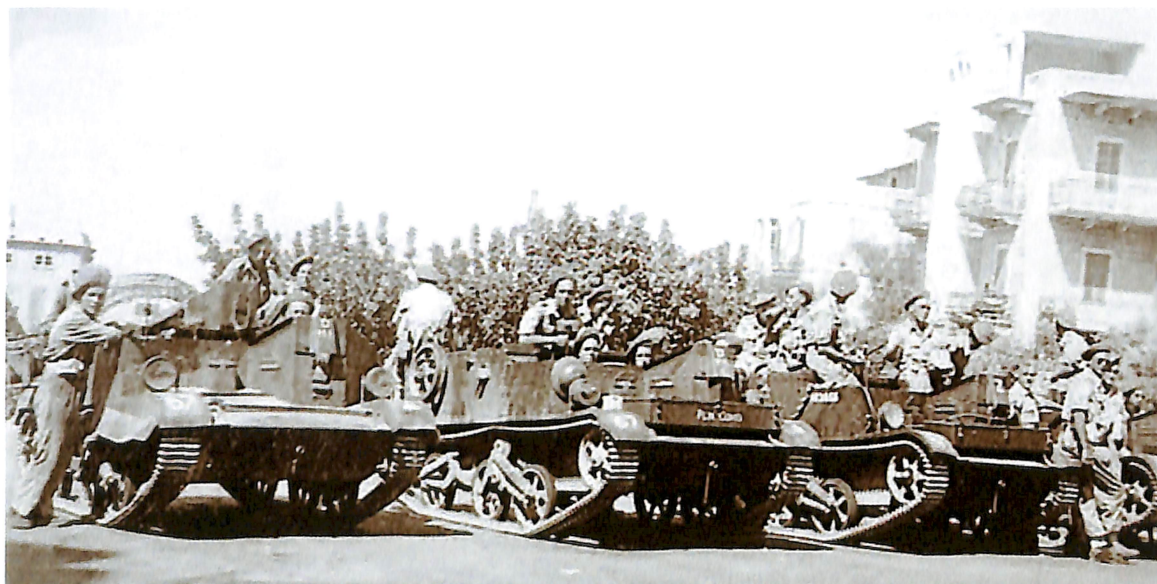
out cookhouse waste on a daily basis. We had a discussion about the size of the market for pork products and he explained that whereas Jews and Muslims did not eat pork there was a local Christian population large enough for him to make a living.



Immigrants entering the transit camp at Athlit, for documentation Palestine, June 1946

Two problems had been quickly solved but there was a third: a dead donkey lay by the side of the track a hundred yards or so to the East. By daylight a buzzard gorged its way on the carcass. By night it slept on top of one of the telegraph poles until there was light enough for it to resume its gluttony next day.

After several days I consulted my Company Commander Major Bernard Ellam and he suggested I



Carriers of 'D' Coy backing up a curfew. Haifa, August 1946

drive to Afule and seek help from the Palestine Police. They were very affable and suggested that I go with them and talk to the Mukhtar (head man) of Indur. A day was fixed and we saw the Mukhtar who was most courteous. He walked with a limp as a result of having been shot by Arab rebels during the rising of the late 1930s.



'Wasp' flamethrowers passing through Haifa, July 1946. The ignition system of the flamethrower had been dismantled and a coloured dye added to the oil. They were never used.

A promise was made to dispose of the donkey and we were pressed to stay for lunch. After protesting of the inadequacy of the lunch due to the lack of notice, we were invited to a "proper" lunch. A date was set and the officers of D Company were invited. The party was made up by several police officers, the local Imam and the owner of the village. The latter was a youngish man who later on became spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Before leaving the area I took tea with him at his house in Nazareth and envied his comfortable life-style.

Lunch consisted of a whole sheep stuffed with rice



M.S. 'Haviva Reik', laden with immigrants, entering the Port of Haifa, June 1946.

and garlic. The Police had taken whisky but were retrained from passing it round because of the presence of the Imam. After having our greasy hands washed and dried for us we had coffee before dispersing back to our various duties.

The donkey had been removed but not before I had shot the buzzard. Its gluttony had disgusted me and I had developed a hatred for the bird. I regretted my foul deed – the bird was only doing its job and, caked in

offal, it stank every bit as badly as the donkey had done. Furthermore I felt obliged to dispose of the carcass myself. I couldn't afford to host a lunch.

Lunch at En Dor was the only notable event during our guardianship of the oil pipeline. I don't remember leaving the camp and I don't recall who took over from us. The really unpleasant period of the Palestine problem was to come later.

Later our duties were mostly connected with the arrival into Haifa port shiploads of immigrants. Dockside duty involved the provision of armed back-up to the police and immigration authorities whilst town duties were more to do with riot control and the enforcement of curfews. The local population was habited to flood on to the streets when an immigrant ship approached. In those days I knew the Riot Act by heart but never had to recite it.

Other activities included the examination of vehicles by the use of mobile road blocks, staking out expected terrorist targets and the nightly inspection of the railway line before the departure of the Haifa-Jerusalem train.

Sadly terrorism has been one of the growth industries of the last hundred years and is much the worse now for having terrorists who value their own lives with as little regard as for those of their victims.

I think we had it cushy in 1945.

2 DWR in Burma and Mrs Bridget Rylands.

Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE wrote to give news of Bridget Rylands, whose Father was Lt Col HB Owen, who commanded 2 DWR in Burma in January 1942. The Battalion had been rushed in to join a composite force of approximately two brigades to strengthen the garrison in Burma, under ferocious assault from the Japanese. Much of what remained of the Battalion after the initial actions which saw the companies considerably dispersed, were forced to swim the Sittang River. Colonel Owen and a small party did so and rested in a small village where that night he and his batman were sleeping; they were found and murdered by dacoits (bandits). Colonel Owen joined the Dukes as he was a great friend of General Evelyn's Father at Sandhurst.

The point of the letter was to say that contact had been made with Bridget Rylands, who wrote to him ...

"Thank you so much for your letter. It brought back memories of my childhood in India when your father was often in our house. After my Mother died so prematurely in 1951 I returned to Yorkshire to live with my Grandmother and lost touch with the Regiment and my parent's friends. Strangely - through my work at York Minster in the embroidery department – nearly 40 years later, I was put in touch again, owing to the Regiment's commission for us to make a new altar frontal for the Duke's Chapel in the Minster.

It was then I also found out that one of my Father's junior officers, Derek Roberts, had lived only twenty miles from where I now live for more than thirty years – we had a lovely reunion party!"

Mrs Rylands was kind enough to send a donation to the Army Benevolent Fund with her letter. She has also

raised £2600 for Help for Heroes through an embroidery exhibition in Middleton Village Hall, near Pickering. Readers attending the Yorkshire Regiment Service at the Minster on Saturday 19 June will have the opportunity to see the altar frontal in our Chapel and admire the work of Mrs Rylands and her colleagues.

Lest We Forget

John Cuffley kindly sent me a copy of a remarkable book produced by Banstead and District Branch of the

Royal British Legion. At a Branch Christmas lunch a member's daughter said that "when you look round the room there must be some amazing war storied that can be recorded". And so, in short, they did. The book, illustrated with contemporary and historical photographs, gives an idea of what Banstead and District Branch members went through in Europe, Near and Far East and at home, with stories which span WW2 to the Malayan Emergency and the Falklands War. A very good effort.

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. *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; 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: jbkgandjgg@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, The Old Rectory, The Green, Marston Moreteyne, Bedfordshire, MK43 0NF.

Anniversary of the Liberation of Palazzuolo-Sul-Senio, Italy.

(Also reported in 3 YORKS Notes, with photographs).

In September and October 1944, the 1 DWR, as part of the 1st (UK) Division, was fighting its way up the Apennines, north of Florence, liberating the small town of Palazzuolo-Sul-Senio and capturing the strategic feature of 'Monte Cece', an ugly feature of 760 metres which dominated the country for miles around. After finally securing the crest of Monte Cece, the Commanding Officer, Lt Col F P St M Shiel, was mortally wounded. During the final phase of the operation, Pte Richard Burton won the first Regimental Victoria Cross of the war.

In September 2009 a small group of serving and ex-serving Dukes/3 YORKS were invited by the Mayor of Palazzuolo-Sul-Senio, to attend the anniversary of liberation of that area of Italy, over the weekend of



Drum Major Oxley sounding the 'Last Post' on the summit of Monte Cece



The memorial to the 1st (UK) Division in Palazuolo-Sul-Senio. Left to right: Majors Liam McCormick, Humphrey Bradley, William Shiel, Drum Major Oxley and Major Matt Palmer.

19/20th September. The group included Majors Matt Palmer, Liam McCormick, Humphrey Bradley, Bob Heron, David Harrap and Drum Major Oxley. We were joined in Italy by Major William Shiel, the son of Lt Col Shiel, who was killed on Monte Cece and the Defence Attaché from the British Embassy in Rome.

The two main events of the weekend were; on the Saturday an informal 'Remembrance' ceremony on the summit of Monte Cece, where there are now memorial

plaques to 3 Brigade and the 1st (UK) Division and on the Sunday, a much more formal parade and ceremony in the town centre which included the local Italian Army '66 Airmobile Regiment', Italian veterans and pretty much everyone else in the town (or so it seemed!). British and Italian wreaths were laid at the memorial in the town square. Drum Major Oxley (3 YORKS) sounded the Last Post at both these events.

The hospitality we received from everyone at Palazuolo was nothing short of amazing and we left with an invitation to return.

DWR Museum Donation

On the 30th September 2009, a small ceremony was held in Bankfield Museum to handover a cheque for £1500 from a Halifax Masons' Lodge, in memory of one of their former members, who served in the Dukes and was killed in the First World War. The donation was towards the costs of the recently refurbished WW1 section of the museum.

Skipton/Erquinghem-Lys - Twinning

Many members of the Dukes Association attended the twinning ceremony held in Skipton Town Hall on Saturday 24th October 2009. The links between the two towns have been forged by their links to the Dukes. Skipton presented the 'Honorary Citizenship' to the Regiment in 1983 and Erquinghem-Lys presented the 'Key' to the town in 2005. A memorial to Pte Arthur Poulter VC is already located in Erquinghem-Lys who have plans to name a roundabout in the town 'The Duke of Wellington's Roundabout' on Saturday 15th May 2010.

Dukes 'Molar' Dinner

The aptly named Molar Dinner was held in the Officers Mess of 3 YORKS on Friday 27th October 2009. 16 officers attended. The dinner is exclusively for Dukes officers 'commissioned from the ranks'. The name 'Molar' stems from the time of 'radio appointment titles'. The Quartermaster's appointment title was 'MOLAR'.

Left to right:
Mick Riley,
Andy Pigg,
Nick Wilson,
Paul Smith,
Sean Caine,
Phil McNeil,
Chris Hosty,
Walter Robins,
Lee Wildey,
Terry Butterworth,
Mark Stannard,
Peter Robinson,
Bob Heron,
Mally Birkett.

Not on photo,
but attended:
Richard Hind



London Branch

At its AGM on 20 September the London Branch decided to maintain its normal pattern of activities during the coming year by meeting quarterly at the Union Jack Club and attending the Regimental Plot at Westminster before or during the ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday.

On Thursday 5th November 2009 it was good to see General Evelyn, David and Jo Santa-Olalla, David and Edith Miller, and Donald Palmer as well as John Kelly, Colin and Vera Aukett, Tim Nicholson and the Greenways who had set up the Plot beforehand. As is usual the Duke of Edinburgh led the dignitaries round the Garden of Remembrance. These days it is easier to meet colleagues from other antecedent Regiments of the Yorkshire Regiment as our plots are now grouped together.



**Glenn Jagger and John Greenway
with the branch banner**

Our picture was taken on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November 2009. John Greenway later invited Glenn Jagger, on his left, to handle the Branch banner (so often carried in the past by his late Father, Keith) during the ceremony watched by Fred Richardson, a past

Chairman of the Branch, Eveline Jagger and Mavis, the partner of Bob Temple, who was away on other duties.

Shortly after the photograph was taken we were delighted to be joined for the ceremony by Matt Hall and his delightful daughter Sharon.



**Glenn Jagger
(2nd from left)
and
Eveline Jagger
(2nd from right).**

However in January it was with great sorrow that the Branch heard from Glenn Jagger that Eveline had died in hospital on 9 January 2010 from heart failure whilst receiving treatment for possible pneumonia aged only 63. This was a real blow for the family, which had lost Keith at a similar age in October 2008. Eveline's moving funeral service took place at the City of London Crematorium on Friday 22 January, at which Gordon and Mary Bell from Skipton Branch, with Colin and Vera Aukett, Mac and Biddy Dowdy and John Greenway from our London Branch were glad to be able to support the family, along with many of her colleagues from EDF, the firm from which she had only recently retired. She will be much missed by us all.



3 Fine Young at Heart Dukes

From left:

CSgt Pete Sugden,

Sgt Ian (Vez) Verrall

and WO2 Paul Grey,

now all resident in Tenerife.

Officers' Lunch at the HAC

The second Officers' Lunch at the Honourable Artillery Company's premises in City Road, London took place on Thursday 25th March. It was once again an enjoyable

occasion bringing together old friends from far flung parts of England. It was organised by Brig MRN Bray and we were well looked after by the HAC staff.



From L,
Sasha Mellor,
Robin Newell,
Sheenagh Nicholson,
Peter Mellor,
Jill Newell,
John Barkshire,
Michael Bray.



Near table, from L, Jo Cumberlege,
Jilly Mundell, Peter Andrews, Lucy Newton



From L, Lucy Newton, Dick Mundell, Annie Andrews,
Simon Newton, Bidy Dowdy, Mac Dowdy.



Table right, Huxtables and Greenways – table L, Kilburns and Shuttleworths and Charles Cumberlege.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

15 May	Erquinem Lys Parade	Near Lille, France
06 June	Yorkshire Regiment Day	
17 June	DWR Association Trustees Meeting	York
18 June	Waterloo Day	
18 June	Yorkshire Regiment Presentation of new Colours	Imphal Barracks, York
18 June	Officers' Dinner	York
19 June	York Minster Service and Lunch	York
22 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Barnsley (1100)
22 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Kirklees (1600)
23 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Rotherham (1100)
23 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Sheffield (1600)
25 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Craven (1100)
25 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Bradford (1600)
26 June	3 YORKS Freedom Parade	Calderdale (1300)
26 June	Laying Up of Old Colours	Halifax (1430)
2 October	Association AGM And Dinner	Bradford
10 Nov	Yorkshire Regiment AGM	York

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

www.dwr.org.uk

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Obituaries

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

Obituary – WO1 (RSM) Joe Collins

Joe Collins, sometimes known as 'Paddy', who died on 23 July 2009, joined the Army in early 1955 and after initial training in Halifax and York, was posted to 1 DWR in Chisledon later the same year where he joined B Company. As a keen, fit and tough young regular soldier in a mainly National Service Army he quickly gained promotion to Lance Corporal. He moved with the battalion to Malta at the start of the Suez Crisis in the summer of 1956 and later to Cyprus when the operations in Suez ended abruptly. In Cyprus during operations against EOKA terrorists in the mountains and in urban areas he became an effective Section Commander and was promoted to Corporal.

From Cyprus the battalion moved to Palace Barracks, Northern Ireland, in late 1957 where he was joined by his wife and family. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1959 prior to the move to Colchester and carried out the first tour in Kenya in 1961. A tour as a recruiter in Leeds followed, after which he rejoined the battalion in Osnabruck, taking part in the six-month UN tour in Cyprus in 1967. Joe and family went with the battalion to Hong Kong in 1968, moving later the same year as a Colour Sergeant to the Jungle Warfare School in Malaya. On rejoining the battalion in Catterick in early 1971, he was appointed CSM of C Company and became a member of a very efficient company team during anti-terrorist actions during the first two tours in

Northern Ireland in the New Lodge/Tiger Bay area of Belfast and later in Newry. In January 1973 he was promoted to WO1 and appointed RSM of the 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers, at York, returning to 1 DWR as RSM in early 1975 in Aldershot. Unfortunately during an exercise in Cyprus he suffered a severe bout of heat exhaustion from which he struggled to make a complete recovery and with retirement drawing near he left the battalion in July 1976 prior to the move to Minden to allow him to spend his last months of service in UK. He finally retired in March 1977.

In his youth Joe Collins was a very able sportsman, being a very good battalion soccer player and a more than capable boxer. As a CSM he coached and organised soccer teams at Company and Platoon level with great success. Senior Officers in the Regiment describe him as an effective senior NCO and Warrant Officer and as a colourful, robust and loyal Duke who had a rich and varied military career.

On leaving the army he moved with his wife and family to Withensea where for a while he ran a Caravan Park. He is survived by his wife Hazel, four sons, one of whom, David, served in the Dukes in the mid seventies, three daughters, twenty-nine grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Joe was cremated on 29 July 2009 following, at his request, a very private ceremony. WR

RHQ has been informed of the following deaths

Mr George Harvey Wragg.

Ex Corporal George Wragg who served in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions between 1939 - 45, died on 9th June 2009 at the age of 87.

Major Richard L. L. Davis TD.

Richard Davis was commissioned into the Dukes and served between 1946 - 48, but for most of this he was attached to the Royal West African Frontier Force in Gambia. Following his National Service, Richard served for many years in the TA, mostly with the Honourable Artillery Company, rising to the rank of major. Richard died on the 16th June 2009.

WO1 Albert Ancill.

Albert Ancill who served in both the 1st and 6th Battalions died on 23 November 2009.

WO1(RSM) Stephen McCabe.

Steve (Mac) McCabe who served from August 1979 - March 2005, died on 14th November 2009 at the age of 46. His funeral in Lytham was attended by hundreds of serving and ex serving Dukes, which was testimony to Steve's popularity and the respect in which he was held. His funeral was as close to a full military funeral as an ex serviceman can have. His draped coffin and Dukes wreath was carried by a bearer party of serving

Officers/SNCOs in uniform and Drum Major Oxley sounded the 'Last Post'.

Steve is survived by his wife 'Dawn' and his three children 'Stephen', 'Marc' and 'Lauren'.

Mr Wallace Preston.

Ex Sergeant 'Wally' Preston who served for 22 years in the 1st Battalion from 1971 - 1993, died as a result of a brain tumour on 30th November 2009.

Mr Andrew Moore.

Ex Corporal Andy (Eggy) Moore who served in the

1st Battalion between 1983 - 2002, died on 12th December 2009 at the age of 42.

His funeral on the 23rd December 2009 was attended by hundreds of ex Dukes and his coffin draped in a Regimental flag was carried by his Dukes friends. The 'Last Post' was also sounded.

Mr John Hackford.

John Hackford who served in the 1st Battalion 1942 - 45, in North Africa, Italy and Palestine, died on 14th December 2009 at the age of

LETTERS

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

From Mr Robert A Hawkins, (Former Company Commander 5/7 DWR).



I enclose some photographs that I took in January of this year (2009) which I thought might be of interest to you.

Mr Hawkins photograph, above, shows the unit shields at the small museum at Gritvken, South Georgia. The shields surround a caption "The Military Presence 1982 - 2001".

From Major David Sugden (7 Dec 09)

A friend of mine, Gunner national service, attended the November unveiling of the Cyprus Memorial to the 371 British servicemen who lost their lives during the EOKA problem. The only one I remember, and vividly, was Clive Lawrence, a National Serviceman. This

happened as an accident at night, shot by mistake by one of his own platoon on ambush - as I recall. A Company I think. The operation we were on was "Golden Rain", the first of DWR's many in Cyprus.

The other two who will remember it very well are Charles Huxtable, Senior Subaltern at the time, and John Greenway. - others certainly but don't often come to the Dinner Club. One other National serviceman who seldom comes is Procter Naylor, living close to me. He knew Clive pretty well.

Clive's Father was Colonel Lawrence, I think ex DWR, who was a member of the Union Club, Bradford along with my Father. I was asked to lunch to explain Clive's passing sometime after - difficult. Clive was a good bloke, popular.

From Mr Philip Reinders.

Kindly I would like to ask you if you can maybe put a little note in the upcoming edition of your magazine Iron Duke. I am doing research about the 49th Polar Division (West Riding) during its time in Holland in the period 1944 and 1945. I would like to hear from any members who served in 7 FDWR in the Netherlands 1944-1945. I am already in touch with LCpl Clifford Moulton from Ede but would love to hear from any other veterans who can help me out with my research.

For now kindest regards, thank you in advance for your help and look forward to hear from any veterans who can help out, and pieces of information and documentation most welcome.

Readers can contact Mr Reinders at Reinders2@chello.nl or Hellenbeekstrat 57, 8081 HR Elburg, Netherlands. Bob Duncan wrote of 1/7 DWR's landing at Gold Beach with 1/7 DWR in 49 (Polar Bear) Division in our last issue.

The second Officers' Lunch at the Honourable Artillery Company's premises in City Road, London took place on

Thursday 25th March. It was once again an enjoyable occasion bringing together old friends from far flung parts of England. It was organised by Brig MRN Bray and we were well looked after by the HAC staff.

From Mr Geoff Russell (Russ)

In my time with the battalion (69-78) along with a lot of good mates we were in BFPO 1, Hong Kong, yes the best posting the world and in my time I did an advert for the army. My part was only a bit part; the main man was a great mate called Mick Squires, who I now believe has passed away as I also worked with him here in N.I. in the prison service for a few years. The advert did a few

locations in its make-up. One of them was in a place called Repulse Bay off a raft in the sea. The funny thing about this was that Mick could not swim, but that did not stop the film crew from doing the shots they just moved him around in a small boat while the rest of us were in the sea.

Also we did a couple of shots up in Stanley in one of the sports halls across from the cookhouse. Well what I would like to know is if anybody could give me a site address or even a mail address of a company that could maybe let me have a copy of that ad as we never got to see it. Now we were told that it was to be put up on the big screen and not the T.V. so I hope you can help. Come on Duggie speak to me!

ARTICLES AND INFORMATION IN RECENT IRON DUKES

It's a good read; tell your friends in the Regiment to subscribe.

SPRING 2007



**Keith
Jagger
meeting the
Duke of
Edinburgh
at
Westminster
Abbey.**



AUTUMN 2007

**Johnny Sergeant's
Korea Section
at the
Annual
Bradford
Dinner Dance**



Burma Company 1DWR – Minden 1980

See facing page for Burma Company 30 years on.



Burma Company Group deployed on Herrick 10.