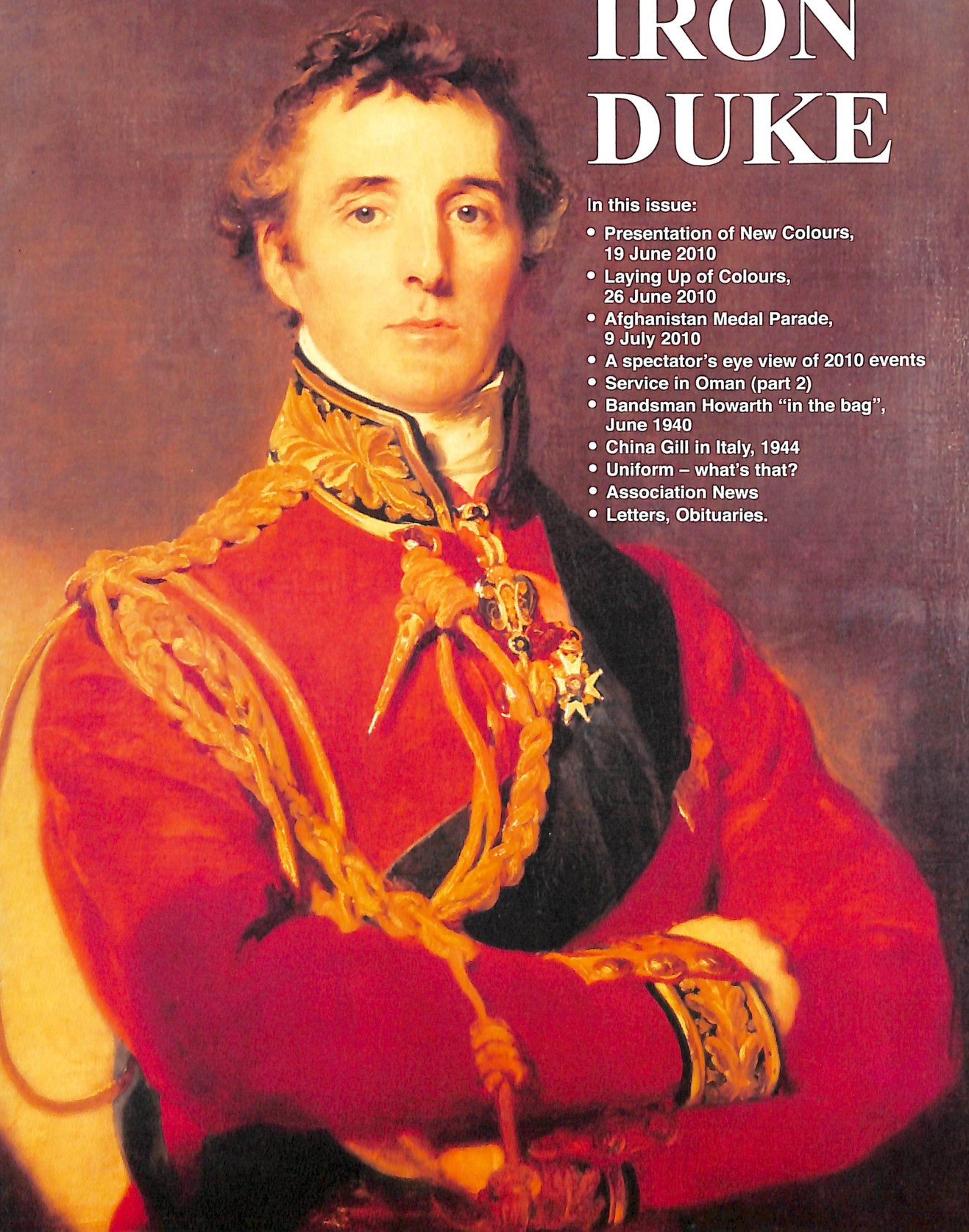


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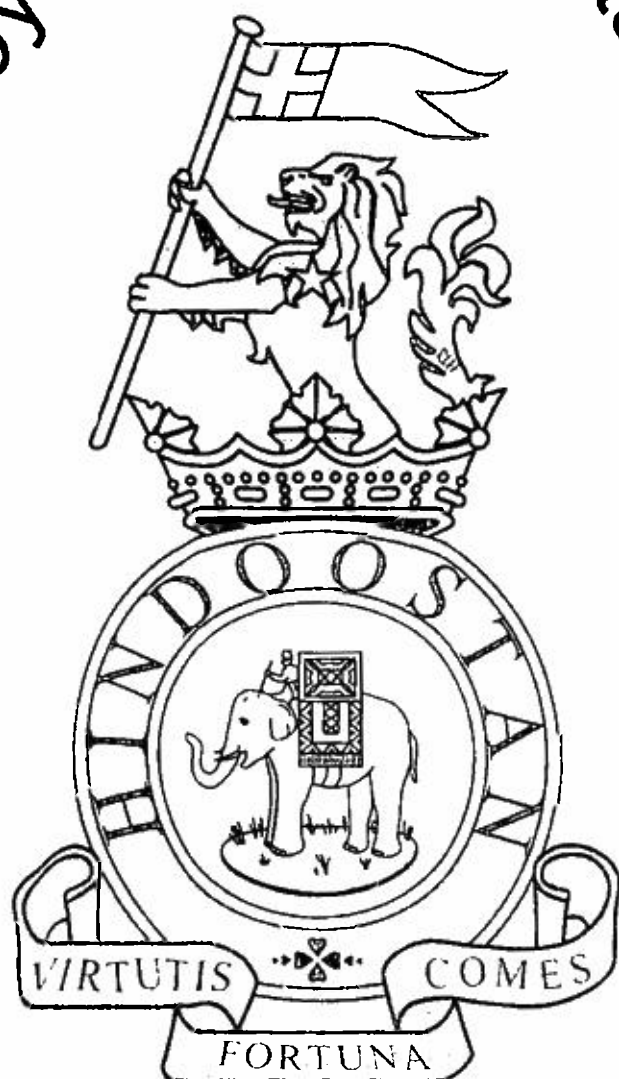
# THE IRON DUKE

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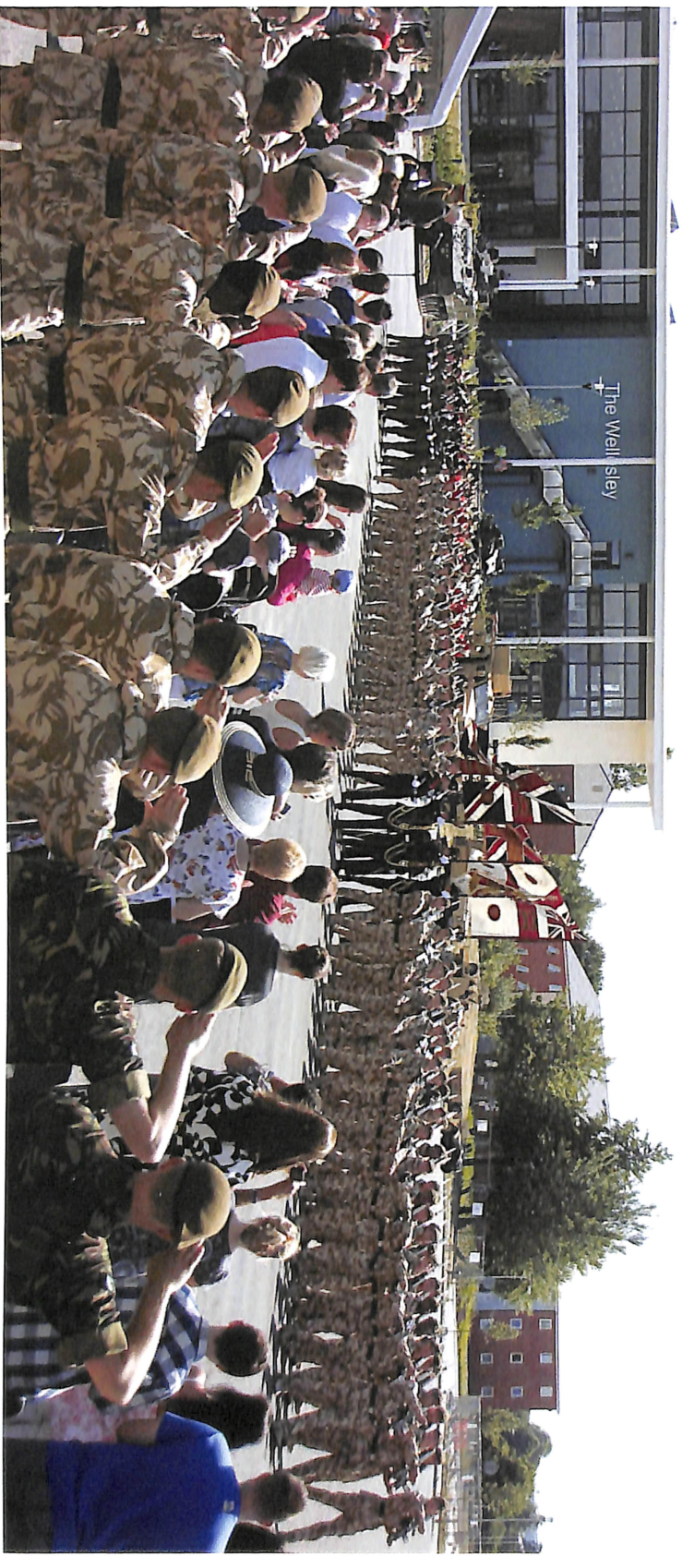
- Presentation of New Colours, 19 June 2010
- Laying Up of Colours, 26 June 2010
- Afghanistan Medal Parade, 9 July 2010
- A spectator's eye view of 2010 events
- Service in Oman (part 2)
- Bandsman Howarth "in the bag", June 1940
- China Gill in Italy, 1944
- Uniform – what's that?
- Association News
- Letters, Obituaries.



Digitised by The Regimental Archives







**The Afghanistan Medal Parade; Warminster, Wiltshire; 9 July 2010.**

# 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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Autumn 2010

No. 269

### BUSINESS NOTES

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'The Iron Duke' Crown Copyright

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## Editorial

### The Yorkshire Regiment

The Yorkshire Regiment's Battalions received new Colours in York in July, and the various parades and activities that went with that are reported in this edition. Overall it was a splendid weekend: the sun shone; the parades were impressive and well conducted; great crowds turned out to cheer their home Regiment through the streets of the City; the "chain gang" from our northern recruiting areas assembled in their finery and anyone who is anyone in Yorkshire was there.

And it was something more, and deeper, than just a good weekend. For many, perhaps for the first time, we felt that the new Regiment had a real identity and a beating heart. In the long gone days of the Yorkshire Brigade there was a feeling of a band of brothers amongst the then four Regiments which some thought got lost somewhere in the wider administrative reach of the King's Division. That Yorkshire comradeship has surely now been restored and strengthened.

Good fortune to The Yorkshire Regiment. To borrow a phrase from a Livery Company toast "may it flourish, root and branch, forever". Alas, the news coming out of Whitehall is not encouraging for the Services and it looks unlikely to be allowed to flourish in any great style for long. We have been here before but we will cross our fingers and see.

### The Regimental Association

We all must recognise that we share the responsibility for maintaining our Association. The manpower resources available to keep the events and the communications going are becoming increasingly slender. "RHQ", or Area Office (Halifax) as it is prosaically titled now, has many calls on its time quite apart from looking after the Dukes' old and bold.

As is reported elsewhere there is a lot going on, very successfully, enjoyed by many, and all the signs are that this will continue for many years to come. The Branches continue to meet, dinners and lunches attract good numbers, the annual assembly in the Bradford Hilton is well attended, and groups of Dukes meet frequently and informally to bring back old memories over a drink in all parts of UK and elsewhere.

Hopefully all this will continue under the broad oversight of our President, Colonel Nick Borwell, and his small band of trustees and some co-opted members, supported as time allows by Maj Bob Heron and Janet Gul and a few willing volunteers. If we are inclined to be gloomy we might think that the little we have by way of paid support must be under threat as austerity bites harder and deeper. If, as seems probable, the front line is to be cut, how likely is it that the little we have left to help us run our "antecedent" Regimental affairs will be untouched? Maybe we will need to do more for ourselves.

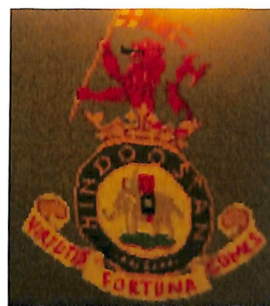
### The Chapel Royal of St Peter Ad Vincula, HM Tower of London

I attended a service in the Tower of London's Chapel

recently and to my great surprise and pleasure found that one of the kneelers in the front row carried the Regimental Crest. I asked the Rev Roger Hall MBE, the Chaplain (more formally Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The Queen) if he knew anything about the kneelers but he did not, though thought it might be something to do with former Constables. Both Earl Cornwallis and the Duke of Wellington, the most famous sons of our Regiment, were Constable in their day but it seems too long ago to be recognised in this small but pleasing way now. The Duke was Constable for 29 years and instituted many reforms, although he took the view that the public was a nuisance and should not be let in. As there are only eight seats in the front row, each with a kneeler bearing the crest of a Regiment, and those in the rows behind, so far as I could see, all bore the Tower crest, I felt this was quite a coup however achieved. The current Constable, whose consent was kindly given for our service, is General Sir Richard Dannatt.

I wonder if any reader can enlighten us as to how our kneeler got there?

In the Chapel, which was built by Henry VIII, up by the altar lie the bodies of Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey. All three were executed on Tower Green just outside the Chapel. Anne's body was put into a box, the head being tucked in under her arm, and she was placed in a Chapel grave without ceremony, the bones to be discovered later in Victorian times, identified, and re-interred by the altar. As Stanley Holloway (I think) used to sing "Wiv 'er 'ead tucked hunderneaf 'er arm, she w-a-l-k-s the Bloody Tower....at the midnight hour." Perhaps she still does, poor foolish lady, though if she came across any of the modern day tourists we saw there she would be more frightened of them than they of her. What would she make of a group of Chinese visitors all rushing up and clustering round



Kneeler

her ghostly, headless figure for a photo opportunity? The Chapel also boasts shrines to Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher, both executed by Henry VIII and later canonised as martyrs, and these attract large numbers of pilgrims each year.

If you are going to the Tower add the Chapel and the Dukes' kneeler to your check list of things to look out for!

### York Minster

The Service of Dedication of New Colours in York Minster on 19th June reminded me of an earlier occasion in that magnificent building.

In 1983 a new Archbishop, John Habgood, was being installed and PM Margaret Thatcher attended the

service. The congregation were all in place and we awaited the PM's arrival. The great doors at the East End of the Minster opened and in she came, and with the doors wide we could hear the loud chants and shouts of hundreds of protesters – doubtless a majority were York University students enjoying their free education and

plenty of free time - shouting "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, Out, Out, Out". She looked rather pleased with herself as she swept to her seat in the front pew. A few moments later hundreds of Yorkshire clergy filling the back half of the Minster's pews lifted their voices in the first hymn and drowned the reedy rabble outside.



PARK CORNER HOUSE  
HECKFIELD  
HAMPSHIRE  
RG27 0LJ

FROM HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON  
KG., LVO., OBE., MC., DL

13<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Tom

Last Friday I went to bed a happy man and with the Wellesley ringing in my ears! This must surely be one of the best of the marching tunes of the British Army. I have always understood that it was found amongst the papers of the First Duke after his death and was probably of French or Spanish origin.

I would like to congratulate you and all members of the Battalion on producing such an excellent Parade. The Drill was first class and the whole Parade was very well co-ordinated. All in all it was a memorable occasion.

I am perfectly happy for you to print all or some of this letter as I would like the Officers and men of the Battalion to know how well they carried through this remarkable Parade.

Yours truly,  
J M V.

Colonel T.G. Vallings,  
Commanding Officer,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment  
(Duke of Wellington's),  
Battlesbury Barracks,  
Warminster,  
Wilts. BA12 9DT





# YORKSHIRE REGIMENT NEWS

*Fortune Favours the Brave*

## Presentation of Colours

RHQ is rightly pleased with the very positive response to the Parade on 18 June and the Freedom march through York and Minster Service that followed it. 1000 members of the Regiment marched through York on 19 June, and 1600 attended the service in the Minster. With all four battalions, the Colonel in Chief and the Deputy Colonel in Chief all on parade, it was a memorable day. RHQ is already looking forward to the next major event in 2011. As well as the Regimental Weekend in June there will be the unveiling of the statue at the National Army Museum. In collaboration with York Minster and the Stoneyard, plans are well underway to place the statue "The Keeper of the Souls" in a prime position at the NMA next year.

The Colours and Freedom Parades attracted a great deal of attention from national and regional media, and have substantially raised the Regiment's profile. This should enable the Recruiting Team to reach its 2010/2011 target of 387 to be enlisted, against a total enlisted figure of 292 in 2009/2010. There is a waiting list as no vacancies exist for Phase One training. Matters are in hand to try to retain the interest of those who are waiting to enlist.

## Honours and Awards

**Since formation and up to July 2010 the Regiment has earned 38 Awards :**

**20 in Afghanistan**

(2 x MC, 1 x OBE, 1 x MBE, 8 x MiD, 8 x JCC)

**6 in Iraq**

(2 x MC, 1 x MiD, 3 x JCC)

**12 non operational**

(1 x GCB, 1 x KCB, 2 x OBE, 7 x MBE, 1 x QVRM)

## News from the Battalions

### 1 Yorks (PWO)

Battalion life has been very fragmented as a huge individual training bill starts to kick in. This has been further compounded by having to furnish a large number of RAAT commitments, including sending 20 all ranks to Afghanistan for 3 months to support 4 MECH Brigade. 1 Yorks are now Army Fencing Inter Unit Team Champions and won the Infantry Cup at the Army Alpine Skiing Championships. 20 soldiers completed a very demanding 10 day trek to Everest in Nepal.

### 2 Yorks (Green Howards)

The Battalion has experienced wholesale personnel changes since returning from Op Herrick 11, with only the CO, Ops Officer and RSO remaining in post for the next year. The Battalion has launched into support weapons cadres and BCIP signals conversion training. In November the King Harald Competition will take place on Dartmoor, covering a wide spectrum of military skills to decide the champion Company.

### 3 Yorks (Duke of Wellington's)

See report which follows the Yorkshire Regiment News.

### 4 Yorks (TA)

Summer Camp, which preceded the Colours Parade, was attended by 220, despite most of the Op Herrick 11 personnel being still on leave and a higher than normal number of troops doing Phase 3 courses in lieu of camp this year due to last year's budget cuts. Attention has now turned to Op Herrick 15, with 4 Yorks being the leading unit to support 20 Brigade with 250 infantry and other arms reservists. There are concerns that funding for training, and especially equipment and ammunition resources, will be tight and assistance will be needed from the regular battalions.

## Warminster WOs 1 gather for unique photograph

On Wed 26 May 10 with great sadness the Yorkshire Regiment said farewell to GSM WO1 Gaz Burton (1 YORKS) Warminster Garrison after serving the Regiment for 22 years. The occasion was marked with all serving WO1s from Warminster Garrison

attending tea and toast at 3 YORKS, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster. This was a unique occasion as it is unlikely that six WO1s from the Regiment will all ever serve in Warminster again at the same time.

From  
Left to Right:  
WO1 RSM L  
Flitcroft ITDU,  
WO1 Incoming  
GSM Warminster  
Garrison  
A Gazzard,  
WO1 Outgoing  
GSM Warminster  
Garrison  
G Burton,  
WO1 RSM 3  
YORKS L Wildey,  
WO1 RSM FTU  
D Owens,  
WO1 RQMS  
T Rutherford  
ITDU.



## The 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of Wellington's)

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Second in Command	-	Maj R Driver
Regimental Sergeant Major	-	WO1 (RSM) LD Wildey
Adjutant	-	Capt RJP Carman
Ops Officer	-	Capt BG Redshaw
Intelligence Officer	-	Capt AD Whitaker

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Lt Col TG Vallings

It has been another busy and challenging period for the Battalion with company groups conducting a series of discrete and varied taskings. Alma Company completed the Falklands Company task and then switched focus to rebuilding its Armoured Infantry capability and is now in the position where it can crew its Warriors out of the gate. Burma Company provided the OPFOR for 6 weeks in Kenya for 5 SCOTS on EX GRANDPRIX 7. Burma is also rebuilding its Armoured Capability for BATUS next year. Corunna Company provided the mainstay of our 80 battle casualty replacements in Helmand, whilst Somme has provided fire support groups to all the

companies throughout these tasks. The Battalion is now back together for the first time in 18 months and enjoying the opportunity to focus on our basic skills, rebuild capability and learn from each other the depth and breadth of operational experience that we have gleaned from Iraq, Helmand and the Falklands over the last 18 months.

June and early July were dominated by high profile ceremonial events with the Presentation of New Colours, a gallop round the West Riding then proudly marching our new Colours through our Freedom Towns: Huddersfield, Sheffield, Barnsley, Bradford, Halifax,





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**The Mastiff Group and BCRs' emotional return from Op HERRICK 11 in April**



Rotherham and Skipton. The Duke of Wellington then presented Afghanistan Campaign medals to our 222 soldiers who have served in Afghanistan on either Herrick 10 or Herrick 11. It was a very special occasion for all on parade and we were particularly grateful for the support of the Regimental families and friends who travelled so far to be with us. It also enabled us to formally recognise the service and sacrifice of Pte Young, Corporal Riley and LCpl Shaw with their families. The moment when Corporal Reid walked onto parade and the Duke of Wellington pinned on his medal

was particularly special. The courage, determination and humility shown by Corporal Reid in dealing with his life changing injuries has been an inspiration to us all.



**The Commanding Officer and Captain Redshaw during the Battalion's Patrols competition**



**The RSM marching through Skipton**

The Battalion ran a demanding inter section patrols competition on Dartmoor in June. Each section marched 40 miles over two days and were tested on military skills at the various checkpoints. The aim was to develop the leadership and confidence of our junior commanders whom we ask so much from on today's battlefield.

Sport continues to play a key part in Battalion life. We are the Army Rugby League Champions again – for the 7th time in 8 years. We are also the Infantry Sailing Champions, we came 4th in the Army Offshore Regatta and we reached the quarter finals of the Army Cricket Cup. The rugby and football seasons have already started and we hope for a good cup run in each. The Battalion has also secured a place in the Dubai 7s in Dec 10.

Finally, the Battalion continues to cement strong bonds with Warminster whilst maintaining its Yorkshire identity. Refreshed from much needed summer leave we relish the opportunity to return to our infantry core skills, rebuild our armoured infantry capability and prove ourselves at BATUS before refocusing on Afghanistan in 2012.

**ALMA COMPANY**

Officer Commanding	- Major F Bibby
Second-in-Command	- Lt E Carter
CSM	- WO2 P. W. Simms
CGWO	- WO2 PA Bevan
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	- Colour Sergeant M. Roper
Fleet Manager	- Corporal T. Moore

**1 Platoon**

2nd Lieut TH Fleccia  
Sgt J. Ellam

**2 Platoon**

Sgt Lambert

**3 Platoon**

2nd Lieut OCJ Sparks  
Sgt GD Thursby

Following the excitement of the Baghdad PROFOR task and the Falkland Islands Roulement Company deployment the most recent months for Alma Company may appear comparatively mundane. However, that is not to say that the Company has not been busy. During the last 6 months Alma Company has undertaken tasks as varied as providing a ceremonial guard for the Regimental Colours Parade in York to providing a platoon to Afghanistan as part of the MASTIFF Group. Between those extremes the Company has run a CCF summer camp for Sedbergh School and Wellington College, found time for a spot of Alpine skiing and taken part in a gruelling Battalion Patrols Competition.

Throughout this chaotic period there has remained one constant theme, Armoured Infantry (AI) training. Alma Company will deploy to BATUS as part of the 3 YORKS Battle Group on Prairie Thunder 2 next year which means a reintroduction after some time to the Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle.

Skill fade in AI is fast and coupled with a large influx of new soldiers who have never worked with Warrior there is an immediate requirement to train them in the basic operation of the vehicle and its weapon systems. This has meant a constant flow of driving, gunnery and



**‘Pte Gillott manages to park his Warrior in a puddle on his driving cadre’**

commanding cadres to ensure that we have enough qualified men to crew our armoured fleet before deploying to BATUS. Under the control of the Warrior Sergeant Major, WO2 Bevan the Company is well on course to meet the mandated ratio of gunners, drivers and commanders to vehicles which is a credit to him and the few AI instructors that the Company has who have worked tirelessly to churn out well trained and qualified soldiers. For many the training has been challenging as



**‘Sgt Thursby’s team on the CFT in Dartmoor’**



the responsibility of operating such a huge and powerful vehicle dawns on them. However the training is robust and never fails to bring out the best in the soldiers who are now relishing the opportunity to use their new skills in the pressured environment of BATUS.

As we continue to prepare for BATUS the Company will use all available resources to maintain and develop our AI skills. Simulated gunnery training on the Turret Trainer will be invaluable for keeping crews honed before going to Lulworth in January 11 to complete our Annual Crew Tests and the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer will provide the crews with the opportunity to deploy 'synthetically' as a Company. There is much work to be done but come next spring Alma Company will be ready to deploy and be tested on Prairie Thunder.

As mentioned in the opening paragraph a small team from Alma Company led by Sgt Lambert ran the summer Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Camp at the picturesque Tregantle training area near Plymouth. 5 Cadets from Wellington College and 25 from Sedbergh were treated to a package of military training that included patrolling, assault courses, close quarter battle lanes and finally a series of section attacks. The week was action packed which was demonstrated by utterly exhausted Cadets that could barely keep their eyes open after supper.

Patrolling of our own was the order of the day in July when Alma entered 2 teams into the Battalion Patrols Competition held on Dartmoor. The teams led by Sgt Thursby and Cpl Ayres were put through two punishing days which saw them cover nearly 40 km. The teams finished 5th and 8th in the Battalion.

Finally there has been time for some fun as 2 Lt Fleccia arranged for 16 Alma soldiers to go skiing to Les Contamines in France. Style was sacrificed for speed and bravery was shown aplenty though special praise must be given to Pte Lumb for his outrageous airtime.

### **3 YORKS MASTIFF GROUP- OP HERRICK 11**

**Lt EGH Carter**

At the beginning of September 2009 Alma Company were warned off to provide a 20 strong Mastiff qualified

Platoon to act as a composite Company grouping along with two troops from the Kings Royal Hussars. They would be deployed in support of the Coldstream Guards Battlegroup and there was little time to prepare as the first elements of the Battlegroup began deploying in mid September. With the location of the Battlegroup still up in the air, the requirement for a comprehensive and flexible pre deployment package was imperative.

Having returned from Iraq only a month previously, 20 volunteers from the Company stepped forward, from which 4 Mastiff crews and an integral Barma team were formed. With the Battalion already due to provide a Company of Battlefield Casualty Replacements, the newly formed platoon was integrated into Corunna Company to conduct a 7 week package that prepared them for deployment. Under the leadership of Major Nick MacKenzie, the company launched into a rapid progression of theatre specific training, supported by the remainder of the Battalion. Whilst extremely hectic, the quality and variety of training kept everyone on their toes, and soon found the company in Thetford facing some of the most challenging exercise serials of their lives. Once fully up to speed all that remained was to conduct the final vehicle specific training before a short period of leave and deployment to Helmand on the 1st of October 2009.

Arriving in Bastion for a week's RSOI training, the reality of the deployment began to dawn. The buzz of helicopters and purposeful atmosphere left everyone in no doubt as to what would be required over the coming months. 7 days of confirmatory training, ranges and numerous briefs in Bastion provided the finishing touches to the Mastiff Group, now fully formed with a 3 YORKS Headquarters and Platoon along with the KRH elements. By now the Battlegroup were firmly established in Babaji, operating for the time being out of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Price and 4 newly built Patrol Bases on the land seized during Op Panthers Claw earlier in the summer.

On the 8th October the vehicles were handed over and the first Patrol left Bastion along the notorious Highway 1 ready to establish themselves from FOB Price. The

**'Sgt Pearson  
and Cpl Dale  
searching a  
car at check  
point 9 in the  
Nar-e-Suraj  
district of  
Helmand  
A permanent  
check and  
search point'**





arrival of the Company Group was warmly received by the Coldstream Guards who immediately made us feel at home. After a short bedding in period Capt Si Farley assumed command of the Company and the Alma Platoon moved to Patrol Base two in readiness to provide intimate protection to the workers building Route Trident, an ambitious project to open up supply routes.



**‘Cpl Dale surveys the green zone on a protection operation’ - protecting troops at work on the route Trident build’**

As infants, the value of the Platoon was quickly recognised and a myriad of additional tasks emerged. Dismounted patrols and monthly surge operations provided a good balance to life on the vehicles and ensured no two days were the same. Morale, enthusiasm and work ethic were consistently high right through to the end of the tour, with the effectiveness and flexibility of the Mastiff Group being consistently praised. In mid April, after six months at the sharp end of contemporary operations every man welcomed the sight of our replacements, but remained professional to the last ensuring our part of the Battlegroup was handed over to the Royal Gurkha Rifles in the best possible order. The Company flew to Cyprus for decompression at the end of April and returned home to families and friends with

the satisfaction of a job well done, but most importantly with every man that was taken out.

## **THE FREEDOM OF ERQUINGHAM-LYS**

### **2Lt T Flecchia**

On Saturday 15th May 2010, Alma Company exercised the Freedom of Erquingham Lys, parading the colours through the town, which ended in the naming of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment roundabout.

The Battalion has strong links with Erquingham-Lys. Not only is it one of our battle honours where some of the Regiment's fiercest fighting took place during the First World War, but it is the scene where Pte Arthur Poulter won his VC. The town is also strongly connected with Yorkshire being twinned with Skipton.

Having travelled out to France early we were able to enjoy the opportunity to conduct some battlefield tours before the parade. 2Lt Sparks lead a tour of Hill 60 where the Regiment was involved in heavy fighting that saw the hill change hands on a number of times throughout the battle. Also visited was Sanctuary Wood, where many of the trenches have been maintained or recreated for the public, as well as some of the many cemeteries in which members of the Regiment are buried.

After a successful parade and naming of the roundabout, Brigadier Mundell gave a very good account of the battle at Erquingham-Lys, at Pte Poulter VC's memorial, and brought to life some the actions of 1918.

Before the war Pte Poulter VC had worked for Timothy Taylor brewers, and they kindly supplied 600 pints for the reception held in the town's sports hall, attended by many dignitaries from Erquingham-Lys and Skipton. Fortunately for Alma Coy the French idea of good ale differs somewhat from the Yorkshire opinion and there was plenty left for Alma Company afterwards.

Before returning the Company visited the Menin Gate in Ypres, through which the vast majority of soldiers would have passed on their way to the front line. RSM Wildey conducted a short memorial service under the arches of the gate and a wreath was laid.



**Marching  
through  
Erquingham-Lys**



**BURMA COMPANY**

Officer Commanding	- Maj SL Humphris
Second-in-Command	- Lt RJ Taylor
CSM	- WO2 LP Seviour
WSM	- WO2 SJ Brighthouse
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	- Sgt A Marsh

**4 Platoon**  
Lt R Townsend  
Sgt S Pears

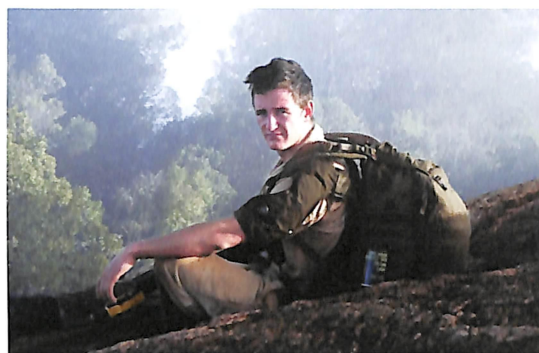
**5 Platoon**  
Capt S Davies  
Sgt M McConnell

**6 Platoon**  
Sgt MA Lightowlers  
Cpl KG Gill

After some well earned Christmas leave, Burma Company started to look towards a six week deployment in Kenya. Although six weeks away from home wasn't necessarily what everybody wanted after HERRICK 10, it was an exciting opportunity to train in one of the British Army's most picturesque yet demanding training areas. Before we went we were able to enjoy an excellent social evening with wives and girlfriends organised by Sgt McConnell and Cpl Collington. The undisputed highlight of the evening was a hypnotist and the star of the show was definitely Sgt Lightowlers, who has somehow managed to destroy all photographic and video evidence of his various performances.

The deployment on GRAND PRIX 7 in Kenya was to support 5 SCOTS Battle Group in their preparation for HERRICK 13. Kenya's altitude and climate offers an ideal training opportunity for any unit preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. Burma's role was to facilitate this training for 5 SCOTS. Initially we split down into two groups. One provided OPFOR for 5 SCOTS company level training, the other ran a tough and demanding range package in the unforgiving heat of

Archers Post. The OPFOR was an excellent opportunity for our four newly promoted Lance Corporals (Clews, Hill, Scott and Watson) to get to grips with being team commanders and for the private soldiers to continue to work on their low level skills. We were given the opportunity to work with DTES kit, essentially a battle simulation package. It is reliable as



**'Pte Haigh takes a breather after taking the fight to 5 SCOTS'**



**'The Insurgency otherwise known as Burma Coy Gp'**





**'Some of 6 Pl enjoy a well earned beer.'**

well as accurate and it gives excellent graphical feedback for after action review.

After two weeks we were reunited as one large OPFOR in a confirmatory exercise run by 16 Bde. We were able to utilise our various experiences in Helmand as we played at being an insurgent force. It was a demanding period for all involved but the soldiers gave fantastic accounts of themselves and rarely was the novelty of patrolling next to giraffe and elephants lost on anyone. At times it felt like we were conducting an exercise in the middle of a safari park. It was certainly a long way from a wind-swept Salisbury Plain! The dangers of the wildlife however were never forgotten. It is an unnerving sight to see a leopard in the same area as you are patrolling through. It was with surprise however that the only wildlife incident came in the final few days when Capt Davies was knocked over by a terrifying (adolescent) gazelle!

Once the exercise was over, everyone was rewarded with an Adventure Training package. Some thought that the reward of climbing Mt Kenya at 4985m was slightly less of a treat than those who went scuba diving on Kenya's beautiful coast but those who made it to the top were treated to an unforgettable view. This was WO2 CSM Clarke's last romp with Burma Company and we wish him and his family the very best of luck in his new appointment as RQMS with 1 YORKS. CSGT Nettleton has also departed having been posted upon promotion, and Capt Hayton-Williams who has taken up a posting at Brecon.

After some Easter Leave, we turned our attention to the HERRICK 10 and 11 medals parade, held in



**'The successful Burma soldiers at the top of Mt. Kenya (4985m)'**

Battlesbury Barracks. It was fitting that the day of the parade was almost a year to the day when the first troops deployed. The highlight of the parade was undoubtedly when Cpl Reid, a triple amputee, was presented with his medal and walked off unaided. This was a goal he had set himself during his recovery and to see it was fantastic and truly humbling.

After a hectic year, Burma can now look forward to a few months at home before building up to Canada next year.



### CORUNNA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	- Maj N MacKenzie
Second-in-Command	- Capt Martin
CSM	- WO2 Conley
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	- CSgt L Egbury
Wr Sgt Maj	- CSgt Stroyan

**7 Platoon**  
Lt A Hammond  
Sgt CJ Edley

**8 Platoon**  
Lt Sutton  
Sgt Daniels

**9 Platoon**  
Lt Ross  
Sgt Kitridge

The last few months has been as hectic as ever for Corunna Company. We have now finished our HERRICK 11 Battle Casualty Replacement (BCR) commitment and have switched focus to 'back to basics' and rebuilding our AI qualification base, something that has been difficult to do over the past year with both the HERRICK 10 and HERRICK 11 BCR tasks.

Our first low level exercise took place in the snow covered hills of Otterburn in March. It was a good shake out exercise allowing the new members of the Company to find their feet and those with Afghan experience to switch to more conventional tactics both blank and live. Despite the cold and arduous conditions the Company performed well culminating the exercise in a number of live platoon attacks. Thus setting a good foundation on which we would build on throughout the training year.

There has been a lot of travel by members of the company, in March Lt Hammond joined the Army boat on Exercise Transglobe between the Falklands Island and Antigua. In addition several members of the Company



**OC C Coy Maj Mackenzie welcomes back Lt Sutton as Sergeant Majors Brighouse and Conley look on.**



**Corunna Company present arms at the Colours Parade**



deployed to help out Burma Company on Exercise Grand Prix 7 in Kenya. The team largely helped with providing safety for the training troops and facilitated in their pre-deployment training for Afghanistan.

At the end of April our BCR commitment to Op HERRICK 11 was complete as we welcomed home the Mastiff Group and the BCRs that had deployed to Babaji and Sangin. It was great to have them back, they had done an excellent job in extremely tough conditions with different units and they ensured that the name and reputation of the Regiment remained high.

Our background activity to the BCR task was rebuilding our AI capability. Throughout this period we have trained a steady flow of WR Drivers, Gunners and Commanders with us now back to our quota of qualifications. We consolidated our training with our first AI exercise for some time on Salisbury Plain at the end of May. It was great to have the Company out in Warriors again and it didn't take long for those who deployed on BATUS in 2008 to find their feet and for those who were new to AI to get to grips with it. Furthermore we have continued our back to basics theme with a low level patrols exercise and have also fitted in some AT in the Lake District.

June saw most members of the Coy along with most of the Battalion move to Yorkshire for the presentation of the new Colours followed by freedom parades throughout the West Riding. This was a welcome break from normal Battalion life and gave most soldiers the chance to spend some time at home with their loved ones. The level of support received from the public was brilliant and extremely lifting to all those who took place in the marches.



**Pte Molyneux with the 25lb Carp he landed at Sheerwater near Warminster in June. He was the youngest soldier on the Colours Parade, turning 18 on the 18th June, the day of the Parade!**

As Summer leave beckons we reflect on what has been a busy and enjoyable few months. The Company has welcomed many new faces and has grown in size. After summer leave we will focus on BCIP5 conversion and preparation for BATUS in 2011.

## **CORUNNA COMPANY BATTLE CASUALTY REPLACEMENTS (BCRs)**

### **2Lt W Sutton**

The 12 BCRs from Corunna Company deployed to Sangin in support of 3 RIFLES on January 15. The 3 YORKS multiple settled into Patrol Base (PB) Hanjar a week later and went straight into patrolling the Green Zone, villages and desert around Route 611. The main effort was to provide security and interdict Taliban movement around Forward Operating Base (FOB) Nalay, 3km south of Sangin Bazaar.

They were joined by 4 more Corunna BCRs a month later along with 12 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers. February started with heavy rains which flooded the PB, with the water coming in through the ANA toilets! The 3 YORKS lads awoke at 0200 Hrs to find 3 inches of mud and filth in every room while the courtyard was knee deep in water. Yorkshire men and Afghan soldiers worked together to ensure the PB was back to normal in 48 hours.

Valentines Day saw the first contact as two Taliban stepped out of an alleyway 50m from the PB and sent an RPG soaring over Sangar 1. Sgt Oxley's patrol was already on the ground and hit the insurgents in the flank, with return fire seeing rounds splashing in the mud around his men. The insurgents were driven off but the following weeks saw more contacts around a village in the Western Green Zone called Barakzai.

LCpl Jones was shot in the neck while manning a sangar on February 27, with the bullet grazing his neck and leaving the slightest scar. Cue several sleepless nights for him.....Pte Dyer was shot in the back by a sniper on March 3 while on patrol in the Green Zone. Again luck held out for the patrol as his rear body armour plate stopped the bullet.



**Pte Dyer displays the body armour plate and the bullet it stopped**

March 16 saw the 3 YORKS multiple leading a multinational force of 40 United Arab Emirates soldiers, 6 US Special Forces and 5 ANA into Barakzai. During the patrol a Taliban IED expert scored an "own goal",

blowing himself up as he tried to place a 105mm artillery shell in an alleyway. The subsequent extraction saw ISAF troops pinned down in an ambush during which Pte Loseli was wounded. Smoke from 81mm mortars in Nalay allowed the callsigns to extract and Pte Loseli was later flown home where he is making a full recovery.

3 YORKS soldiers also deployed with 12 Vikings from 1RTR. The Op was in support of the 3 RIFLES Brigade Recce Force which was operating further North. 3 YORKS soldiers led the foot patrols with the troops spending two nights camped on the banks of the River Helmand, blocking insurgent extraction routes to the South.

The 3 YORKS soldiers flew out of Sangin on April 17 after an incredible 3 months.



**Pte Loseli on patrol with a member of the ANA**

## **SOMME COMPANY**

Officer Commanding	- Maj J Hinchliffe
CSM	- WO2 SMT Cooper
Recce	- Capt A Bond
Mortars	- Capt C Dawson
Javelin	- Capt B Obese-Jecty

Since taking over the company in August last year the OC and Company Headquarters staff have felt rather lonely with the majority of the company being away on various tasks overseas and at home. As a result it was with great pleasure that in May the OC and CSM were brought out of their isolation with the arrival of new staff. The old faces returned from their various deployments along with the arrival new ones; OC RECCE, OC Mortars, 2IC Javelin, and a new CQMS to replace Colour Sergeant Baker who was posted to 4 LANCS on promotion. The last six months have been defined by the sad loss of Cpl Riley and LCpl Shaw, both Somme men of considerable character, who were killed while on patrol in Afghanistan on the 1 Feb 10, they will be sorely missed and the thoughts of the Company remain with their families.

With men arriving back from Afghanistan and Kenya there has been no shortage of stories, indeed some rather long and dubious, circulating round the Company. The deployment to Kenya went well for those that were involved; in particular BATUK staff remarking on the professionalism and flexibility of the Permanent Range Team. Those who returned from Afghanistan also arrived with reports of great deeds and exceptional performances under the most testing conditions an Infantry man could dream of facing, several with awards nominations.

The Company played a significant role providing troops for the new colours in York followed by a week of freedom parades through West Yorkshire. The defining criteria to form the various the guards, was Future Army Dress (FAD), all those who were in possession were selected. Once again the CSM was a victim of his own success of making sure the company had been issued FAD and that it fitted correctly,

therefore a majority of the company spent June in Yorkshire standing on parade. This high demand for man power did not stop the numerous task the company were juggling with, including deployments to Kazakhstan, OP MONOGRAM, and the various courses which remain the constant.

With all this going on it is hard to believe that the Company has also continued with its day to day tasks in camp and filled several other RAAT taskings throughout this time. All these have been successful, from the involvement in the Bn medals parade, hosting the Ukrainian Defence force, and competing in the Bde Skill at Arms meeting. The focus of the company has been to rebuild the AI capacity within the Platoons and build in some redundancy of drivers, commanders and gunners. With the constant flow of people in and out of the Platoons there is never enough drivers, and with new vehicles coming into service which require CAT C licence there has been a concerted effort to get more people qualified.

The last six months has laid the platform for future success in BATUS and in the medium term Op HERRICK. The company now has the qualified personnel to ensure we can deploy out of the back gate onto Salisbury Plain in our vehicles and also ensure they receive the correct care to maintain their availability. September sees the start of the build up for BATUS following conversion to BCIP 5.4 in October and then intense field firing and crew training. The pace does not relent, but with a full and exciting diary the next year promises to be challenging and fun. There will be new hand on the tiller with Maj John Hinchliffe taking over command in September, and the Company wishes Maj Liam McCormick every success as he takes on the command of Hook Company.



### 3YORKS FREEDOM PARADES

#### Capt B Obese-Jecty

Following the presentation of new colours to the three Regular Battalions and the Fourth Battalion, Alma Company and Corunna Company provided a guard each as 3YORKS embarked on a whirlwind tour of Yorkshire.

The parades were the perfect opportunity for the Battalion and specifically the soldiers to march through their home towns, in front of their families and friends as well as the people of Yorkshire who themselves turned out in their droves in order to show their support. Throughout all the towns that the Battalion paraded the rapturous welcome received was testament to the groundswell of public support for the Armed Forces engaged in Operations in Afghanistan and as such the opportunity to show support for their recently returned local Infantry Battalion was wholeheartedly embraced.

The parades started on the 22nd June in Barnsley and after a whistlestop circuit of the town (and a slap up 'pie and peas' lunch, with a complimentary pint or two) the parade was off to Huddersfield. The next few days saw a similar format followed in Rotherham, Sheffield, Skipton, Bradford and Halifax, and in each location the reception was equally impressive. Even the appearance of the very raucous English Defence League added to the carnival like atmosphere (if not with a somewhat sinister edge). Indeed had the further six coachloads of 'supporters' been permitted to travel to Bradford, the parade could have had a very different outcome altogether. It was also notable however that even though

the Sheffield parade clashed with England's crucial World Cup Group game against Slovenia, the crowds were just as plentiful, and as the Parade made its way past one pub, received a significantly greater cheer than Fabio Capello's decision to bring on Joe Cole.

The Parades culminated with the Laying Up of the Last Stand of Colours of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Halifax Minster on 26th June, closing the book on a historic chapter of the history of the 3rd Battalion and its antecedent Regiment.



The Battalion were well supported by the general public for all their parades



Marching through the packed streets of Halifax



## OP HERRICK 10 AND 11 MEDALS PARADE

Maj S Humphris



**The Parade marches forward in Review order**

Over the last year some 222 officers and soldiers from the Battalion had deployed at very short notice to Afghanistan in response to the intensity of both Op HERRICK 10 and 11. Some of the soldiers had deployed as individual Battle Casualty Replacements, but the majority had deployed as teams of 'Dukes' within other infantry battle groups and the fantastic account they had all given of themselves was marked on 9 July 2010 with an Op HERRICK 10 and 11 Medal Parade.

The Battalion was honoured to have His Grace The Duke of Wellington and General Sir Nicholas Houghton to present the medals. Many of the families made the journey down from Yorkshire for the occasion and also the local Warminster schools were there to witness the parade. We were also blessed with the most glorious

weather and an Apache helicopter flyover which was (nearly) on time! The parade also offered a fantastic opportunity to show off our new Colours presented by The Duke of York only the month before and of course to let our Honorary Colours partner them.

The day offered a chance to remember that the deployment had not been without sorrow and loss; and we recognised the ultimate sacrifice made by three of our soldiers: Private Jonathon Young, Lance Corporal Graham Shaw and Corporal Liam Riley. Their families were at the parade and His Grace The Duke of Wellington unveiled memorials, with them, to the fallen.

If there was a highlight to what was a fantastic day it was to see Corporal Reid, who was severely wounded in October of last year receive his medal from His Grace The Duke of Wellington. His recovery from an IED strike which had left him a triple amputee has been absolutely inspirational and quite remarkable. He was able to walk onto parade to receive his medal. He epitomised the fortitude, bravery and professionalism that were the hallmarks of all those soldiers on parade over the last year.

### 3 YORKS BATTALION PATROLS COMPETITION 20-23 JULY 10

**Capt B Redshaw**

As part of the Battalion's Pre Deployment Training prior to BATUS in 2011, CO 3 YORKS wanted to run a Battalion Patrols Competition that focused specifically on the development of Junior Commanders and Pte soldiers within the Battalion. It would also be a useful training opportunity for the Cambrian Patrol



**Cpl Reid receives his medal from  
His Grace The Duke of Wellington**





**The demanding Royal Marines 8 Mile Assessment**

Competition teams that 3 YORKS are entering in October. Over 165 soldiers deployed to Okehampton Camp, Dartmoor with over 100 soldiers taking part in the competition.

Each team comprised of a Section Commander, Section 2 IC and 8 Pte soldiers. They arrived on the evening of the 20 July where they were given several hours before bed to iron out their Patrol SOP's and

conduct lower level administration. The following morning troops conducted a Patrols Competition training day where teams conducted the Royal Marines 8 mile assessment in the morning and a Navigation Competition in the afternoon in order to get familiar with the tough and demanding terrain. Once back in camp and well fed, Patrol IC's were taken away and given a set of patrol orders. They were then given 90



**The troops went through a series of demanding training stands**



minutes to write their orders prior to handing them in. Concurrently to this the remaining troops went through a series of training stands including First Aid, Signals and Prisoner of War Handling.

On the morning of the 22nd July teams nervously began reporting to the Battalion Operations Tent where Patrol Commanders were given their orders back. They were then given an hour to prepare their models prior to delivering them. Once teams had finished their orders they were inspected before conducting an 18 kilometre clearance patrol stopping off at various stands during the patrol in order to be tested. These stands included a dismounted close combat serial, signals, military knowledge, first aid, media, counter-IED and POW handling. The weather was extremely testing over the 15 hour patrols with heavy periods of rain as well as heavy mist which made navigation difficult.

All ten teams completed the Patrol and are to be commended for their efforts. The winning team came from Burma Coy and were led through the competition well by Cpl Marshall. It is fair to say however that all teams got a lot out of the competition and welcomed having the opportunity to be unshackled from their Pl Cnds and Sgts in order to be given the chance to develop.

## SHORT TERM TRAINING TEAM (STTT) IN KAZAKHSTAN

### Captain A G Bond

Of all of the countries the Short Term Training Team thought they would deploy in the Army, Kazakhstan was not one of them. There were 5 members of the team to deploy to instruct the Kazakhstan Brigade

(KAZBRIG): Captain Bond OIC, Csgt Hay 2IC, Cpl Florence (Inf Inst), Cpl Mott (Signals) and LCpl Bruce (Medic). We flew into Astana, the Capital city, and then took the three hour flight to Almaty, where the military training area was. The training area was stunning, much like the prairies of Alberta, Canada, with a beautiful mountain range in the distance. There were 15 KAZBRIG instructors, who were allegedly hand picked by their Brigadier for the course. The Kazakhstan Army has never deployed on Operations and the STTT was there to assess whether the ability of the Kazak soldier was high enough to deploy with NATO forces. The students were very keen and fit, doing everything through interpreters slowed the process down considerably though.

In Kazakhstan the planning process for training is completely different to British Forces, and the simplicity of lesson planning is a concept very alien to them. The end state of the course was 15 instructors who were capable of planning and teaching a lesson. The outline of the course was Peace Support Operations, and once they understand the concept of planning and instructing, the KAZBRIG will grow from strength to strength and hopefully hit the target of deploying as an inter-operable Battlegroup in 2015.

The trip was a complete success and a great pin to put in the map board. The city of Almaty was a thriving metropolis and a very up and coming place. The STTT took time to take in the history of the city, interspersed with some well earned refreshments. There was a great bond made with the students and some of the officers might be deploying to UK to visit 3 YORKS for a month or two.



Capt Bond and Cpl Florence with members of KAZBRIG



## SAINT GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

**Maj C Schofield**

Traditionally we have reserved the special relationship with towns for those that lie within the Yorkshire recruiting area. However, now that we have a more stable Army it clear to everyone that Warminster is our home; even if it not in God's golden acre.

It therefore came as no surprise to OC Hook Company, as the man responsible for good relations with the local community, when the Commanding Officer announced that the Battalion would take part in the Town's parade to mark Saint George's Day.

Although Saint George didn't come from Barnsley he had all the qualities admired by Yorkshiremen.

Led by the Town Cryer and the Light Cavalry Band the two guards and Colour Party looked resplendent as they marched down the High Street. The Lord Lieutenant took the salute and was by all accounts very impressed with the way the Warrior negotiated the street furniture.

The parade was a great success and the crowds, yes four deep in places, seemed to enjoy the spectacle and gave very generously to the Army Benevolent Fund. I think Saint George would have been pleased.



**The Parade makes it's way through Warminster town centre**

## OFFICERS' MESS UPDATE

**Lt R Taylor**

The maxim of 'work hard, play hard' is certainly starting to ring true around the Officers' Mess. With a packed Mess, it has been great fun to enjoy a couple of fantastic weekends away. The Regimental weekend in York gave everyone the taste for a social Mess weekend trip and to that end, a camping trip was proposed. Lt Nick Ross was the obvious choice to organise such a jaunt as the Camp Officer. A picturesque campsite in Salcombe was chosen and fellow campers watched on in amusement as the Captains took on the subbies at

touch rugby. After the gourmet barbeque (cooked by head chef, Maj Liam McCormick), the families enjoyed a wholesome evening and the Subbies, giddy with excitement, descended into Salcombe whilst some bleary eyed children were put to bed. Sunday saw some bleary eyed Subbies and the children, giddy with excitement, head down to the local beach. As the Adjt Bob Carman reclined next to his pristine unused surfboard, the Subbies played touch rugby whilst the families built sandcastles. Everyone returned to camp tired and sandy but happy.

The annual Silver Putter Competition took place at Erlestoke Golf Club on the 9th July. Maj Matt Palmer





**Team photo at the camping in Salcombe**

was eventually victorious (thwarting the Commanding Officer in his attempt to win the prize for the third time!), with Lt Rob Taylor walking away with the Wooden Spoon. The event was followed by supper in the club house and drinks back at the Mess.

The next fixture in the Mess calendar was a Mess Party. A theme of 'Castaway' was picked by the Mess which the single men of the Mess hoped would lead to

a plethora of good looking women in bikinis attending. The good looking women were there but unfortunately had seen straight through the superficial party planners and came in a variety of excellent fancy dress outfits. Cocktails were served on the 'beach' (4 tonnes of sand were dumped next to a crashed plane and raft) and a hog roast was cooked. The party was fantastic fun but the clean up the next day was not.



**The Officer's of 3 YORKS on the occasion of the Op HERRICK 10 and 11 Medal Parade, 9th July 2010.**



**EX TRANSGLOBE:  
FALKLANDS TO ANTIGUA  
(5,500 NAUTICAL MILES, 32 DAYS)**

**Lt A P Hammond**

In the last week of March 2010 I was offered a last minute place on leg nine of the tri-service adventurous sail training expedition "Transglobe". The round the world trip, would by the time it had finished, have allowed 550 services personnel to experience the challenge of cross ocean sailing. Sailing against the wind in former "BT Global Challenge" yachts, built specifically to go the "wrong way" around the world. With 'challenge' in mind, they have very few of the modern devices which make sailing today a sport which can be enjoyed solo. The 67 ft yacht requires a 14 man crew, made up on my leg of Officers, SNCO's and soldiers from every branch of the Army.

The expedition started with the crew flying on a trooping flight from Brize Norton via The Ascension islands landing 18 hours later in Mount Pleasant Complex, West Falklands. The challenge we were to face would not just be that of learning how to ocean sail (or in my case learning to sail for the first time!).

The yacht suffered severe damage on leg 8 whilst rounding Cape Horn, so much so that a specialist rigger had to be flown from the UK to re-enforce the boom and assess sea worthiness. The extent of the damage

required the crew and many elements of the deployed Falklands Island service personnel to work long hours repairing, the steering, the safety rails, all of the communications and radar equipment, the water maker and the propeller shaft break. When we finally set sail two weeks after schedule we were exceptionally lucky with both the moderate nature of the weather and the direction of the wind. After an initial 20 days heading north from the Falklands in moderate seas, we headed towards the coast of Brazil to overnight and restock on both food and fuel in Recife. This was followed by 12 days half sailing half motoring and sometimes both round the hip of South America and into the Caribbean.

There is little room here for me to describe all the challenges of living in close confines, with limited personal space on limited rations in occasional rough seas. I would certainly recommend this type of adventurous training to anyone: challenging, relatively inexpensive, and testing of both personal and group resolve. I had a great time!

**THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT SAILING  
TEAM – INFANTRY SAILING REGATTA,  
SEAVIEW 2010**

**Capt P Dennien**

The inaugural year of the Yorkshire Regiment Sailing Team was hugely successful with the team returning from the Infantry Sailing Regatta at Seaview, Isle of



**3 YORKS boat leads the fleet**

Wight with the Inter-Unit Cup. What made this all the sweeter was the nature of the win. The team took on a 10-man house in Seaview and made the week a truly family affair. The house was bursting at the seams with Officers, Soldiers, families and friends, all enjoying the warm weather, sandy beaches and gentle sailing of the weekend. Brigadier Bray paid the team a visit and enjoyed an afternoon getting to terms with the tricky Solent tide aboard Lt Col Vallings' Cornish Shrimper. Saturday evening's joint-regimental cocktail party provided all involved with the chance to meet some of the Seaview locals and other teams. The reputation of the Regiment and Army sailing was enhanced by the friendly and relaxed event.

From Monday onwards the sailing became somewhat more competitive with the team crewing two boats in the regatta. Rotating through crew members allowed for maximum participation and even WO2 Lister and LCpl Bailey (our chef) got some salt water on their hands. Performing well on and off of the water was paramount and we certainly held our own in both areas, with Lt Col Vallings bringing home the silverware and Capt Dennien seeing in a few sunrises! The week was an undoubted success and the team performed well, given the sparse preparation available and the relative inexperience of our crews. Next years Infantry Regatta is planned to be an even bigger and more inclusive event and a strong representation from the Yorkshire Regiment is encouraged. With 3 YORKS committed in BATUS it is hoped that the wider Regiment can support this unique and enjoyable event and maintain the Yorkshire Regiment Sailing Team's reputation at Seaview.



**Capt Bond, WO1 Szymanski and Lt Col Vallings triumphant at the 2010 Infantry Regatta**



**Brigadier Bray joins 3 YORKS Officers for supper in Seaview (table cloths provided by the Daily Telegraph)**



## RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2010

Maj L McCormick

3 YORKS may be more synonymous with rugby union but in terms of recent success on the pitch it is the rugby league brothers who are flying the flag. Once again 3 YORKS mounted a successful assault on the Yeoman Cup, the Army wide rugby league competition, walking away with the impressive silverware for the second time in three years and bringing the total number of successful campaigns to six since 2002. There was little time to absorb the disappointment of losing in the semi final of the rugby union cup in March before starting the Yeoman cup preparation in April, the first round game coming on the 19 May against 4 Regiment Royal Artillery, who unfortunately did not show up, perhaps our fearsome reputation made the long trip from North Luffenham unpalatable. The bye we received from the game put the Bn into the Semi Final



LCpl Naigunugunu receives the trophy

against the Army union cup winners 2 Royal Welsh. A fierce encounter followed on the turf of Battlesbury Barracks where a considerable amount of blood was spilt and a number of bones crunched, Pte Nakia suffering a broken jaw, although the Welsh came off worse, both in terms of hospital beds required and the final score, 3 YORKS edging the game 22-18.

The final was played in Aldershot on 16 Jun 10, only two days before the Regimental Colours parade which involved almost all personnel in the Battalion. Resources were stretched with a number of starting players unavailable for selection due to the parade, little time for training during working hours, and the team prepared in the long summer evenings. With virtually no support the team managed to beat SEAME in the final 44-22, running away with the game in the second half after a closely fought first half. Cpl Tuikora destroyed the defence of the opposition on a number of occasions with lambasting runs which broke the will of the defence and struck fear into the survivors of the raids. Special mention should also go to LCpl Naigunugunu (George) who somehow coached, managed, and drove the minibus for all the games, ensuring that 3 YORKS would field a team capable of competing in the Cup, and eventually winning it. On the strength of the final performance the side was invited to play the Army under 24 team and narrowly lost, losing out to some younger legs with a little more street wise experience. 3 YORKS hope to enter a team next year to represent the Infantry, although BATUS is likely to interfere with the season next year. The confidence and physically that developed during the summer league campaign will hopefully be carried over into the rugby union season this Autumn.



Pte Vulagiru breaks the line





## LANDS END TO JOHN O'GROATS: CPL REID COMPLETES THE 'NUMBUMRUN'

Having already been sky-diving in July, Cpl Reid's next venture was the 'Numbumrun' during which he led a procession of other bikers on a specially adapted trike from Lands End to John O'Groats over the August Bank Holiday weekend. He took five days to cover the 800-

odd miles with around 200 miles per day the target, with all of the cash raised going to Help for Heroes. After completing day 1 the riders called into Battlesbury Barracks where they were greeted by cheering crowds as well as the Town Crier and the Mayor.



**Cpl Reid enters Warminster having completed day 1 of his challenge**

## WARRANT OFFICERS' STUDY DAY/CANAL TRIP

3 YORKS Warrant Officers enjoyed a study day on a canal boat prior to summer leave.

**The Captain of the vessel in the Pirates costume (RSM)**





## SERVICE IN OMAN – Lt Col Tim Isles OBE

*The first part of this article appeared in the last edition (No. 268).*



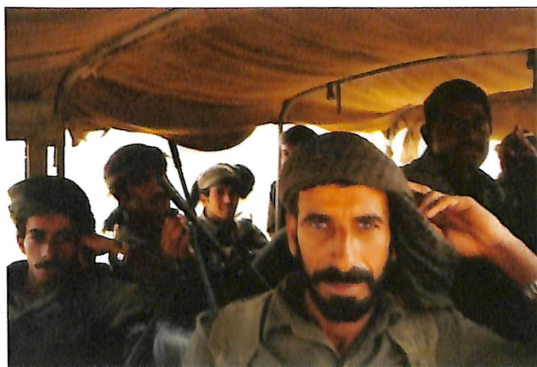
There were two Dukes who served in Oman prior to my tour. The most distinguished is General Sir Charles Huxtable, who commanded the Dhofar Brigade from 1976 to 1978, and Lt Col Bob Tighe served in the Frontier Force Regiment for two years in 1973 and 1974. My time spanned two years, from 1978 – 1979, and I have some very special memories of my tour there. I should perhaps start by declaring that my interest in volunteering for Loan Service in Oman followed a period instructing at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM). Loan Service in Oman was a popular choice for young RM officers who, due to the small size of their Corps, were denied the opportunities for early, or lengthy, command of a rifle company. My selection for suitability, or otherwise, took place at Warminster where I happened to be on a course. It was General Tim Creasey, a former commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces, who interviewed me – it was short. He asked why I wanted to go, then what I knew about the country. "Good", he said, "do your best, learn from the experience, and enjoy it." I wish all interviews went so well. I then embarked on the Arabic language course, held at Beaconsfield, the home of the Royal Army Education Corps at that time. It was a busy period and there can be few simpler ways of assessing 'outputs' than the progress one makes with a language. Three months intensive training was soon over and I duly departed for Oman. Like many before me I was processed through the magnificent old fort of Bait al Falaj, in Muscat, the HQ of SAF. I was to join the Muscat Regiment, one of the four Omani battalions. I should add that there were two Baluchi battalions in SAF as well, both permanently stationed in the south of

the country. Joining the regiment was a little like joining the army again, although I did get a chance to see if my kit fitted this time. So first to the QM's stores to get my new uniform and boots, then a rifle (an FN, so very similar to the SLR), a few bits of paperwork, and I was ready for the off.



**The best seat in the house! Coy HQ for the Company under the escarpment.**

The 'off' was to a company location in the north east of the country called Ziki. Here my command consisted of 150 Omani soldiers, stationed within a compound. I quickly realised that this was the best possible introduction to the task before me. I had to speak Arabic if anything was to happen. We had a number of operational tasks to conduct, mainly involving patrolling the (completely unmarked) border that ran straight through the centre of the Rub al Khalli, or 'empty quarter', looking for smugglers or any other undesirables. Finding one's way today with a GPS would have simplified the task, but back then one had nothing other than the mileage recorder in the vehicle's speedometer and a trusty compass. It was simply



**Heading off on patrol. A few old land rovers had been dropped in by helicopter and were used as "runners" by the various perimeter forces.**

impossible to know exactly where one was after travelling for several hours across gravel plain and desert. I learnt not to overcomplicate tasks, and to give simple orders. Nothing could be committed to paper as literacy levels were very low, including among SNCOs, and this meant that caution had to be exercised where tasks involving map reading were required. The plus side was that there was usually someone in the company who knew a particular region we might be operating in and so he could be used as the scout for say a lead platoon in such deployments.

In working out of Ziki I saw just how beautiful the country is. Vast mountains, deep wadis and temperatures that exceed 50 degrees C make the going incredibly tough when on patrol. The infantryman needs to be extremely well prepared to operate in such conditions. Vehicles have to work, and the need for water is an ever present condition that dictates boundaries, especially when on foot. With vehicle patrols a 'dooba' (water trailer) was always hitched to one of the Land Rovers, which took care of this necessity, but as I was to find in the south where there were no roads and one relied on helicopters totally for re-supply, patrolling objectives were limited (among a number of other equally serious reasons) by the amount of water that could be carried.

After my grounding in Ziki the Regiment moved to Dhofar, where it was deployed on the border with the PDRY for a year. The location was Sarfait, or 'Simba' an area of high jebel at some 5000 feet, with a magnificent escarpment that plunges down to the Indian Ocean. If one recalls scenes from 'The Lost World', then this is Sarfait. Here we lived in simple covered trenches ('morchas'), safe from shelling, and this a place called home for the tour. For the most part the weather is hot, but dry, very arid and reasonably free of humidity. However during the months from June to September the south east monsoon, known as the 'khareef' sweeps in, to a height of about 3000 feet. Everything underneath it is enveloped in a damp drizzle, making life particularly difficult. Of note is how remarkable it is that this arid land comes to life under this cloud. And not just plant life, but lizards, snakes and



**Platoon position below the escarpment – Khareef time. Note how green everything is.**

any number of creatures, including mosquitoes, that had been absent before this monsoon period. All appear within a day or two of this phenomenon.

Two large rifle companies, along with Bn HQ and a support company, were permanently deployed on the feature, one rifle company stretching northwards along the high ground from the top of the vertical escarpment that made up the 'Simba' position, the second rifle company below the escarpment in platoon and section positions running steeply southwards down to the Indian Ocean. These locations were simply stunning in their beauty. Our mission was to deny any remaining enemy movement from the PDRY into Oman by dominating the ground; to search for arms and ammunition; to accept surrenders from former enemy, and to assist the local population where possible. We carried out this mission by means of patrols and ambushes (conducted with caution due to the high incidence of mines known to still be on certain routes), whilst at the same time ensuring that we kept in close contact with the (few) local villagers that inhabited the area.



**Resupply by Skyvan; black clouds show Khareef is approaching.**

A small number of Omani and British officers were tasked with providing the command structure for this deployment. In my time I was tasked with commanding both of these rifle companies, as well as running the airstrip, and particularly when the time came to build up the supplies prior to the onset of the Khareef. We were totally dependent on re-supply by light aircraft to bring provisions onto Sarfait, and then on helicopters to deliver these supplies, particularly water, to the various positions that made up the feature. I should make mention that within the support company was a donkey platoon, which really came into its own when the khareef was down and the aircraft could not fly. These animals in effect replaced the helicopter, delivering mail, provisions, and at times evacuated the sick. Every donkey had a name and they really were very much a part of the team.

Movement between the positions was on foot, and when serving below the scarp it was arduous to say the least. Company HQ was midway, so visiting those 'below' meant a 2000 foot scramble down to the Indian Ocean and the same distance again to climb back to coy



HQ. Exactly the same procedure was required to visit the positions above, the only difference being that one started out with the climb first! One very quickly gained the dexterity of a mountain goat, along with fair reserves of fitness. I've already mentioned the scenery, and the wildlife was equally impressive. One could watch sharks, whales and turtles at work in the Ocean, and on one occasion while taking the CO around the positions, we together were able to watch two leopards at play, this the first time there had been a confirmed sighting for decades. The Gulf leopard was believed to have been extinct for many years; only tired skins in the huts or tents of village elders bearing testimony to their having been these large cats in the region in the past.

Life was always busy administering a company in such difficult terrain, although in the main the tour was a quiet one. There were always incidents to keep us on our toes – forward OPs sometimes brought news of possible sightings of adoo, and on occasions these insurgents infiltrated our positions and laid mines. Further back towards Salalah a good friend, Don Naim, lost his life following an ambush. And the Shah of Iran fell during this period which resulted in a difficult withdrawal of the Iranian anti-aircraft batteries that were deployed on Sarfait.

On completion of the tour my regiment returned to the north where we had the luxury of proper living accommodation, and life took on a typical 'daily routine' in barracks. There were training courses of all types – J/NCOs, support weapons etc, to be undertaken to bring on the next generation of young soldiers, leave to be taken, and so on. In short a routine we would all recognise.

In writing this my time in Oman seems but a short time ago but I have to remind myself that well over 30 years has passed. I found it a tremendous experience. It was a privilege to command Omani soldiers. They were loyal, fit, happy, and placed huge trust in those that led them. When out of uniform their lifestyle was a gentle one, they were always hospitable, very slow to anger, and bore no grudges.

I believe I learnt a great deal, and I certainly enjoyed it. I have not been back, but only because I have not made the time. I know that much has changed, and of course it would be an error to think that I could ever recapture the thrill of soldiering in such different circumstances. Above all I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to undertake such a tour, for it provided some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences I faced during my time in uniform.

## UNIFORM...WHAT'S THAT? –

### Brig MRN Bray CBE

For some reason that I never discovered, the minutes of the Army Dress Committee used to appear on my desk at Stanmore where I was running the office in 1974 that looked after Infantry officers' careers. Reading these out of idle curiosity convinced me that, on principle, you should never have anything to do with this committee; its deliberations indicated a boundless

enthusiasm for minutia, practised ad infinitum. If you want to change your dress; just do it. A healthy disrespect for uniform seems to have served the Army well over the ages. <sup>1</sup>

Looking back, I realise that this principle has had mixed success, and landed me in trouble at the very start and very end of my career!

In 1957, fresh from the conformity of Sandhurst, I reported to the Depot in Halifax, which was invisible in the industrial smog of those days, and was very pleased to be issued with a tin hat, painted bright desert yellow and with a large transfer of a Dukes crest on red backing on the front. This was the right rig in Cyprus at the time, I suppose, but earned me some extra orderly officer duties when I proudly wore it, without camouflage, on the first exercise of the Platoon Commanders course at Warminster.

Much more successful was life at the Australian Staff College where you got away with murder, claiming "Regimental tradition", and receiving the riposte of, "Bloody POMS." From Australia, I went to 2 Brigade HQ, which had just been on exercise on Skye, because the senior staff officer's wife came from there. The wife was clearly an enterprising lady and the HQ came back to Folkestone all wearing very nice lovat coloured soft woolly pullies, with badges of rank on their shoulders or sleeves. The completely false claim of "tradition" saw off all queries and seemed to support the principle, "just do it."

COs of the Battalion have occasionally tried. Barry Kavanagh exploded, to no affect, when he found five subalterns in "uniform" outside Battalion HQ, no two dressed the same. When my turn came, I told the adjutant that I did not wish to have anything to do with dress; that was his job. It nearly worked and might have if I had kept my head down. But I issued an order saying that if you were cold, put your woolly pully on; if you are hot take it off. The brigade commander, with a complete lack of imagination, told me to abide by BAOR standing orders that decreed that pullovers would be worn in the winter and not in the summer; the latter was to be 1 May -30 Sep. And there was the occasion when Jonny Walker came storming into my office to protest that the Adjutant had bollocked him for wearing his Regimental stable belt on the range.

Tony Firth was the CO who really had the last word. We were on our way home from Kenya on the troopship Nevasha in 1960 and steaming up the Channel on a grey last day. All subalterns were ordered to parade on deck by the adjutant and we found a scene that looked prepared for a funeral at sea. The bugler sounded the Last Post. The CO walked along the line of officers, now in a state of some apprehension, stopped in front of David Pugh, and said, "Mr Pugh, I can't stand that filthy service dress hat of yours for one minute longer." Taking hold of the offending hat, the CO threw it into the English Channel! On returning to his cabin, David found an envelope containing a cheque from the CO for a new hat; what style!

Headgear, a beret to be precise, got me my final dressing down in the Army. When I was a brigadier

commanding the Ulster Defence Regiment, the Regimental Secretary produced a very nice embroidered cap badge to replace the cheap metal one. We all thought it a great improvement and started using it. Unfortunately, the Colonel of the Regiment on a visit, clearly an enthusiast for bureaucratic procedure, told me to remove mine until it had been officially approved. Hence, from then on, one beret for the general's visits, and the smarter one the rest of the time.

If you can't take a joke, you shouldn't have joined!

<sup>1</sup> Afternote by the Editor. The Dress Committee has always been on a hiding to nothing. Debussing from a US Army vehicle at Darmstadt, Germany for the Staff College visit to that enormous camp in 1977 we noticed that the six strong welcoming party, led by a two star general, that had courteously formed to meet us were all looking somewhat distressed. What could be wrong, we wondered, as we straggled towards them? The Americans were all uniformly dressed in smart, starched and pressed fatigues and caps. The Staff College delegation members were each wearing their own notion of appropriate regimental attire: kilts, green trousers, red trousers, trews, khaki trousers, shirts of many colours, hat styles too numerous to mention some with feathers, others with single or multi coloured hackles, assorted sticks in many hands. Our hosts told us later that they thought we were taking the mickey! It looked perfectly normal to us.

### **Bandsman Herbert Howarth, 2/7th Bn DWR, Prisoner of War**

The photographs with this article are of mixed



**Herbert Howarth**

quality. All are scanned from originals and the band photos was taken by Germans whilst Herbert Howarth was a POW, and still has an official German stamp on the back, partially legible "Die Aushändigung des Fotos an Kr. Gef. 1st genehmigt. M.Sta?nmlager."

### **The Darkest Hour**

The escape of the BEF from Dunkirk is probably the only well known action in the early years of the war, and we remember it as a peculiarly British kind of victory, like the exhilaration of scraping an undeserved draw in an Ashes game. We all too easily forget how much went wrong at this time; Winston Churchill coined the phrase "the darkest hour" to cover the period from the fall of France in late Spring 1940 and the invasion of Russia by Germany in June 1941. The Blitz had started, many civilian casualties had been caused, and the British Commonwealth stood alone against Germany and Italy.

So when our limited recollection of history passes over these early setbacks we also think little of individual deprivation and loss, and for them their suffering was followed not by imminent success and victory, but four or five hard and interminable years of war. My Uncle, a farmer's son in a reserved occupation, went into the North Sea in 1941 when his Whitely Bomber out of RAF Leeming failed on its return from a bombing raid, and he and the crew of British, New Zealand and South African RAF volunteers were all lost, and their parents had to take the blow and carry on, as indeed for that matter did the parents of any Germans who fell to the bombs he had dropped on Warnemünde Docks.

But in many ways it was nearly as bad at the time for those whose sons were prisoners of war from early days. With only long delayed scraps of news to start with, and then intermittent letters and later a growing realisation of the true nature of the enemy and what was happening in some of the prison camps in Germany and further East, it must have been hard indeed. Several of those prisoners were Dukes, and one of them was Bandsman Herbert Howarth. He wrote down his memories of those times for his family and friends and a short version of his story appears here.

### **Dukes in Action in 1940**

<sup>1</sup> DWR was part of the BEF and despite some hard fighting and loss of lives, a good number survived and were evacuated. The 2/6th and 2/7th were sent to reinforce France whilst the BEF fought their way out, forming up near St Nazaire (alongside 2/5th West Yorks) as part of the 137th Brigade in 46th Division. The Division entrained to reinforce the front line near Bethune, but the Dukes' Battalions, in the last two trains, found that by the time they got there the Germans had already taken Abbeville. Under air attack the battalions dismounted, cut off from the rest of the Division.

After a number of adventures both Battalions found themselves at Dieppe, part of what became known as Beauman Force. They had been mortared, bombed and attacked by German armour in strength with no air or artillery support of their own. The 2/6th got to St Malo



and were evacuated with the loss of 21 killed and 85 wounded.. Eventually the 2/7th moved to St Valery en Caux, from which they were evacuated by ship, although again not without heavy loss. Three officers and 62 Other Ranks had been killed, 13 wounded, and 97 taken prisoner. The Battle Honour St Valery-en-Caen was awarded for the 2/7th actions.

Bandsman Howarth, one of the 97, was “in the bag”. Now for his story. He told it to Roy Bardsley in 2007, and the account was typed up and the family have kindly allowed the Iron Duke to take extracts from it.

### Herbert's Story – A Brief Career as a Soldier.

Herbert Howarth joined 7 DWR as a territorial “unofficially” at the age of 16, so that he could play in the band at the Drill Hall at Uppermill. He signed on “officially” aged 17 in 1938. Whilst on holiday at Blackpool he went to the cinema and a sign was flashed onto the screen for all reservists to report to their local assembly point, so he headed home to the Drill Hall, Springhead. He was eventually posted to 2/7 DWR and sailed for France with the BEF in April 1940 on SS Manxman, embarking at Southampton.

He was stationed at the village of Blain, near Nantes

where the band played concerts for the BEF. The battalion moved North to Abbeville, where the first casualties were received from dive bombing stukkas. 2/7 DWR marched towards Dieppe along the largely destroyed railway line. At one point they met with an abandoned truck with a cargo of horses, which were released. Loading up with small arms and ammunition pouches salvaged during the march, Herbert was detailed to ride one of the horses to the next RV.

### Taken Prisoner

The march continued, as did the attentions of stukkas and many casualties were taken. As a bandsman/stretchers bearer Herbert saw at close range the dreadful injuries that were being sustained. The battalion moved about, and, at least from Herbert's point of view, it was all a bit of a shambles. He ended up in a brewery at Yvetot and just as they arrived, so did some German infantry. Dumping the ammunition bandoliers they were carrying (he was wearing a red cross armband and did not carry a weapon) he stepped out of the building and fell in with his unit which was in the process of surrendering!

They were escorted to Rouen and then on 11 June they and thousands of prisoners began the long journey by foot, Dutch waterway barge and train to Torun in East Prussia. When they marched in column, the French and Belgian POWs were at the front, and the British at the back. The guards rode on bicycles. Rations were scarce and they slept in the fields where they were halted for the night. Once the convoy reached Holland they found that the Dutch civilians were much more generous in handing out food than the French and Belgians had been, as the latter felt let down by the British.

On arrival at Walsoorden they embarked on barges which were towed by tugs. “We were packed so tightly into the holds of the barges that we had to try to sleep stood up. The toilets were wooden frames built on deck and over hung the sides of the vessels just above the water line.” They disembarked at Wesel in Germany.

### Prison Camp

It took three months of marching, sailing and travelling in cattle trucks to reach Torun. There were 17 POW camps and forts in this one town. On arrival Herbert was put into a camp known as the Balloon Hanger, as it had been originally used to house Zeppelins. Those that could not be squeezed inside were put outside in marquees. Herbert became Red Cross registered POW Number 14455. After a month of a daily diet of two slices of black bread and a bowl of thin soup, some red cross parcels arrived (the next ones came 12 months later), and he began to receive letters from home. The first letter said “our Jack is doing well”. But, who was Jack? The second letter, which started out before the first but arrived later, told him that he had a new baby brother, who was to be called Jack.

“After a little time I was moved to Camp 13 and later to Fort 13 where the Senior British Warrant Officer was RSM Strawbridge. Fort 13 was already occupied by



Herbert Howarth in 1939



**Camp band; Herbert is sitting by the drum**

British sailors who had been taken prisoner after their submarine "Seal" was sunk at Skagerrak South of Norway. They had settled in and being first there had claimed all the preferential jobs. After our long unpleasant journey I had become depressed but fortunately I was befriended by one of these sailors named Geoff Cole, he came from Hollins in the town of Oldham, only about five miles West of Saddleworth. He was a good friend and helped me tremendously to settle in and adapt to POW life. .... He managed to get me a job in the tailor's shop where I worked for the next 12 months, operating a sewing machine. .... Most soldiers, who being later arrivals at the camp, were employed on working parties (Arbeitskommando) working in coal mines, on farms or any other job requiring manual labour.

In the way of light relief an opportunity presented itself each morning on roll call before going on our various tasks, to cause confusion and annoyance to the guards. They seemed able only to count in fives and we gave them much anguish by changing headdress and moving around to get included in the count more than once. A useful exercise which could be used for covering, in the event of a comrade's escape. I was in Camp 13 for three years."

Herbert describes at some length the entertainments that the POWs got up; several bands, a theatre group and organised football matches. There were backroom staff, stage hands, tailors and joiners to make the scenery, and a Commandant who was extremely interested in all this activity, and instructed German soldiers to keep a photographic record. He also raised rabbits and a POW, recalled only as Jim, looked after them for him.

In 1943 Herbert was transferred to a camp at a part of town called Thorn Muka. His escapades there will be told in the next edition.

### **Snippets from the Archives – researched and transcribed by Scott Flaving**

*Many readers will remember the introduction of instructions, round about 1975, regarding reporting sick in full No 2 Dress, carrying overnight kit in 58 webbing kidney pouches, via the Company Orderly Sergeant, to the Medical Centre. This, presumably, had the objective of discouraging those with minor ailments and malingerers from 'wasting the doctor's time'.*

*The following extracts from the diaries of two officers in conflicts just about 100 years apart have an interesting theme:*



**From the diary of Lt F H Pattison,  
33rd Foot, Quatre Bras, 16 Jun 1815:**

The bugles sounded the advance, the band struck up 'The British Grenadiers' and the Brigade moved off with increased alacrity, high in spirit and in excellent moral condition to meet the enemy. It was not long ere the shrill rattle of musketry was distinctly heard and, arriving where two roads intersect each other (from which incident the hamlet, now historical, derives its name of 'Quatre Bras'), the battlefield appeared in sight. The Brigade, having halted to load, a rather singular incident took place. James Gibbons, one of my men, came up to me and, saluting me, said he was sick and wished to go to the rear. The request, on such an occasion was altogether inadmissible, especially as this was not the first time he had shown the white feather and, had I complied, the consequences might have been dangerous as an example to others. I at once called for the surgeon (Dr Lover) to examine him and give his opinion of him. The doctor felt his pulse and told him there was nothing wrong with him and that he must return to the ranks at once.

Gibbons, before he enlisted, was journeyman hairdresser and became very useful in shaving, hair cutting and setting the razors of the Officers. He might have made a capital valet de chambre to some effeminate 'Lord Dundreary', who anoints his hands with cold cream and sleeps with them in kid gloves, to soften and beautify them; but he was not made of stern enough stuff to qualify him as a good soldier in the hour of danger. Poor fellow! He never shaved a beard, cut hair of set a razor again. He was killed at Quatre Bras.

**From the diary of Captain B Garside, 10th  
Battalion, Italy, October 1918:**

Before I go on, I must tell you one rather peculiar story about one of my men at this time. As we went up to the river through the trenches, my platoon Sergeant came and told me one of the men, whom he knew very well, was ill and he wanted to know if he could tell him to leave the platoon and try and find the Medical Officer. I told the Sergeant he knew as well as I did that nobody knew where the Doctor was just then and that King, the man, would have to struggle on till we came to our post for the night and then he could send him to me and I would send him to the Doctor straight away. The Sergeant went away. In fact, King did not come to see me and was the first man in my platoon to be killed next morning.

Now the story behind all this was told to me by my Sergeant some time later, after I had left my old platoon. He overtook me one day after we had finished our attack and said, 'I would like to tell you, Sir, (or some such words) 'that I lied to you that day, when I said King was ill.' I looked surprised and, rather shocked, I said, 'Well go ahead, Sergeant, and be frank.' He said he would like to be. He said, what happened was that King came to him and said, 'You know me Sergeant, you know I

am no coward. But I know if I go across the river with the other lads tomorrow, I will be killed.' The Sergeant tried to laugh him out of the idea, but he was obviously very serious and said, 'All right then, only I know you, and I thought I'd mention it.' The Sergeant thought about it and offered to come and lie to me. I have mentioned what I said. Then, when we were in position and King was free to come to me, the Sergeant told him to do so, But King then said, 'No, Sergeant, I'm damned if I will, I'm seeing this thing through.' – and he was killed about five yards away from me next day. I had to write to his family – he was a West Virginian – as I well remember. Of course, I did not tell them this story.

**LAYING UP OF THE LAST "DUKES"  
COLOURS – HALIFAX 26 JUNE 2010**

The Freedom Parades in West Yorkshire are reported in the 3 YORKS section. Readers may like a little more information, and can relate it to the photographs in the "Spectators Eye View" display which follows. The Colour Party and two Guards from 3 Yorks marched through large and appreciative crowds in Halifax to the Piece Hall, and then through the town again with bayonets fixed, ending up at the Halifax Minster for a Service to dedicate and lay up the old Dukes Colours, presented in Osnabruck on 18 June 2002 in the Regiment's Centenary Year. The previous weekend new Colours had been presented to all four battalions of the Yorkshire Regiment.

The soldiers on parade once again excelled with a first class display of steadiness and drill, and this was matched, even exceeded, by the enthusiasm of the large crowd at all points on the route. This parade was the culmination of a full week of Freedom Parades through our towns and Cities in West Yorkshire, and all those coming as they did after events in York, it is great credit to the Battalion that impressive standards were maintained throughout what must have been a very long and arduous few weeks.

At Piece Hall the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Ann McAllister, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Mr John Brennan OBE, and the Deputy Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment, Col Simon Newton OBE, received a salute from the Guard, and inspected the troops. The Mayor and Col Newton addressed the parade, after which the Guards and Colour Parties marched off through the town to the Minster.

The Laying Up Service was conducted in a full Minster by The Rt Rev Stephen Platten, Bishop of Wakefield, and Rev Hilary Barber Vicar of Halifax. The West Yorkshire Police Band played. Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE, as the last Colonel of the Regiment, and Lieutenant Colonel T G Vallings, the Commanding Officer, received the Colours from the Officers of the Colour Party and delivered them to the Vicar who placed them on the altar.

After the Service there was a Civic Reception at the Town Hall. (See also Association News).

### A Spectator's Eye View

It has been a privilege shared by many to have been able to attend a good number of Regimental events with the men of 3 Yorks on parade in the last few months. Whilst the reports from the 3rd Battalion and others

more than adequately describe what happened, a spectator's eye view may also be of interest. With thanks to Charles Dent for the photos at Erquinem-Lys and Neil Cairns for some of those in York on 19 June.

### Presentation of New Colours – Waterloo Day 2010

The Dukes  
section of the  
stands



Chelsea Pensioners and some of the Mayors,  
including the Mayor of Calderdale (centre left)  
before the start of the parade



Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton, HRH The Duke of York  
and the Duke of Wellington on the saluting dais

3 YORKS  
marches  
on







HRH and the Duke of Wellington inspect the Dukes Old Comrades on parade



The CO leads the Battalion off parade.



A Yeoman Warder leads HRH past the Dukes' Colours



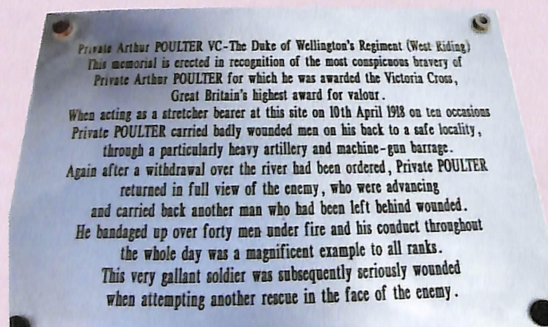
Ensigns of the 10 Colours on parade assemble with their escorts for a photograph behind the hedge that screened the White Rose marquee



## Erquinem-Lys – 15 May 2010



Brig Dick Mundell (L) and Col George Kilburn (R) on either side of the memorial.



The memorial inscription



Our very own roundabout! (With unknown fans)



The Mayors of Skipton and Erquinem-Lys sign their twinning documents



**Freedom of York – 19 June 2010****3 Yorks march past in Duncombe Place****3 Yorks marching through the City****3 Yorks drummers giving a display in the City centre****Field Marshall The Lord Inge and  
Gen Sir Charles Huxtable watching the march past****Association banners outside the  
East Door of the Minister**



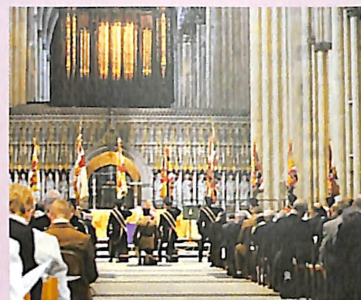
### Service to dedicate the Colours – 19 June 2010



York Minster



The Colours are brought into the Minster through the East Door



The Colour Ensigns kneel to present their Colours for dedication

### Armed Forces Day and the Laying Up of Colours – Halifax 26 June 2010



The march through Halifax's enthusiastic crowds behind the West Yorkshire Police Band

Children enjoy the view from military vehicles in the Yorkshire Regiment's display





Col Newton's  
PA holds  
up a  
helpful  
aide  
memoire



The Vice Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Mr John Brennan, the Mayor of Calderdale  
and Col Simon Newton salute the Colours



March off at Piece Hall

## John Hollands' Books

In the last edition (268) there was a review of John's latest book, "The War Poems of a Young Soldier". Happily this seems to have generated extra interest in the publication and the way sales are going it may become one of his most successful in years. A third reprint is now underway.

**John Hollands on the Hook**



John's career as a novelist started on return from Korea in 1953. His first novel (still his most successful) was "The Dead, the Dying and the Damned". It was acclaimed as the definitive novel of the Korean War with over 3 million copies sold. It is now a "cult" novel in the United States with first editions costing anything up to \$270.

For the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War in 2013, John's publishers are already preparing to issue a new addition of "The Dead, the Dying and the

Damned" orders for which are being accepted. (Contact details given in Issue 268, page 34). John has had fourteen novels published, four of which feature Korea. He is about to complete a fifth, this time about his National Service, culminating with the Battle of the Hook. This is due out next summer. John is a leading authority on the Korean War and was featured in the major BBC documentary, The Army of Innocents. His visit to the demilitarised zone was shown in detail and he was one of the few people allowed to revisit the Hook.



**A patrol trophy December 1952.  
L to R, Pte Wilson, Sgt Morrow, Pte Stiles,  
Pte Robinson, Cpl Smith, Pte Nicholson.)**

## China Gill's 27 Years in the Dukes – Italy 1944 and the Move to Palestine

*Last time China described his experiences in Italy from the Anzio landings in January 1944 up to October, during which time 1 DWR saw some very heavy fighting indeed, including the action at Monte Ceco.*

*China is still the Rations NCO and, as he is often in his account at pains to point out, not up front where most of the fighting was taking place, but struggling along trying to keep up and deliver the essential stores that were his responsibility.*

Due to the atrocious conditions movement and transport of food and supplies took hours longer than normal. I was on the move from morn to night, one thing I was grateful for was the fact that I had a warm tent in which I managed to get a few hours sleep. On 19th October Lt Col McColl (Royal Fusiliers) arrived as our new CO. The Bn was in its rest area, reinforcements arrived but the three rifle coys were still under 100. The Brigade then moved westward, engaging the enemy in the hills amid mud and torrential rain.

The US 85th Div were preparing for an all out attack so the Bn took over from 1/337th US Bn. The enemy were still very active and constantly mortared and shelled our positions, ration routes were always under shelling. December arrived with snow falling and by 21st December drifts were 6 to 7 foot deep. White

smocks were issued to the forward companies. Christmas Day was spent in the line. 30 Dec the Bn was relieved by the Hertfordshire Regt. The Bn was in reserve on Rignano Ridge, then went to the rest area North of Borgo San Lorenzo and celebrated Christmas on 4 Jan 45, but moved back into the line 4 days later. US troops were moving up and on 16th Jan the Bn was relieved by them.

There had been rumours that the 1st Div or part of it would be leaving Italy. Orders came for the 33rd to proceed to Palestine. Stores, vehicles and equipment were to be handed over to 2nd Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers. The Bn moved to Taranto on 9th Feb 1045. On 16th it embarked on SS Banfora arriving at Haifa on 22 Feb.

On 16 Dec 1944 I had been promoted to CQMS and was posted to HQ Coy at L'Olmo. Having been on the



QM's staff since 1940 I had no qualms about doing CQMS work, but late in Jan 45 I was sent on a CQMS course at Benevento, near Naples. It was like a holiday for me. Late Feb 45 with a WO2 from KSLI we sailed from Taranto and landed at Haifa. I joined the Bn at a camp at Ajdal about 12 miles from Tel Aviv. It was a tented camp except for the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. I found Sgt Cutler ( an ex-boy from Aldershot days) acting as CQMS. I took over and found there was very little work.

The reason the 1st Division was sent to Palestine was to assist in the safety of the French troops and civilians and to disarm the native troops in Syria, who had mutinied and killed their French officers around the Damascus and Beirut area in the Lebanon. We did not appear to be very active but I suppose the rifle coys were recuperating from the Italian Campaign, having rest and recreation.

*China's spell in the Middle East was uneventful (if you discount his frequent visits to the cabarets of Beirut and Alexandria!). For him there was plenty of movement but little action. Men began to be sent home for discharge, and eventually China's turn came. He boarded SS Volendam and sailed to Toulon, and then went by train to Dieppe and thence to Newhaven to Tournai Barracks in Aldershot.*

I was documented, fed, and shown into a barrack room. I was no stranger to Aldershot so I walked to the town in the evening. It had not changed; I returned to barracks. Next morning we were taken to Woking demob centre and issue with 1 civilian suit, 1 shirt, 1 tie, a trilby or cap and a raincoat. There was a huge selection and we chose the items we fancied, also a pair of shoes. With these items in a cardboard box we were given a railway warrant to our home town. Whilst waiting for the train I saw a familiar face, it was my old school pal who I last met on HMT Nevasa in Jan 1935, he was in the DCLI dropping off at Gibraltar.

I arrived home on 24 November 1945.

*That concludes our serialisation of China Gill's memoirs. After a short spell in "civvie street" he rejoined the Army as a Colour Sergeant, and served at a number of northern depots with largely transit populations – POWs returning home, re-enlistments returning to the colours, numerous "spare bods " that needed some form of processing. After a while he joined the staff at the Dukes' Depot in Halifax, which was commanded by Lt Col Dalrymple and engaged primarily in recruit training. Dates are hard to come by in China's account, but eventually this training was moved to Strensall, which looked after recruit training for the East Yorks, West Yorks, Green Howards, Duke of Wellington's, York and Lancasters and Northumberland Fusiliers. China's service continued in Malaya with the Green Howards for two years, then back to UK. His regular service concluded in November 1956, although he continued with the TA for a while.*

*China Gill's handwritten memoirs will now be placed into the Regimental archives. Apart from quite a brief – but lively – spell as a platoon sergeant in action in Tunisia he was rarely in the front line, but somewhere*

*just behind it, struggling through despite all that the weather and the enemy could do to prevent him getting rations to the rifle companies. It is not reported that they were unusually short of food (some disruption to supply being inevitable in the often extremely difficult circumstances) so we can conclude that he was generally successful. He survived Dunkirk, a large chunk of the North Africa Campaign, and the arduous actions from Anzio up Italy. He was present at the Victory Parades in Tunis and Rome. Few of those he started with in 1 DWR were still there with him at the end, when he left the battalion in Palestine in 1945. In his long service he made an invaluable contribution to the Dukes and to other units. He was a good Duke if ever there was one.*

### Henry Valerian George –6th Duke of Wellington



He was commissioned into the Regiment in 1935 from RMA Sandhurst and joined the Battalion in Malta. He was killed in action in Italy in September 1943, serving with No 2 Commando in the 46th Division, which also included 58 Anti Tank Regt RA (4th DWR). This is a photo of his war grave. The inscription at the base reads

"Virtutis Fortuna Comes

To "Morny" The Happy Warrior His Sorrowing Mother and Sister.

### CAPTAIN LEONARD NORMAN PHILLIPS MC

#### 10 DWR, 69th Brigade, 23rd Division

The Phillips Collection of a sword; medals; photograph album and a silver 23rd Divisional Riding



Competition winners' cup, belonging to Captain L N Phillips MC, has been very generously donated to the Regiment by Dr Patrick and Mrs Moira Phillips. The sword, medals and cup have been put on display in the Adjutant's office in Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster.

2Lt Phillips was commissioned into the 10th Battalion on 1st Jan 1915 and was promoted to Lieutenant in June 1915. He landed in France with the Battalion on 26th August, 1915, as part of 23rd Division. The Battalion was in the front line during the Loos offensive, 26th September 1915, and then moved to join the 20th Division in the Estaires and Fanquissart Sectors in October.

The Battalion rejoined the 23rd Division in the Armentieres Sector, remaining in that area until January 1916. During June, 1916, the Battalion was moved from Amiens forward towards Albert, a key nodal point for the Somme Battles about to be launched and finally reached Bécourt Wood on 3rd July. On 4th July 1916 the Battalion was ordered to take the Scot's Redoubt which was blocking 69th Brigade's advance towards Contalmaison. Lt Phillips personally led four attacks and eventually the Redoubt was captured.

For these actions he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre, notified in the London Gazette on 1st May, 1917, and on 4th June, 1917, the London Gazette announced the award of the Military Cross. Unfortunately, the citations for these have not been found. He was promoted to Captain in December 1916. In November, 1917, he took over from Captain H W Lester as Adjutant of the Battalion, officially a post he was to hold until May 1919.

The Battalion left the Ypres Sector and entrained for Italy on 8th October, 1917, arriving in billets near Sacca, north of Venice, on 14th October. There then followed a long route march to the front line on the River Piave which took until 2nd December. The Battalion took over a sector of the front line on 16th December where they were engaged in patrolling actions against the Austrians. In March, 1918, the Battalion moved to the Asiago Plateau where the Battalion took part in the Battle of the River Piave.

For these actions he was twice Mentioned in Despatches, announced in the London Gazettes of 30th May 1918 and 6th January 1919. On 10th December, 1919, the London Gazette announced a Bar to his Military Cross, the citation reads:

"On the 26th/27th October, 1918, during operations to cross the Piave this Officer has, throughout this battle, shown coolness and gallantry under heavy shelling and machine-gun fire and, as each company reached the Lido, he led them to their assembly positions. During the period of waiting, by his personal example and coolness, he greatly encouraged the men who were being shelled. Though carried off his feet by the current, and having to swim, he was one of the first across the river. His utter disregard of personal danger inspired all ranks with his enthusiasm."

On 3rd April, 1919, he was part of the Cadre that travelled back from Italy to the Depot in Halifax to hand over the documents and trophies of the Battalion.

## General Donald Isles

During his time General Donald was both President of the Royal British Legion in Lincolnshire from 1994-2000 and County Patron from 2000-2006. As you would expect he was widely both liked and respected throughout the Legion and in many other areas of the County not least as a Deputy (Lord) Lieutenant.



**Liz Isles and David Isles looking at the bust and some press cuttings; and Mrs Margaret Reeves**

Shortly after General Donald died on 12 November 2008 Lt Col Tim Isles OBE and indeed his sister Liz Isles and brothers Mike and David were very conscious of his contribution to the Legion and wanted to mark it with some form of presentation to Lincolnshire RBL in the form of an annual award. Having decided that they would like to present a mounted bust of the Great Duke this was discussed with the Legion County Headquarters and it was decided that the presentation would be awarded annually specifically as a Welfare Award to an individual or group of individuals/organisation who had contributed most to the County welfare operation over the past year.



**JW pointing to a picture of DEI taken in 1975. Bust in the foreground. Rosie Isles and her mother behind JW**

Accordingly, Tim made the presentation to Brigadier Barry Reeves, the current President of the Legion, in Lincolnshire on Wednesday 14 July at the Legion HQ at Wellington Hall. He was accompanied by sister Liz and his brothers Mike and David. Mike brought his wife Ena and their daughter Rosie to the event. It was a happy but emotional occasion. EJWW



# 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 WO's & Sgts Mess; TA Centre, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield. *Secretary:* Mrs P. Harley, 11 Wain Park, Berry Brow, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 7QX.

**Keighley:** 8.30pm last Thursday of each month at Pop & Pasty Public House, Bradford Road, Keighley. *Secretary:* Mr C. W. Akrigg, 14 The Poplars, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 7PW.

**London:** 12 noon at the Union Jack Club; 16 January 2011, 16 April (joint with PWO Association); 19 June and 11 September (tbc). *A/Secretary:* John Greenway, 35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7AT. Tel: 01252 514786. E.mail: jbkandjpg@aol.com

**Sheffield:** 8.00pm second Tuesday of each month at WO's & Sergeants' Mess, 38 Signals Regiment, Manor Top, Sheffield. *Secretary:* Mr C. Withers, 18 Wheel Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 8RN.

**Skipton:** 8.00pm second Thursday of each month at The White Rose Club, Newmarket Street, Skipton. *Secretary:* Mrs M. Bell, 39 Western Road, Skipton, BD23 2RU.

**York:** 8.00pm first Monday of each month at the Post Office Social Club, Marygate, York.

## TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE BATTALIONS' OCA

**5th Battalion.** *Secretary:* Mr J. T. Payne, 101 Bradley Road, Bradley, Huddersfield, HD2 1QU.

**9th Battalion (146 Regiment) RAC.** *Secretary:* Mr T. Moore, The Old Rectory, The Green, Marston Moreteyne, Bedfordshire, MK43 0NF.

## News From Area HQ Halifax (DWR) - Major R Heron

*(Some of these events are also referred to elsewhere in the Journal).*

### Rond Point du REGIMENT du DUC de WELLINGTON

Erquinghem Lys is a small town in Northern France, close to the Belgian border. It is the site of the Battle of 'Lys', a First World War Battle Honour awarded to 1/4th DWR in April 1918. It is also the site where Private Arthur Poulter, a stretcher bearer in the 1/4th, earned his Victoria Cross.

In November 1998 the people of Erquinghem Lys unveiled a memorial to Arthur Poulter VC, in the presence of members of the Poulter family. In September 1999 the Poulter family presented the medal to the 'Dukes' Museum at Bankfield, Halifax. During 2005 the Mayor and Council of Erquinghem Lys invited the Regiment to return to receive the 'Keys' (or Freedom) to the town, which it did on 12th November 2005.

As a result of the linkage between the 'Dukes' and Erquinghem, another link was formed, the Twinning of Erquinghem Lys and Skipton. On Sat 15 May 10, 3 YORKS were invited to exercise its Freedom of the town and to witness the formal twinning ceremony with Skipton in the Town Hall (Marie). On the same day a plaque was to be unveiled on the site of a new roundabout in the town, naming it 'The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Roundabout'.

So it was, on 15 May, that a contingent from 3 YORKS, including Drummers, Colour Party and





30-strong guard, ex 'Dukes' from the West Riding and a party from Skipton, descended on the small town of Erquingham Lys. The first event of the day at noon was a talk by Brig Dick Mundell about the Battle of Lys which was done at the site of the Poulter Memorial, overlooking the battlefield. This was followed by the Twinning ceremony in the Town Hall and parade (about 1.5km) to the Roundabout. Finally, there was a drinks reception, courtesy of Timothy Taylor's Brewery, Keighley (Arthur Poulter was a drayman for the brewery before the war).

All in all, it was a fantastic day in the sunshine of

Erquingham Lys, where there is a unique relationship between a small French town and the 'Dukes'.

### Officers' Dinner

On Sat 18 Jun, following the Presentation of Colours Parade, 108 officers and ladies sat down for dinner in the Merchant Taylor's Hall, York. Col Nick Borwell, President of the 'Dukes' Association, presided. Guests included Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton and Maj Gen Graham Binns Deputy Colonel of the Regiment. Former DWR Colonels: Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter and Brig Dick Mundell were also in attendance.

**Wellington  
Old Boys  
Reunion  
for Gen  
Huxtable,  
Lt Col  
Vallings,  
Maj Gen  
Webb Carter  
and  
Brig Bray**







**Brig Mundell insists on a second (and better) rendition of "The Dukes are coming up the hill" from the younger diners**



**Col Nick Borwell welcomes the guests, including Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton, seated to his right**

### Laying up of Colours



**Maj Gen Webb Carter and Lt Col Vallings handover the Colours to the Minster**

On the afternoon of Sat 26 Jun 10 (Armed Forces Day), the last stand of DWR Regulation Colours was paraded, together with the new Yorkshire Regiment Colours and the Honorary Colours, from Halifax Town Hall through the town centre to the Piece Hall and eventually to Halifax Minster. Thousands of people watched the parade both on the streets and in the Piece Hall. The Old Colours were slow-marched to the Altar to the sound of 'Old Lang Syne', where they were received by Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, the last Colonel of the Regiment and Lt Col Tom Vallings, CO 3 YORKS, who in turn handed them to the clergy, to be draped on the Altar. Following the service, a civic reception was held in Halifax Town Hall for ex 'Dukes' and serving members of 3 YORKS. These Colours are now hanging in their final resting place, the Wellington Chapel, Halifax Minster.



**The Old Colours at the altar**



## Elizabeth Cross Presentations

The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll are granted to the Next of Kin of UK Armed Forces personnel who have died on operations or as a result of terrorism from 1 January 1948 to date.

In June and July this year Elizabeth Crosses were presented to the next of kin of five Dukes killed in action:

On the 15 and 17 June at Carlton Barracks, Leeds, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, presented medals to the next of kin of:

*Private James Lee – KIA 16 July 1972, Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland*

*Private Roy Gibson – KIA 24 May 1953, 'The Hook', Korea*

*Private George Lee – KIA 6 June 1972, Ballymurphy, Northern Ireland*

On the 2 and 3 July at Crathorne House, Yarm, the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Lord Crathorne, presented medals to the next of kin of:

*Corporal John Henry Thompson – KIA 29 May 1953, Korea*

*Lance Corporal Jack Pinkney – KIA 29 May 1953, Korea*

## Shooting Triumph



This photo shows Major (retd) Alex Liddle and Captain (retd) Tom Golding taken on 5 December 2009 at a shoot arranged to celebrate the getting together of a few old RMAS chums. On 5 December 2009 there was a reunion of several alumni from RMA Sandhurst CC933 at Norman Hall in Hampshire. The occasion was celebrated with a driven shoot. Alex and Tom are pleased to announce they thrashed the combined efforts of the Guards / Light Division / Cavalry guns. A rematch is planned for December 2010.

## The Hindoostan Open – Friday 2 July 2010

Stewart Dickson made the plan and then pressure of work overcame him so Pete Lee, Convenor of the Dukes London Group, executed it. Many thanks to both. 10



**John Greenway, Michael Bray and Charles Cumberlege (looking very chipper)**

stalwart members of the Group and one guest assembled at Pine Ridge Golf Course near Bagshot, in easy earshot of the Bisley ranges, to contest this annual golf match. Perfect weather for it too, and a generous course holding few surprises.

It would be fair to say that this was a mixed ability party. Brig Michael Bray diligently practised his more than slightly rusty swing using pine cones whilst waiting at the first, whilst others went into a huddle to do deals on handicaps. Final scores were laudable and everyone was content.



**Gary Knight, facing, was unable to stay for the meal and prizes.**

Andrew Shand came out the winner with 45 stableford points, and the longest drive. Tim Nicholson was second with 41, and nearest the pin. Mark Crawford scored 38 for third place. 4 others scored 34 or above including Simon Morgan's guest and business partner Charles Rowe, and all the rest were in the mid to high twenties. Excellent golf and good fun.

A hurried trip to a nearby supermarket had resulted in some eclectic prizes. Luckily the Dukes branded golf balls did not turn up until after play so there was no chance of losing them, and everyone received at least three, and a handful of "Virtutis Fortuna Comes" high tees. The winner strode off in triumph with a four pack of John Smiths, a bottle of Australian "champagne" and 6 golf balls. That's a proper prize is that! Better than some old claret jug.





Rear, standing from left: Tim Nicholson, Simon Morgan.

Front, sitting from left: Alex Liddle, Pete Lee, Michael Bray, Charles Rowe, Andrew Shand, Mark Crawford, John Greenway, Charles Cumberlege.

### London Branch



In April 2010 the Branch enjoyed a second joint meeting with the PWO Association's London Branch at the Union Jack Club. Members of both branches have agreed to continue with this joint meeting followed by all taking lunch together in the Club dining room in 2011.

### 1 DWR 2nd XV 1924 – 1925.

Bob Temple, whose Father served with the Dukes, came across this photograph recently. The caption reads "1st D of W RFC 1924 – 1925 2nd XV".



# Obituaries

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

## Mr Bill Matthews

With great sadness I must inform you that our Father William (Bill) Matthews, a former Duke, passed away on January 29th aged 93 years. He was always proud of being a soldier in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment with its illustrious history and fine fighting tradition in many major conflicts and theatres of war. Bill also spoke of the Dukes' sporting achievements where they have an excellent record over the years in a range of sports.

Having joined as a boy soldier, he was sent with the Regiment to India in 1933. After a period of service in India, Bill was sent to Burma with the Regiment and was captured after taking part in the Battle of Sittang River in February 1942. He made an unsuccessful attempt to escape and was transferred to Rangoon Jail where he remained in captivity till the War in the Far East ended in August 1945.

Bill was invalided out at the end of the war and spent some time convalescing and recovering from multiple wounds and malnutrition. In spite of his wartime injuries he got on with his peacetime life as a civilian and led a full and productive life. He was Father to six of us, three sons and three daughters and he loved family life.

Bill joined the British Red Cross, Far East Prisoners of War, was a Burma Star standard bearer and also a member of the Royal British Legion, collecting thousands of pounds for the Poppy Appeal. He loved being involved with all these organisations, enjoyed the camaraderie with other veterans, meeting people from all walks of life and helping ex service personnel in his role as a welfare officer. He felt that he was one of the lucky ones who came back from the war, wanted to put something back as he could never forget his comrades who didn't make it home.

Bill had a traditional funeral with the Union Flag draped over the coffin, his Burma Star beret and medals with standard bearers and Guard of Honour. Also a Scots piper met the cortege and piped us up to the Church. Before the interment at Branford Lawn Cemetery the piper played a lament, then the Last Post, Epitaph and Reveille. It was the last thing we could do for him as a family.

Bill had a gift for caring, a terrific sense of humour and could always be relied on in a crisis. In short, a real trooper, an old soldier to the last. He will be sorely missed by all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren but he has left us with many happy memories and a true and shining example of how a life should be lived.

Written by Mrs Carol Morrison (daughter).

## Major Derek Roberts



Derek Roberts died at his family home in Huttons Ambo, on 19 August 2010 aged 92. He had a peaceful end to his long life and a rousing send-off on 8 September, at which a number of Dukes and their wives were present.

He was born on 6 July 1918 in Harrogate, West Yorkshire, and was therefore a natural candidate for a commission in the Dukes in January 1939. His war started slowly, first at the Depot at Halifax till January 1940, then as Company 2ic in the 2nd Battalion in India. Life was pretty relaxed for a while with plenty of sport and partying and, of course, the summer exodus to Simla to escape the heat. He played cricket, rugby, squash and golf for the Battalion.

He met and married Phoebe in Simla in October 1941 but the honeymoon period in all senses was short lived with the Battalion's departure for Burma. Derek was Divisional LO to 17 Indian Division when the Battalion was trapped against the Sittang River, the bridge having been blown. He, along with hundreds of others, had to swim the River, some 800 metres across. In fact, he crossed it twice, going back under enemy fire to help others, who were wounded or could not swim - conspicuous gallantry for which he was Mentioned in Despatches. Even then he and his comrades were not safe; the Japanese were already across the River and, just when they seemed to be surrounded, a British Army train appeared and they jumped aboard to be transported to safety. There was then an altercation with the Military Police who arrested them for desertion as they appeared wearing only their underpants and minus their weapons, but that was swiftly brushed aside!

The time in the River took its toll, however, as Derek succumbed to malaria, dysentery and leptospirosis and he was medically downgraded for much of the rest of the war, which he continued to spend in training and staff posts as a captain and major in India. The family finally departed in May 1945 to join 6 DWR in UK with Derek as a Company Commander.

Derek also served as a Company Commander with 1 DWR





in Palestine at the time of the Stern Gang and Khartoum in 1946/47. It was then back to Strensall for the first of three spells as Adjutant, serving five different COs in his career, including Dick Cumberlege, Ramsay Bunbury and Babe Webb-Carter. He served on the UK Liaison Staff in Australia in 1952/53, returning to DWR in Gibraltar as they arrived back from Korea, and completed his regular service as CO Depot at Halifax 1956-58.

He took up a post with TAVRA and West Riding Cadets, where he was a central figure along with Roger Sugden for many years. He and Phoebe settled at the

Hollies in Huttons Ambo in 1959. Many Dukes will remember with fondness their generous hospitality there. Sadly Phoebe died suddenly in 1995 but Derek soldiered on with great fortitude and taking solace in his second great love – golf. He was a very good golfer, playing off 2 in his younger days. He played for the Army and was Northern Command Champion in 1951. He won the Silver Putter several times, including an “honorary” win in Holywood, Northern Ireland, in 1986 when his son Alistair was CO 1 DWR. He was lucky enough to be still playing twice a week at 90, having been a member and one time President of Ganton, near Scarborough, for over 50 years.

Derek had great charm and all ages enjoyed his company. He will also be remembered as a firm but fair disciplinarian, particularly during his spells as Adjutant. He had very high standards; he proved himself in battle; he was a Duke through and through, continuing to attend DWR events till the end, including the Presentation of Colours in York in June 2010. Those, who saw him “marching” behind the band at the Farewell Parade in Warminster, aged 87, will have seen a lifelong Duke and true patriot.

### ***RHQ has been notified of the following deaths –***

**Mr L Miles:** Lancelot Miles, who was a 1st Battalion National Serviceman in Korea with B Company, died on the 19th of April 2010, at the age of 82.

**Mr B Threlfall:** Brian Threlfall, who served in the 1st Battalion for 14 years in the 1970s and 1980s, died on 28th April 2010 after a long battle with cancer.

**Mr I White:** Ian (Chalkie) White, who served 9 years in Hong Kong, Catterick and Northern Ireland, died on 28th August 2010.

**Mr GH Curzon:** former WO2 George Curzon died on 4th April 2010 at the age of 91. George joined the Dukes in 1939 at the Depot, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax. He was then posted to our 2/6th Battalion who were part of the British Expeditionary Force 1940-1942. He later served with the 1st Battalion in Italy and

Palestine, until his demobilisation in 1946.

**Mr B Crowther:** Bernard (Bernie) Crowther, who joined the 1st Battalion in Catterick in 1971, died in Spain on 13th August 2010. Bernie served in the Dukes for a total of 17 years, almost all of this time as a clerk, rising through the ranks he worked in the Orderly Room, B Company and the Quartermaster's Department. In 1983 in Gibraltar he was promoted to SSgt and appointed Chief Clerk, the position he held until 1985 in both Bulford and Belize.

Bernie's funeral service took place in Spain and was family only. However a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Bernie was held in the Dukes' Chapel, Halifax Minster, on Saturday 18th September 2010, attended by his family and many of his Dukes friends.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

#### **Major C D Adair**

148 The Keep  
Kingston Upon Thames  
Surrey KT5 5UF

#### **Major S H Dixon**

Ancren Gate North  
Downe House Cold Ash  
THATCHAM Berkshire RG18 9JJ

#### **Major R A Hawkins TD**

16 Moor Hill Court  
Salendine Nook  
HUDDERSFIELD  
West Yorkshire HD3 3GO

#### **Lieutenant Colonel**

#### **H S Le Messurier**

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#### **Mr S Neath**

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#### **Mr W Simpson**

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DUMFRIESHAIRE DG11 2HP

#### **Mrs D H Tolson**

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#### **Mr G Greenwood**

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#### **Mr G Hunter**

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#### **Colonel D A Ross**

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#### **Mr P G Smith**

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#### **Mr M Tinsley**

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#### **Mr C J Wykes**

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Dorset DT3 4JL

# LETTERS

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

## From Brig MRN Bray CBE

JOURNAL OF THE AFFGHAN WAR IN 1842

*By Lieutenant Edward Bray, 31st Regiment  
(Later the East Surrey Regt)*

Recently I was lucky enough to find on the internet, and buy, the above book, written by my great great uncle about his Regiment's part in the expedition into Afghanistan in 1842, to avenge the massacre of the British force which withdrew from that country in 1840. Mostly it is a tale of the details of infantry life at that time: rugged country and climate, endless marching and many minor engagements with the Afghans, logistic nightmares, and high losses from disease. All in all, a tough life. Perhaps of more interest to your current readers will be his strategic observations, which follow; (using his spelling).

*"As Affghanistan is never likely to be seen again by an English army.....I have thought that my journal .....is worth preserving.*

*The Affghan war was commenced in error; in 1839, by our sending an army into Affghanistan to establish Shah Soojah, an unpopular and banished king, upon the throne of Cabool, and to dethrone Dost Mahommend, a popular, energetic and good king, worth five hundred Shah Soojahs. This extraordinary measure was undertaken and carried out under the impression that by our having a firm ally in the King of Cabool, all fear of a Russian invasion of India would be set at rest; this being the great bugbear of those days.*

*Although we failed in our intention as regards Shah Soojah, we established one fact very clearly at the cost of millions of money and thousands of men; and it is this, that no Russian army ever could invade India through Affghanistan, or arrive on the frontier of India in such strength or condition as to be able to do battle with an Indian army such as would be concentrated to meet it."*

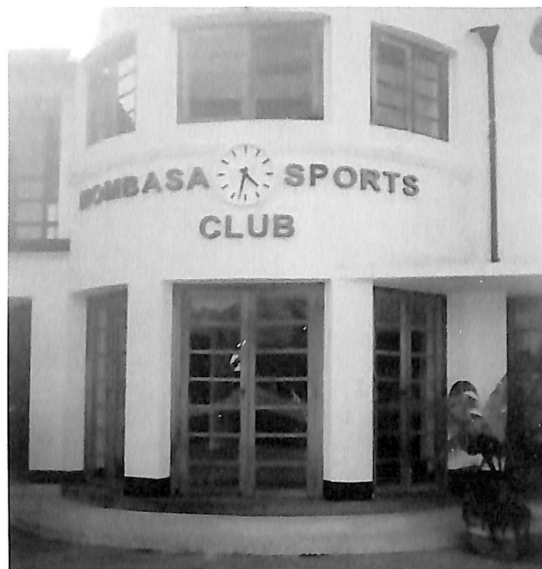
Edward survived, as did my great uncle, Reginald, who had an even narrower escape on a subsequent British disaster in Afghanistan. In 1880, at the battle of Maiwand, he had been left in charge of the baggage train of the 66th (the Berkshire Regiment). The whole Battalion was overrun; every officer and man killed.

Soon after my Father joined the Dukes in the 1930s, they were on operations on the North West Frontier of India, but so far as I am aware, we had the good sense not to go into Afghanistan. Sadly, we seem to have forgotten that it is a place to be avoided.

However, the reason for going in this time was probably sounder than those of the 19th Century; and judging the outcome of a campaign while it is in progress is unwise. It is just a pity that politicians have so little understanding of the utility of military force and the resources needed to do the job they set.

## From Lt Col JRA Ward

I enclose two photographs I recently took at the Mombasa Sports Club whilst on a business trip. The Duke's plaque is prominently displayed in the bar. There is no date on it and I wonder whether anyone recalls the occasion on which it was presented?



**Mombasa Sports Club.**

Note; the photo of the plaque cannot be satisfactorily reproduced. If it helps anyone to recall its presentation, it is next to a shield from the Royal Marines 6 SBS.

## From Mr Joe Bailes

When I was in Halifax I met one of the Drummers/Snipers. My old sniper sergeant was not there so I had a quick chat. I was in Lt Col Bunbury's Bisley Team and we were of such a high standard when we were young soldiers, six of us had scores which previously were Champion scores.

Luckily it was my turn to be top scorer and I was Rhine Army Champion. In 1951 Jack Lister and I were young soldiers on the Bren Gun at Bisley. In 1952 John Fifield and I were Army Bren Gun Champions at Bisley. After the Truce in Korea I was Champion Shot of the Commonwealth Division.

I think it would be very nice if another Duke could break my records. They are there to be broken. Best wishes to you and the Regiment.

Once a Duke always a Duke.

*Editor's Note:* There's a clearly thrown down challenge 3 YORKS! We look forward to reporting in future editions as today's soldiers surpass Joe's achievements.



# **The Dukes' Regimental Association**

## **FORECAST OF EVENTS 2010/11**

Please keep the Editor informed of any changes or new activities

<b>Thursday 11 November 2010</b>	<b>Remembrance Day Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey</b>
<b>Sunday 14 November 2010 (AM)</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday Parades</b>
<b>Thursday 31 March 2011</b>	<b>Officers' Ladies Lunch, Naval and Military Club, London</b>
<b>Saturday 28 May 2011</b>	<b>Over 33 under 76 Reunion, Strensall (TBC)</b>
<b>Friday 17 June 2011</b>	<b>Officers' Dinner Club, Naval and Military Club, London</b>
<b>Saturday 25 June 2011</b>	<b>Joint Regimental/Armed Forces Day Parade and Service, Halifax Minster</b>
<b>12 – 19 September 2011</b>	<b>Proposed Battlefield Tour, Northern Italy</b>
<b>Saturday 1 October 2011</b>	<b>Regimental Association Dinner, Bradford</b>

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

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

