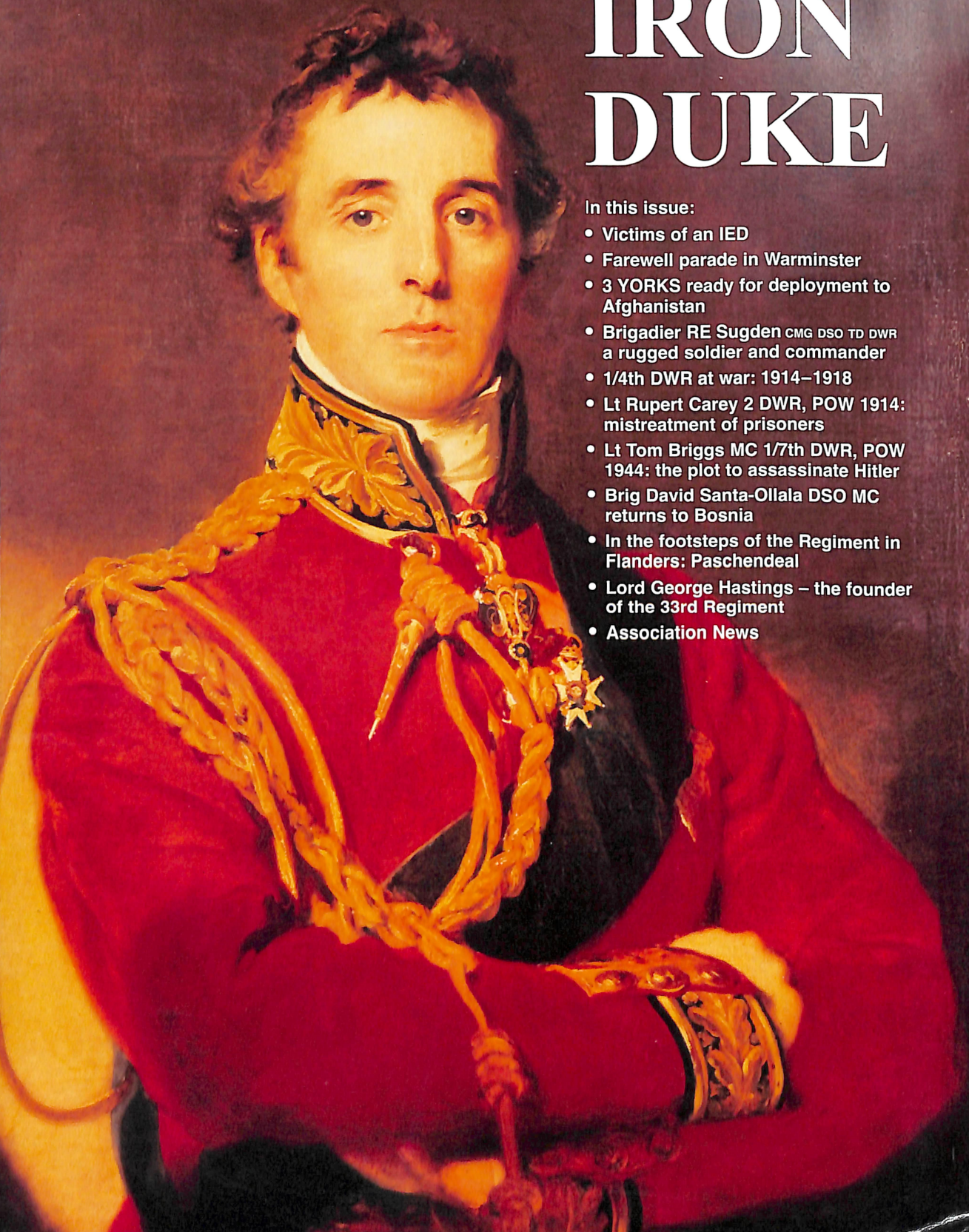


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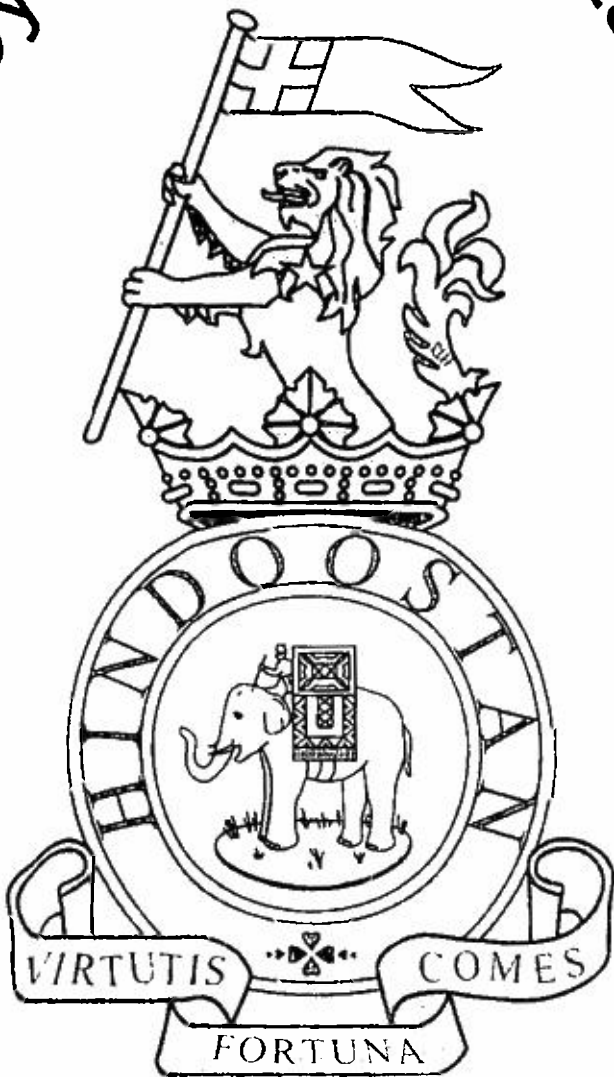
THE IRON DUKE

In this issue:

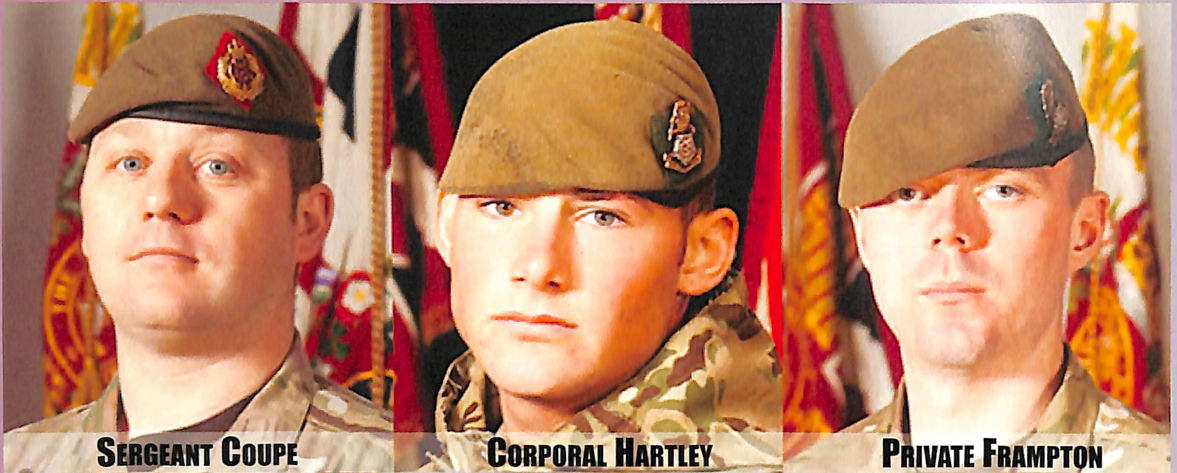
- Victims of an IED
- Farewell parade in Warminster
- 3 YORKS ready for deployment to Afghanistan
- Brigadier RE Sugden CMG DSO TD DWR a rugged soldier and commander
- 1/4th DWR at war: 1914–1918
- Lt Rupert Carey 2 DWR, POW 1914: mistreatment of prisoners
- Lt Tom Briggs MC 1/7th DWR, POW 1944: the plot to assassinate Hitler
- Brig David Santa-Ollala DSO MC returns to Bosnia
- In the footsteps of the Regiment in Flanders: Paschendale
- Lord George Hastings – the founder of the 33rd Regiment
- Association News



Digitised by The Regimental Archives



The six men of Corunna Company 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment who died when an IED exploded under their Warrior Armoured Vehicle in the Lashkar Gah Durai region in an operational area on the border of Helmand and Kandahar provinces on 6th March 2012. All members of the Regiment extend their deepest sympathy to their families, friends and comrades.



SERGEANT COUPE

CORPORAL HARTLEY

PRIVATE FRAMPTON



PRIVATE KERSHAW

PRIVATE WADE

PRIVATE WILFORD



Above: Books of Condolence
in St Lawrence Chapel



Right: Flowers outside the Barracks Gate

Please also see pages 20-22

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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CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Warminster Parade | 2 |
| Editorial | 4 |
| 3 YORKS Replot | 5-19 |
| 3 YORKS Casualties | 20-22 |
| Brig Gen RE Sugden | 23-24 |
| 1/4th in the Great War | 25-26 |
| Lt Carey 2 DWR; PoW | 28-29 |
| Lt Briggs 2/7th DWR, PoW | 29-31 |
| Return to Goradze | 32-33 |
| Paschendael area today | 34-37 |
| Lord George Hastings | 37 |
| Association News | 38-41 |
| Letters | 42-43 |
| Obituaries | 44-48 |

FAREWELL PARADE IN WARMINSTER

Nobody in Warminster on the morning of Friday 16th March could have failed to sense the strong bond that has built up between the town of Warminster and 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). This parade was planned months ago as an essentially local event, expressing a genuine wish on the part of the Battalion to thank its host town for its sustained welcome, and for the citizens of Warminster to demonstrate their affection and support for these men as they make final preparations for an operational tour in Afghanistan.

The tragic recent loss of six men of Corunna Company when their Warrior armoured vehicle was blown up in Afghanistan raised the profile of the parade to a level of extreme national interest, and there was wide coverage in national TV and other media. Despite the cameras and outside broadcast vehicles and other media presence and paraphernalia, skilfully handled by

Army press staff, this parade was still essentially about the warm relationship between camp and town.

The route from the form up point just off Station Road all through the main streets of the town to the Church of Warminster St Denys at the far end of town on the Bath Road was packed with spectators, in places filling the full width of the pavement. The mood was cheerful, hopeful, excited. All the schools closed for an hour or two, and crocodiles of primary school children were led in double files from their school premises, clutching largely home-made flags, to prime spectator positions. The pupils of Warminster School lined the low walls of their establishment, on both sides of the route.

We were not disappointed. The Battalion was formed in four guards of 100 men, led by the band of the Royal Logistics Corps (which in turn was preceded, perhaps unusually, by the exotically dressed Town Crier!), with



Civic dignitaries and standard bearers gather outside the Chapel of St Lawrence. Mrs Stenning is talking to the Mayor of Warminster (pink jacket).



Col and Mrs Cumberlege, Col and Mrs Vallings and Lt Col and Mrs Andrews amongst the spectators.



Town Crier and Band of the RLC in Market Place



The CO, Lt Col Stenning, leads the battalion up to the saluting dais.



HRH The Duke of York takes the salute.

the Colours and their Escorts in the middle of the column. All ranks looked fit, marched with just enough swagger, and handled themselves extremely well throughout the thirty minutes of marching. Talk on the pavements was full of admiration, tinged with deep regret at the early loss, before most of the Battalion had even deployed to theatre, of six fine young men, and hopes for the safe return of all those on parade, and those already there.

The Service at St Denys, which took place immediately after the parade, was for the Battalion and its families only, and was an act of remembrance for the fallen.

This was a truly good and perhaps even historic parade which both those who marched and those who watched will remember for a long time.



The end of the route on the Bath Road outside the Minster of St Denys.

EDITORIAL

Ready to go

CO 3 YORKS, Lt Col Zac Stenning MBE, reports that the Battalion is manned, equipped, motivated, trained and in every way ready to go. It will recover from the tragic Corunna Company losses and will be stronger. Good luck boys.

The Dukes in the Great War

As we try to absorb the shocking news of our casualties in Afghanistan and the main body of 3 YORKS deploys in its operational, ground holding role there, it is timely to remember an earlier Dukes' deployment, one that was to bring over 4 years of fierce fighting. The story of Brig Gen Richard Sugden (known as RE in the family) is skilfully told in this Iron Duke by Professor Richard Simkin, and this is offered with some background on the Territorial Force of 1914 and in particular Sugden's battalion, 1/4th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Over the nearly 100 years since the beginning of that terrible conflict, public understanding of WW1 has diminished to a few popular, and far from balanced, beliefs, along the "lions led by donkeys" road. To read the history of the 1/4th is to discover a very different view at ground level. It is a matter of fact and very readable account by Capt Bales MC, who served with the battalion as IO and Adjutant through much of the war. The acclaimed and enjoyable recent film "Warhorse" will now be how most people envisage the war. It was not, of course, quite like that, although it might be thought that the representation of no mans' land was realistic.

Captain Bales says that so far as the 1/4th were concerned Divisional and Brigade commanders were liked and respected; regimental officers took a great deal of care of their men, and led from the front; all ranks were motivated and despite dreadful losses and awful conditions, eager to seek out and close with the enemy. Of course there would have been bad days and much grumbling and muttering – when is there not? – but when it mattered, sleeves were rolled up and the task got on with. In 147 Infantry Brigade "can do – will do" was the order of the day, despite huge losses and dreadful conditions.

We have already seen how tough it can get – and let us hope that there will be no lower point - for soldiers from our battalion currently in Afghanistan, and those left behind at home in Warminster.. But if they have a

moment, today's soldiers may care to reflect on what it was like for 1/4th and those they left behind: for example when it was first gassed near Ypres in 1915, or when it went over the top in the Somme battle in September 1916: or when it was under massive artillery fire at Nieupoort in 1917, or attacking Belle Vue Spur at Paschendael later that year; or when it, almost alone, was holding a collapsing defensive line in Erquinem Lys in the Spring of 1918, or making their last major attack between 11th and 18th October 1918, East of Cambrai, during which time the battalion took 443 casualties.

Those Dukes did then what our Dukes will do now: absorb the shock, grieve for their comrades, work through it and fight on. And, later, remember them. That is how it has been for 310 years of service by the Dukes, under whatever regimental title. It is the soldier's way.

Prisoners of War

In this issue we are also able to present two accounts from DWR POWs, one in the First and one in the Second World War. It is all too easy to forget the men who were swept from the heat of battle into the long frustration of captivity, which often, as here told, turned out to be far from uneventful.

Return to Gorazde.

Brigadier David Santa-Ollala DSO MC made an unexpected return visit to Gorazde recently, to open an internet café (as you do!). The trip brought back many memories of 1 DWR's tours in that region, and he writes about it in this issue.

In the Footsteps of the Regiment – Paschendael

A report on the ground over which the 33rd fought the Waterloo Campaign was due in this issue, but in view of the focus on WW1, one from that era has been published instead. Accounts of visits to the modern day landscapes of Oudenarde and Fontenoy, and then Waterloo will follow in due course.

News from the Regimental Family

The editor would very much like to be able to print more news from members of the Regimental Family, and will welcome reports, snippets, memories and photographs from any source, from the families in Warminster to the veterans of WW2 and Korea. Please do not feel constrained to contribute in whatever way you can. The Editor's contact information is just inside the front cover, bottom left corner.

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

- The Iron Duke, the Journal for all who served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Published twice yearly, price £10 per year.
- The Duke's website, {<http://www.dwr.org.uk>}, for latest news, historical information and an opportunity to comment through the forum. Contact {<mailto:editor@dwr.org.uk>} with your news.

The 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment

(The Duke of Wellington's)

BATTLEGROUP HEADQUARTERS

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Commanding Officer | - | Lt Col Z Stenning MBE |
| Second in Command | - | Maj R Driver |
| Adjutant | - | Capt M Wade-Smith |
| Ops Officer | - | Capt DP Holloway |
| RSM | - | WO1 (RSM) Syzmanski |
| Intelligence Officer | - | Capt AD Ross |
| RSO | - | Capt CJ Ibbotson |

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

It has been an incredibly busy period since I last wrote. Corunna Company is now in Helmand and operating as the Brigade Armoured Infantry Company. The tragic losses that we have just heard of as this edition goes to press have hit us hard; but we will recover and we will be stronger. The resolve of all members of the Battalion in these challenging days, has been truly humbling. We will never forget Sergeant Nigel Coupe, Private Anthony Frampton, Private Daniel Wade, Private Christopher Kershaw, Cpl Jake Joseph Hartley and Private Daniel Wilford.

By the time this article is being read, the rest of the Battalion will be deployed in Helmand and operating as Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (South) CF NES(S). Alongside us and as part of the CF there will be A

Company 3 RIFLES and Prince of Wales' Company, WELSH GUARDS as well as 500 Afghan Warriors from the 2nd KANDAK of the Afghan Army. It is a strong 'team of teams' with a clear mission; to transition and handover the lead for security within Nahr-e Saraj to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The Battalion is confident and well trained. In terms of an update it is worthy to note the following headlines:

Manning: The Battalion is fully manned, with 700 Soldiers and nearly 40 Officers. 17 Members of 4 YORKS are amongst our ranks and doing sterling work already. In addition, we have a number of new Officers and Soldiers who have recently arrived from training. Both groups are highly motivated and incredibly strong. I am deeply impressed at not only the quality that



The Bn March & Shoot gets underway

RMAS is producing, but also with what ITC Catterick and AFC Harrogate are delivering. There is no 'problem' with our young; indeed the quality has never been higher.

Equipment: The Battalion has never been better equipped. We have been issued first class equipment with which to train for and deploy to Afghanistan with. Everything from weapon systems, vehicles, communications and personal equipment are of the highest quality. It has been remarkable to track the changes in physical appearance of the Battalion over the past 9 months. I hope the photographs recorded on these pages and others capture the changes that we have experienced. It would be remiss at this stage not to formally record the immense hard work that the Quartermasters Department under Major Sean Caine, Captain Nick Wilson and RQMS Simms/Yeadon and Connell has delivered. Their tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed.



Pistol shooting on the Multiple Competition

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Training: Mission Specific Training (MST) has been long and relentless. Prior to Christmas we learnt the generic COIN skills under the careful guidance of the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG). This phase culminated in a Confirmatory Exercise (CFX) in December on a chilly Thetford training area, where all Company's performed brilliantly. Post Christmas the Battalion focused on some NES(S) training specifics; Ground Sign Awareness (GSA), Operating at Night, Combat Shooting, 'Deepening' the medical experience, Targeting and Sniper Group training. All this training culminated in a 10 day FTX on Salisbury Plain, where the CF performed extremely well. It is no exaggeration to say that the training has got the entire team into an excellent place; the Battalion are confident and ready for operations. This confidence is as much down to the quality of the training as it is to the attitude of the men and women within the Battalion. Under the mantra of LEARN/ADAPT/WIN, Multiples, Platoons and Companies have grown in capability. This

is borne out in the following articles I am sure, and I hope readers can see the confidence that the team now has. Throughout training the Main Effort has remained unchanged; Strong Multiples who can move, fight, communicate and enable the Afghans to secure their population.

Balanced Life: To ensure the Battalion arrives in theatre fresh for the challenges ahead there have been a substantial number of long weekends included into the programme after Christmas leave. This has allowed the Battalion to keep a 'relative' quality of life during what has been a very busy period. Essential Company 'days out' under the guise of 'team-building' have continued and I am delighted that all Messes have held a number of successful parties as well as external visits; the Officer's Mess to the House of Commons and the Warrant Officers and Sergeant Mess (over 2 days!) to RHQ, Richmond and York, where they visited both the Museums and the Regimental Chapels. Sport has continued to play a part in Battalion life and I am delighted to report that the Battalion won the annual Rugby match against RMAS. The Football Team are fighting hard in the Infantry Cup; we wait to see if they can build on last year's stunning achievement.

Families: I am immensely grateful to the families who have endured much separation over the past 9 months. Their love and support has been solid throughout and the Battalion is stronger for it. We have hosted a number of families' days in the run up to deployment aimed at introducing parents and friends to the forthcoming tour and allowing them to see and get a feel of the equipment that will be used. These days have been delivered at Company level and have been amazingly well attended. At the last count, some 2000 family members have been through the gates; a stunning statistic and one we should be proud of as a family Regiment. The Battalion has also lit a candle just outside the front gate of Battlesbury Barracks, which will remain lit for 9 months until the last soldier is back from Afghanistan. We are all very grateful to the Families Officer under Sergeant Hardy and the newly arrived Captain Kesterton who do so much for our families. Amazingly a Military Wives choir has also sprung up amongst the wives and we look forward to hearing them soon.

Sustaining. The Rear Operations Group under Major Mally Birkett is now firmly established. It consists of some 100 soldiers who will ensure that the Battalion continues to function whilst we are away. The team is impressive; it is well led and well resourced. Its tasks are significant; caring for our wounded and fallen, training Battle Casualty Replacements, maintaining vehicles (which we will need in 2013), enabling inspections by Brigade and Division, managing R+R and looking after our Families.

In closing, the Battalion is ready for Afghanistan. I have a deep confidence in our people and the team. The 'team of teams' is strong.

ALMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding - Major F Bibby
 Second-in-Command - Capt T Flecchia
 CSM - WO2 D C Wyeth
 Company Quartermaster Sergeant - CSgt S Harrison

1 Platoon
 2 Lt T Appleyard
 Sgt SBW Lynch

2 Platoon
 2 Lieut D Arnold
 Sgt L Burrows

3 Platoon
 2nd Lieut OCJ Sparks
 Sgt GD Thursby

The last 5 months have seen Alma Company switch focus from Hybrid Foundation Training that culminated in BATUS to Mission Specific Training (MST) in preparation for HERRICK 16. It is incredible to witness the effect that an imminent operational tour has on the performance and attitude of a company and the soldiers in it. The challenge of learning new skills and the prospect of using them in anger, sharpens the minds of every soldier and heightens the sense of responsibility that every NCO and Officer feels.

The MST package starts at quite a pace and never seems to let up. The early stages of training deal with cultural awareness and the basic principles of Counter Insurgency (COIN). For many in Alma the geography and the huge differences between Afghan culture and ours was a shock and it was important to expose ourselves to this early in our training. Next was to learn the Afghan specific Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) which considering only 14 in the company have

completed a HERRICK meant that everyone was on a steep learning curve. However it is amazing how quickly new skills are learned and it was very soon that the multiples became confident in them after a period of cascade training and a Battalion run exercise on Salisbury Plain.

The big test at Company level is the OPTAG run Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX), held at STANTA in Norfolk. This is an extremely well resourced and realistic exercise that thoroughly tested all elements of the company. Multiples were positioned in isolated check points operating independently to disrupt a thinking enemy and engage with an indifferent local national population. To support them they had aviation, base ISTAR, a Mastiff group and many more notional ISTAR and indirect fire assets. CASEVAC serials were played to conclusion, meaning helicopters were used for extraction which tested our reporting procedures and heli handling skills as well as first aid. Company level



Lt Sparks is still trying to find the injury

Compound clearance drills



deliberate operations were tested, supporting local national Armed Forces. All will remember the Green Zone clearance operation that saw the company wading at time chest deep in a boggy river, advancing through a dense wood in pursuit of a constantly moving insurgent. However the highlight of the exercise was on the last day when the company executed a strike using aviation onto an insurgent bed down location. The planning tested all elements of Company Headquarters and the experience of inserting on Chinooks was both exciting and relevant to HERRICK 16.

Training has continued after Christmas with live

firing and a coy exercise back at STANTA. At the same time our numbers have grown as we are lucky to have backfilled by five 4 YORKS soldiers who have settled in brilliantly and have contributed a sniper and a history graduate to our rich tapestry of skills. Also a number of recruits from Catterick have arrived and have impressed with their enthusiasm and very high level of training.

As we learn more about the area in which we will operate and understand the tasks we will be given we get more confident and I am certain that Alma Company will have a successful tour this summer.



The modern Ops Room

BURMA COMPANY

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| Officer Commanding | - | Maj R Singleton |
| Second-in-Command | - | Capt AP Lewis |
| Bat Capt | - | Lt A Wood (RTR) |
| CSM | - | WO2 LP Seviour |
| CQMS | - | CSgt G Anderson |

4 Platoon
Lt R Townsend
Sgt S Pears

5 Platoon
2Lt JR Carter
Sgt M McConnell

6 Platoon
2Lt LTJ Mason
Sgt GM Marshall

After successfully completing BATUS, Burma Company moved seamlessly into Mission Specific Training (MST) ahead of our deployment to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 16 in April 2012. MST is excellent; but frenetic too! Since September 2011 the Company has participated in a plethora of individual courses including learning to drive, command and crew a host of new vehicle platforms. Every soldier in the company is now a specialist in one area or another. A few examples include: LCpl Hodge who deployed to the USA to learn how to be a counter-improvised explosive device dog handler; Cpl Radley who with a team of 7 others trained extensively as an all Arms Search Team Commander; and Pte Themistocleous, Pte Hopewell, Pte Bainimoli and Pte Iwuoha who all trained for four months to become Pashto language instructors.

The live firing aspect of MST has been first class. Exercise PASHTUN HORIZON in Lydd allowed the company to fire every direct-fire weapon system and the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) at Castlemartin culminated in a day long Company strike operation incorporating attack helicopters; a medical emergency response team in support helicopters; an excellent Fire Support Group in Jackals provided by Somme Company and armed with both Heavy Machine Guns and Grenade Machine Guns; a mortar line providing live indirect fire; and last but not least, a troop of Mastiff Protected Mobility vehicles. All of these assets were coordinated carefully ensuring the troops on the ground left the exercise brimming with confidence in the firepower available.

The key test for the Company was the Confirmatory

Field Exercise held in Thetford just before Christmas. This was as realistic as it gets with all of the assets available in theatre plus elements of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to partner and a civilian population played by Afghan expatriates in the UK to interact with. Platoons operated in a variety of roles which included manning isolated check points; remaining on high readiness as quick reaction forces; or providing Forward Operating Bases with force protection. A high point was a day long clearance operation of the 'green zone' alongside our ANA counterparts.

In manning terms we are now at 100% thanks in part to the welcome addition of 11 members of 4 YORKS



Taking aim



Happy to finish the CFX

who joined us for the latter half of MST. Already integrated they add significant value and their civilian skills will be hugely beneficial in some of the more austere environments that we will face this Summer. The equipment we have received is genuinely second to none. The training delivery has been excellent as has the Company's approach to both individual and collective training events. As ever, we remain sustained by our families and friends of whom several hundred

attended the pre-deployment Company Families' Day in February 12. Finally it is worth mentioning some significant personal achievements. Sgt Pears was awarded the Muji-Kas Trophy in December 12 as the most promising Sgt in the Bn; Cpl's Bishop, Shaw and Collington all passed PSBC and LCpl McCurdy successfully passed SCBC; finally Pte Kelly was awarded the Pte Johnathan Young Award for the Best Pte Soldier in the Company – well done to them all!

CORUNNA COMPANY

Officer Commanding - Maj E Colver
 Second-in-Command - Capt N Ross
 Bat Capt - Capt Castello
 CSM - WO2 Whitehouse
 CQMS - CSgt Kitridge

7 Platoon
 Lt D Brennan
 Sgt Watts

8 Platoon
 Lt Kume-Davy
 Sgt Daniel

9 Platoon
 Lt Becher
 Sgt Dixon

Corunna Company has the privilege of being the Task Force Helmand Armoured Infantry Company for HERRICK 15/16. This task will see us initially deployed in the northern Helmand Province replacing B Coy, 5 RIFLES who have been working hard over the winter in support of both Lashkar Gar and Burma Combined Forces (CF). The last 6 months have been a particularly busy time for Corunna Company. We have conducted training from the Canadian prairie in the summer of 2011, through Kent, Wales, Norfolk and

Cumbria in order to prepare us for deployment on Op HERRICK 15/16 in February 2012.

Due to the compressed deployment timelines the Coy has had to work to the pace of MST has been relentless. In order to meet the demanding start states required for entry into theatre the men have had to endure extended periods of time out of camp with the Coy spending many weekends working rather than at home with their loved ones. The highlight of the MST package was undoubtedly the 2 week Warrior ranges and dismantled

Sgt Dixon seemed to enjoy the transition to Osprey for PT more enjoyable than others in the Company





Dismounts like Pte Nimako spent a busy two weeks honing their patrolling skills whilst new Warrior crew were qualified



CSgt Kitridge's burgers seem to have had quite an effect on Cpl Tompkins' morale

skills PACKAGE in Warcop, Cumbria. It not only allowed the Commanders to train their men on all the nuances of patrolling in HELMAND but also for the Coy to qualify 48 new Warrior crews. The Cumbrian weather did its best to dampen the spirits of the company but the flames of CSgt Kitridge's ever present burger cookers ensured morale remained high!

Our Armoured training culminated in a Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX) in Castlemartin, where the newly qualified Warrior crews proved themselves to be more than ready for the task ahead and the Coy were able to integrate support helicopters,

simulated fast air and indirect fire for the first time. This was quickly followed by our dismounted Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) in the frozen Norfolk countryside of Thetford. Whilst the many complex scenarios thrown at all levels of the Company were challenging, it has given everyone the confidence that we have mastered the basics needed to be effective in HELMAND and have solid foundations on which to build.

MST has certainly been challenging both physically and mentally. It has tested every member of the Coy to their maximum capacity and sees us deploying to Afghanistan in good order.

In this flurry of activity time has still been set aside for fun. Of particular note was the families' day which allowed every soldier to invite their loved ones into Battlesbury Barracks to both see where the guys live and work but also to understand where, when and with what the soldiers will be deploying. The day was superbly well attended with over 350 people listening to presentations, watching demonstrations and testing their skills on the variety of activities available. The day was superbly organised by Lt Dan Brennan, for whom it doubtless felt like another phase of MST as he dashed around camp resolving minor crises to ensure a successful day.

The only thing left for the Coy before deployment is some well earned pre tour leave. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families and friends of Corunna soldiers for their unerring support so far. We could not do what we do without your support, long may it continue and I look forward to seeing you all on our return in September.

SOMME COMPANY

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Officer Commanding | - Maj J Hinchliffe |
| CSM | - WO2 (CSM) PJ Burke |
| CQMS: | - CSgt McConnell |
| Recce PI Comd: | - Capt R Taylor |
| Recce PI 2IC: | - Sgt G Hamer |
| FSG PI Comd: | - Capt I Martin |
| FSG PI 2IC: | - WO2 L Egbury |
| Mortars PI Comd: | - Capt A Hammond |
| Mortars PI 2IC: | - WO2 J Hopkinson |
| Sniper Platoon: | - Sgt L Senior |

Since my last article the company has transformed in contact from Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) to the commencement and almost completion of Mission Specific Training (MST). MST has been fast and exceptionally furious with outstanding training and education at both the individual and collective levels. We have gained an amazing understanding for where we are going (geographically and conceptually), operational equipment being used; advantages and unexpected disadvantages and how we will be approaching the summer fight ahead. Honesty as ever the best policy; we are entering the fight of our lives, Somme company is able, willing and more than ready for the challenge.

As in HFT, Somme Company has formed four main groupings, the Operations Group (Recce PI and FSG), Immediate Replenishment Group (FSG), Mortar Platoon and Sniper Group. Quite straight forward and obvious read across, however with some slight differences. Mortars will be deployed with a dual

capability (60 & 81mm mortars) able to support the Combined Force (CF) with timely and reduced collateral damage fires. Organic, utterly dependable and officially rated the best Mortar Platoon in the Brigade, the integration with our Royal Artillery brothers – 5 Battery 19 Regt RA- has been outstanding and the capability of the Fire Support Team at Company level and the Joint Fires Cell at CF level truly battle winning. The Ops Group formed from Recce and FSG has introduced an incredibly agile grouping with immense vehicle, weapon and advanced surveillance skills. Able to launch from foot, vehicle or airborne in an ARF role, the platoon will reinforce success within the CF battle space in the Green Zone or the northern/southern desert areas. Immediate Replenishment Group (IRG) will conduct routine, probably daily vehicle patrols across the MSR routes delivering vital CSS stock to Patrol Bases. Undoubtedly, they will face more than most the IED



**Snipers
in Training**

threat. We are confident we have the drills and equipment to defeat the Insurgent in this very familiar tactic. Finally the Sniper Group will, similarly to the Ops Group, reinforce the CF across Coy AOs, however their employment will be specifically focussed on the small arms fire (SAF) threat. They will hunt as a team and ruthlessly disrupt and defeat the Insurgent wherever they rest or choose to take us on.

As well as conducting the training ourselves, Somme Company have also been responsible for training support tasks at collective training events, providing

vehicle instructors for Brigade driver training, Skill at Arms instructors teaching heavy weapons (HMG/GMG) and precision weapons such as the sharpshooter weapon, sniper support weapon and the Sniper rifle. Tough from our training, agile to be the instructor or training audience, the Company has met the challenges I have set them at every turn. I am immensely proud of every member of the company, they will do a fantastic job in theatre, engaging local nationals, supporting our Afghan Warrior brothers and defeating the insurgent at every encounter.

AGC DET

Det Comd: - Lt R Bowdler

The 3 YORKS Detachment have achieved many sporting successes over the year. Sgt Smith has represented the Army in Fencing where she qualified for the Combined Services team as well as being selected as 'Treasurer'. Lt Bowdler achieved success in Martial Arts, winning the Tae Kwon Do Inter-Service Championships and going on to win the British Title in her category, whilst representing the Combined Services.

The Detachment entered a male and female team into the AGC Cross Country Championships which saw the

female team winning first place, stealing the shield for 3 YORKS from the previously undefeated SPS Training School.

The Detachment was involved in a challenge day involving a scavenger hunt and various taskings and saw them win the prize for "Best Imagination". The Det also took part in a charity fun day at Kingdown local school in aid of Help For Heroes. Alongside the 3 YORKS Officers, they took part in an assault course challenge which saw them all lose spectacularly to the Primary School children!!

CIS PLATOON

RSO: - Capt C Ibbotson

RSWO: - WO2 G Hind

Post BATUS the Battalion's pace of life has significantly increased thanks to the onset of mission specific training (MST) for H16. The CIS Platoon have eased into this despite several key personality changes, Capt Ibbotson has taken the helm as RSO supported by WO2 Hind as RSWO, Sgt Cartwright returns to the regiment as BSM and finally the integration of the Royal Signals Infantry Support Team (RSIST), although only one of the RSIST is from Yorkshire the remainder have adapted well.

We have recently deployed on numerous pre deployment exercises, providing a robust voice and data network during CFX at STANTA giving the platoon their first real time practice operating with theatre specific communications systems. This was also

practised on simulated systems during CATT and CAST. This in turn gave the platoon confidence and an insight as to what will be expected during deployment on H16.

The platoon have ran numerous infantry signals cadres with a high success rate in order to prepare the rifle and support companies for their future deployment. CIS platoon are currently conducting low level training and provide a HICON to a number of low level exercises, the platoon remain flexible and positive to the future deployment on Op Herrick. Congratulations to Pte Ward on his marriage over Christmas leave and to Sgt Cartwright who is expecting his second child whilst on R&R from Afghanistan.

MT

MTO: - Capt L Wildey

MTWO: - WO2 D Barton

As always it has been an extremely busy period for the MT Platoon. In October a number of the platoon deployed to Lydd Camp in order to juggle the coaches, minibuses and SVs that were required to move the Battalion through the range package. Friendships were strained at times but we pushed through and the MTWO made the task look seamless.

This was followed by a period of local training where the Platoon were given the opportunity to send out a resupply convoy. It took a bit of time to dust off the webbing and work out how to use a map but it was a

good roll out for the Platoon and it allowed us to focus on our likely tasks in Helmand.

The confirmatory exercise (CFX) gave the platoon another chance to juggle coaches, this time the destination was Stanford Training Area in Norfolk. Ptes Travis and Travers were to be the marshals that would get the Battalion onto the training area. Everyone expected carnage but the Battalion arrived on time at the correct location, thank goodness. Cpl Sterriker then managed to get the Operational Training Fleet out to the sub-units in record time allowing the exercise to begin.

The CFX was a successful exercise for the platoon that produced a rare sighting of a 'flying ferret' by Pte Procter (long story).

As we look forward to Afghanistan, we must say

QUARTERMASTERS' PLATOON

QM: - Maj S Caine

As I sit here and write these notes for the QMs' department Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER (BATUS) seems a distant memory. It was then time for the department to re-cock and focus on mission specific training (MST). All departments have been flat out what with the clothing store preparing to issue all those deploying on HERRICK 16 with their black bags which came in the form of a white laundry bag. Just for a change the technical side of the department has been very busy with all the operational equipment in order to allow the fighting companies chance to get hands on before deployment.

As always the pace of life is relentless, however it's good to see that our soldiers still have time for their families, and on that note a few new arrivals to an already quite large family Regiment. Congratulations to WO2 Simms RQMS (T) and Mel on the birth of their baby girl Evie, and Sgt Dangerfield and Lynn on the birth of their baby boy Hayden.

As always it is difficult to keep a good team together, so we will say farewell to the following, Maj Birkett has now handed over to Capt Wilson as QM (T) and Maj

farewell to those that have left us. In particular, Sgt McAllister will soon be leaving after 22 years service. We wish Sgt McAllister and his family the very best of luck for the future.

Birkett has taken over as OC Rear Ops Group (ROG). We would like to say thank you to Pte Bolam who was a hard working member of this department and the Pioneer shop sadly we say farewell to him after 20 years service all the best in the future. Cpl Thomson will be leaving us very shortly to step of into the big wide world we wish him all the very best in the future and thank him for the hard work and dedication shown to this department and for the 22 years service to the Army, all the very best to Cpl Thomson and his family. Last but not means least CSgt Foster the man in the department who kept us all out of trouble with his UNICOM experience, but again for all the hard work in keeping this department in good order. All the very best Fozzy duck to you and your family for the future.

The final word must go to Cpl Fitzgibbon who at Christmas was awarded the unsung hero for all his hard work in the G4 world. From my point of view as a Quartermaster the department is flat out but I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the team keep it up and well done.

LAD

OC: - Capt M Cary

ASM: - WO1 J Smith

The past 12 months have been an extremely busy time within the LAD, with the handover of OCs from Capt Ed Wigmore to Capt Matt Cary, the handover of ASMs from WO1 Chris Angelo to WO1 John Smith, deployment to Canada on Exercise PRARIE THUNDER 2 to support 3 YORKS BG and a full suite of MST to support in preparation for Op HERRICK 16.

Before we deployed to BATUS the Battalion and the BG needed to be at Collective Training Level 2, which involved multiple stints on Salisbury Plain Training Area supporting our respective companies. No sooner had we finished in Canada and arrived back in the UK to find many of the LAD required to support the CTS in Bovington. The newly formed Crew Training School provided an insight on UOR Equipment, something that was completely alien to the majority of the team. The lads did us proud and got on with the task at hand with minimal fuss, despite the fact that many of them had not completed the necessary equipment courses or training.

Mission Specific Training for H16 has seen the numbers within the LAD drop to a handful at times with many people away on equipment courses at any single time. With over 200 equipment courses completed, every man deploying has spent many a week studying new platforms such as the complex HUSKY platform, Quad, MASTIFF, JACKAL, Sharpshooter, HMG, GMG and the list goes on. We look forward to the challenges that face us in Nar-e-Saraj south during Op HERRICK

16 and aim to provide CF NES(S) with sufficient equipment to complete the mission.



LCpl Holmewood (VM) completing the 3 Peaks Challenge



LAD patrol competition, LCpl Evans and Cpl Johnston practising team medic training

REAR OPERATIONS GROUP

OC: - Major M Birkett
 CSM: - WO2 I Lister

Since the last journal was published the pace of life and turnover has significantly increased in the Headquarter Company (Hook). Hook Company in effect now becomes the Rear Operations Group (ROG) for the forthcoming tour. Individuals have come from around the Battalion and wider army to take their place in the "New" concept called the ROG and to a man they have thrown themselves quickly into the skill sets needed for the plethora of responsibilities to cover the Battle Groups (BG) baseline here in Warminster. During the BG Mission Specific training (MST) the ROG's main effort was firstly to get established with a Company plus worth of troops then assist with all support to training needed whilst on MST.

As all concerned are aware this will be a split tour for certain members of the Battalion as Corunna Company have already deployed forward to the Lashkah-gah area

as Brigade troops and if everything goes to plan will be arriving back to the UK in late August. The remainder of the Battalion deploy to various Main, Patrol and Forward Operating bases in the Nahr-Sarj District areas. Fingers crossed the remainder will be back in the UK by late October early November which makes it a twelve month tour for all. During this time the ROG will have fully serviced and maintained the Battalions A&B fleets in particular the A-fleet getting it fully fit and ready for the companies when they make their transition to the Land Warfare Centre role in 2013, as well as an ECI/LSI by Bde and Div staff in June and a Warning Order to provide a number of troops to assist with the London Olympics. All in all a busy period ahead, however we must not take our focus of the main effort, the troops forward in Afghanistan and the family and loved ones both here and Yorkshire whose needs are as equally important.

MST – A PLATOON COMMANDER’S PERSPECTIVE

Capt Sparks – Alma Company

Mission Specific Training (MST) for Herrick 16 began in earnest in October 2011. The platoon had completed its year of Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) and therefore had been thoroughly tested in the core infantry basics. It was now time to specialise the training towards counter insurgency (COIN) in Afghanistan.

MST began with the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) delivering the all ranks brief followed by a Tactical Commanders Cadre, a train the trainer package empowering the NCOs and Platoon Commanders to cascade the tactics, techniques and procedures to the soldiers. These are Afghan specific tactics and concentrate on getting the soldiers to a basic level of COIN. The main areas that are covered are cultural awareness, counter-IED, Casualty Evacuation, Detention and Prisoner Handling, FOB routine and basic patrol procedure.



Wondering what that wall is doing there...

It is then up to the commanders to cascade the knowledge and teach the soldiers. This was tested in the Commanding Officer’s confirmatory exercise. What is important to note is that although the COIN tactics are



Lt Sparks starts to feel the pressure

different they still rely on basic infantry skills being done to a high standard.

The next battle the soldiers faced was getting to grips with all the different kit that they were to wear and that they were to fight with. This includes the Osprey body armour, including assembly, the new ACOG sight and handgrip on the rifle, a number of night sights, vallon, the sharpshooter and the 60mm mortar to name but a few.

Throughout MST there are a number of OPTAG run exercises which assess how well the platoon are doing, these include live firing packages at Lydd and Castlemartin and crucially the Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX). The CFX is a 10 day exercise in a purpose built Afghan environment with Afghan nationals, Afghan police and Afghan Army to really test how good at COIN your platoon is. It is an excellent and well resourced exercise which not only tests you but gets you to work with other agencies such as dog handlers and RMP and utilise a number of different airframes. By the end of it, we as a platoon were confident that we had learnt the basics well and that we could now move forward to deployment with confidence.

MST – A PLATOON SGT’S PERSPECTIVE

Sgt Pears – Burma Company

With Canada put to bed it was now time to knuckle down into pre-deployment training for H16. The live fire range package on Ex PRAIRE THUNDER was excellent so MST training package had a lot to live up to.

Days were spent in the Battalion Gym learning valuable lessons from the knowledgeable OPTAG briefing team. This was a good way to give the men a taste for life as a soldier on Op HERRICK and all seemed up for the challenge. Towards the end of the week, as the men continued with their briefs, the commanders were taken away to complete the Tactical Commanders Cadre. This gave us the opportunity to

pick the brains of those with very recent HERRICK experience.

Lydd ranges as usual were a real treat. It was an excellent package, the ranges were very productive and it gave the men greater confidence with their personal weapon systems and working alongside each other. Concurrently, a small band of determined men were finalising their drills on the heavy weapons, completing their AWA with ease.

The coaches for the CFX in Thetford arrived and the long journey gave the men time for maximum ‘Doss’ prior to the week long CFX. On arrival the Platoons

were split into their multiples and the numbers kindly reinforced by chefs from the 1st Battalion! With serials up and running, the guards and QRF taskings came thick and fast. This left little time for sleep but plenty of time observing arcs around the FOB. During the week the men were tested on all aspects of their multiple skills and drills, ranging from judgemental Sanger shoots to dealing with complex multiple casualty scenarios. It was a real test for the commanders on the ground and the Ops room coordinating the company. With the learning points taken on board confidence within the multiples grew tenfold.

CFX in the bag it was the CALFEX around the

corner. With the learning points taken on board the live firing package was good confirmation. The new additions to the multiple from the 4th Battalion and ITC had a steep learning curve which they embraced with a positive manner. Once the weapons were zeroed the range rotation was underway, the weather restricted our range package on the second day but we made the most of the time with productive concurrent activity. The orders process continued late into the night for the next day's company plus strike Op onto several compounds within our AO. It was a complete success and gave us all the warm feeling that Burma Company is ready for what H16 has to throw at us.

MST – A JNCO'S PERSPECTIVE

Cpl Shields – Corunna Company

At the beginning of Mission Specific Training (MST) Corunna Company already had a strong armoured infantry core as most of the company had recently returned from Ex Prairie Thunder 2 and 3 in BATUS (April – June 11). On return to duties after leave, Corunna Company went straight into our MST cycle starting the all ranks briefing and moving quickly to the superb small arms ranges at Lydd and Hythe. The highlight for me as a section commander however was the Armoured ranges and dismounted cascade training at Warcop Training Centre in Cumbria. It was here that MST started to get interesting and I got a chance to train my section. What struck me was that no matter how

much you think you know from previous operational tours, things will always change. The enemy's tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), our own TTPs and how the local population are supporting the campaign have all changed beyond recognition since my time on HERRICK 11. It was also good to get our hands on the new kit that is available to us and told what extra kit and weapon systems will be introduced to us out in Afghanistan.

A few weeks later we deployed to Castlemartin for our Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX). I once again enjoyed this deployment as it had a good balance of mounted and dismounted training and the patrol and battle lanes were realistic and fun. We also got to learn something new each day you were in the field, especially on the Warrior ranges where you could be put in a difficult situation such as a vehicle that has been struck by an IED along with civilian casualties. We felt at the time, due to all the valuable time training, that there seemed to be nothing Corunna Company couldn't handle. We constantly worked hard on our SOPs, making changes to things as we went along and enabling us to adapt to the next situation we would find ourselves in.

MST then concluded with the Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) in SANTA. This was an entirely dismounted exercise where we for the first time reunited with the rest of the 3 YORKS Battlegroup. Corunna felt ready and prepared to take on the challenge, knowing that this was our final test. As this was a light role exercise we had to really concentrate on our dismounted skills in the ground holding role. We had to deal with afghan locals, IDF attacks followed by small arms attacks and casualties, amongst doing our normal framework patrolling. We later moved on to serials that involved camp attacks, QRF taskings and also recce patrols for a strike operation onto the mock Afghan village called Hatar. At the end of the exercise we were given a good report from the directing staff, which made us all feel better knowing we had done well and were ready for deployment onto HERRICK 16.



Sgt Watts of 7 Platoon directs his part of the battle during the PI Defence House shoot on EX PASHTUN HAWK

OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess remains as busy during MST as it does at any time, in fact arguably more so. The Mess has grown in numbers as the Battalion grows into a Battle Group and attachments arrive, instantly adding value to the party. A series of conceptual development evenings have been arranged by Rob Singleton which has included amongst others, guest speakers such as the Falklands veteran Brigadier Ian Gardiner and journalist and writer Gerald Seymour. They have gone down extremely well and some new friends of the Battalion have been made. The Mess has also played host to the Colonel of The Regiment who made his first address to the Mess Members and to US Marine Corps General Garganus who will be the Regional Commander South West in Afghanistan during HERRICK 16. He felt very much at home when greeted with an ice cold Coors Light on arrival.

It hasn't been all formal hosting though. The ladies dinner night in November was a great success and very well attended. It was all the more poignant knowing that it would be the last ladies dinner night before

deploying to Afghanistan. Ruperts, the Battalion's annual Officers' and Sergeants' Mess event was held entirely in the Officers' Mess this year due to the homeless nature of the Sergeants' Mess and was a great release before Christmas leave. Captain Martin particularly enjoyed the evening. Most recently we all pretended to be Scottish and celebrate Burns night courtesy of A Sqn 1 RTR who we share the Mess with. I am not sure how Scottish everyone was the next day when they assembled to watch the Calcutta Cup.

The Officers' Mess also recently enjoyed an outing to the House of Commons where we were hosted for lunch and took the grand tour of the building. This was followed by an impromptu drink or two within, as Capt Holloway described, the correct drinking establishments to be seen in when in London.

Before we deploy we will hold a lunch to which all parents are invited, following a parade in Warminster. There will also be one more Mess party to act as a send off to which our adopted band "Four Play" will be headlining.



The Officers' Mess at the House of Commons

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

A turbulent time throughout the Battalion with lots of moving parts working towards a deployment to Afghanistan on Herrick 16, however the mess still manages to play hard. The great tradition of the 3rd Battalion tradition of Rupert's still manages to take place year this around a busy MST schedule and rightly so. There was plenty of quality skits produced by the mess and stage dives, but unfortunately Sgt Lee Senior

managed to win the Andy Cap from the officers mess for his excellent re-make of the film Hangover, whilst on R&R from Canada in Las Vegas.

The MST training is now up and running with the boots on the ground and the live firing package and Company level exercises and the CF FTX in March, where all mess members were thoroughly tested. Still finding the time for a farewell drinks to ASM WO1



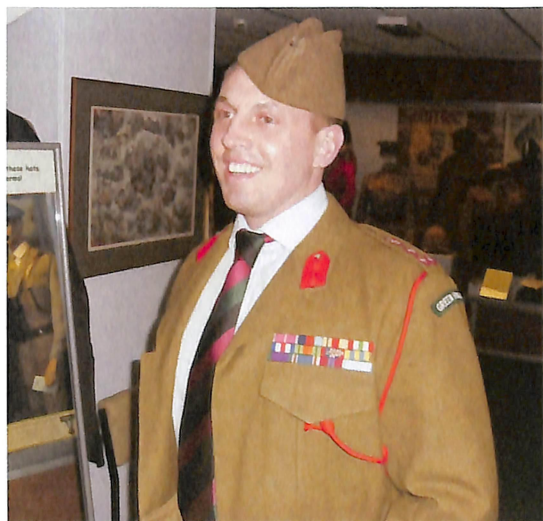
Around the grave of Capt Spud Taylor

Chris Angelo and WO2 Stu Brighthouse, CSgt Foster and CSgt Mac McGregor, Sgt McGregor on completion of their 22 yrs and it's the hope of Mess to invite these individuals back for a proper and deserved dine out after the tour as well as those individuals who complete their service whilst we are on tour.

Having a slight gap in the MST programme the Warrant Officers of the battalion decided to make a road trip around Yorkshire visiting RHQ, Richmond and York Museums of the 1st and 2nd Battalion respectively and the Regimental Chapel in York Minster and the grave side of a fellow and much respected mess member Capt Spud Taylor (Ex RSM 1 DWR) and Cpl Neil Hughes to pay our respects at Fulford Cemetery.

The fine hospitality of the York's public house was well received by the Warrant Officers that day and in the old tradition of the mess the world was put to rights. The mess now looks forward to the forthcoming tour with great enthusiasm and the challenges the tour will bring, but this is what our mess thrives upon.

Fortune Favours the Brave



SM Wyeth fancies his chances as Brigadier

The six men of 3 Yorks killed in action in Afghanistan

The entire Regimental Family was shocked to hear of the deaths on active duty of six members of 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment.

All former members of the Regiment, their families and friends, offer their sincere condolences to the families, friends and comrades of the deceased.

Sergeant Nigel Coupe



Sergeant Nigel Coupe was a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer from 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, who was attached to 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) as a Warrior Sergeant in 7 Platoon, Corunna Company. Sergeant Coupe, 33, was from Lytham Saint Anne's, Lancashire. He joined the Army in January 1996 and was enlisted into The Queen's Lancashire Regiment which subsequently became 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. For a period he was attached to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which later became 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment. He also completed a tour as an instructor at the Driving and Maintenance School in Bovington before deploying to Afghanistan with Corunna Company.

Sergeant Coupe was an integral part of both 7 Platoon and Corunna Company. His expertise was vital to ensuring the Company was fully prepared to deploy on operations. His kindness and devotion to the soldiers he led will leave an indelible mark on everyone who served with him. He will be sorely missed.

The Commanding Officer writes: Sergeant Nigel Coupe was a polite, committed member of this family Battalion. Throughout 'Coops's' distinguished career he provided loyal and dedicated service to those he led, whether that be in Kosovo, Iraq or Afghanistan. He was

proud to be a Lancashire Soldier in a Yorkshire Battalion. Unassuming in nature but with real presence he was fiercely dedicated to his profession as an Armoured Infantryman. This dedication and potential marked him out amongst his peers; few if any could match Coops's technical prowess on Armoured Vehicles. It is no surprise that he was one of the few to be selected to be an Instructor at our prestigious Armoured Training Centre Bovington. Today we have lost one of our brothers who led, mentored and tutored those above and below him with true humility and compassion. Our thoughts and prayers in these difficult days rest with his wife Natalie, children Ella and Yasmine, his mother Elaine, father Alan, sister Linda and grandfather Roy.

Corporal Jake Hartley



Corporal Jake Hartley, 20, was from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. He joined the Battalion in December 2008 and his potential was immediately re-recognised. Corporal Hartley had a very bright future in the Army and he was already promoted well ahead of his years, which is testament to his soldiering ability. Perhaps more importantly, Corporal Hartley had an innate ability to inspire those around him and make them achieve more than they ever imagined was possible.

Corporal Hartley was very popular within the Platoon and the Company at large. He will be remembered as the life and soul of the party, a generous outgoing young man with an exceptionally bright future. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind him his mother and stepfather, Nathalie and Mark, brother Ethan and uncle and best friend, Luke.

The Commanding Officer writes: Cpl Jake Joseph

Hartley was the ultimate Infantry Soldier. 'JJ' as his friends called him, naturally stood out from his peers. Fit, motivated yet always understated, JJ was one of the best. His rise through the ranks had been swift and rightly so; he was a natural leader as exemplified by his top position on the gruelling Infantry Section Commanders Battle Course. JJ was immensely popular with officers and soldiers alike. He was a future star; Regimental Sergeant Major material for sure. We have lost today a selfless, dedicated leader. But our loss is nothing compared to that of his family and friends who have lost one of the most likeable men you could ever meet. Our thoughts and prayers are with them today.

Private Anthony Frampton



Private Anthony 'Anton' Frampton, 20, was from Huddersfield. Prior to joining the Army, Private Frampton attended Royds Hall High School, Huddersfield. On leaving school he spent a period as an apprentice welder before deciding to join the Army, which he did in January 2009, passing out of training in August 2009 and joining the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) in Warminster.

Private Frampton was initially employed in Alma Company as a Rifleman. In January 2010 he deployed to the Falkland Islands. On return, Private Frampton volunteered for the Drums Course in Catterick and on completion he joined the Light Platoon, Somme Company. It was here that he displayed his natural physical fitness and amazing character. Fit, robust and intelligent he soon completed training to use the Javelin missile system. In September 2010, Private Frampton moved to Javelin Platoon and it is here where he really began to shine. A true team player with an infectious sense of humour he possessed a real talent for Armoured Infantry gunnery. In May 2011, Private Frampton

deployed on exercise with Javelin Platoon to Canada where he performed excellently, demonstrating determination in adversity and the highest levels of soldiering.

Private Frampton joined Corunna Company prior to deployment to Afghanistan and was employed as an Infantry Dismount and Warrior Gunner. Private Frampton was an absolute character; hugely popular within Corunna and Somme Companies, but also the wider Battalion. Noticed by all for his carefree nature and love of life, Private Frampton will be missed by all who knew him and had the pleasure of serving alongside him.

He leaves behind him his mother and stepfather, Margaret and Martin, his father Gary, sisters, Gemma and Nicola, great uncle Pat and extended family.

The Commanding Officer writes: Private Anthony Frampton was a unique young man. Fit, carefree and always the life and soul of his Platoon, 'Framps' as we know him, was a true legend amongst his peers. A thoroughly likeable young man, 'Framps' could motivate and encourage the entire Battalion with his cheekiness and smile. But behind this cheeky nature, lay a truly dedicated Infantry Soldier, who was committed and brave. This family Battalion has today lost one of its central characters. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends on this difficult day.

Private Christopher Kershaw



Private Christopher Kershaw, 19, was from Bradford. He joined the Battalion in September 2011 and was immediately put on a Warrior driving cadre. Private Kershaw thoroughly enjoyed working on the Warriors and his natural talent for the role became evident. Furthermore, Private Kershaw was an extremely effective Light Machine Gun gunner and was subsequently selected to fill this role on operations. He

proved himself, in a very short time, to be an excellent soldier and a great friend to many in the Company.

Private Kershaw was a unique and likeable character who quickly made a name for himself in the company. He was devoted to his peers and always delivered what was asked of him. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his parents, Brian and Monica, and sister, Sarah Louise.

The Commanding Officer writes: Private Christopher Kershaw was a fiercely fit young man who thrived on soldiering. 'Chris's' natural love of the outdoors shone through in his personal and professional life. Given this passion and his continuous desire to educate himself, he already stood out amongst his peers as a Corporal of the future. We have lost today a true Yorkshire Warrior. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Private Daniel Wade



Private Daniel Wade, 20, was from Warrington. He joined the Army in January 2011 and arrived in the Battalion in July 2011. He was immediately placed on to a Warrior driving cadre, which he passed with flying colours. It did not take him long to establish himself as one of the best drivers in the Company. Furthermore, Private Wade was an excellent shot and he proved himself, in a very short time, to be an excellent soldier.

Private Wade was very popular within the Platoon and the Company at large. He committed himself fully to everything and always delivered what was asked of him. He will be remembered as a family man who was devoted to his fiancée Emma, with whom he is expecting a baby girl called Lexie. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his mother, Lisa, his sister Stacey, his beloved fiancée Emma and unborn baby, Lexie.

The Commanding Officer writes: Private Daniel Wade was a new young soldier in this family Battalion. A Lancashire lad in a Yorkshire Regiment, 'Dan' arrived

keen and energetic and in only a very short period of time had made a real mark within Corunna Company. Quiet and unassuming he was very committed in all that he did. It is to his credit that he completed his Warrior Driver course so successfully early in his career. His passion for motocross and Super Bikes marked him out as a man who loved speed. We have lost today a young man who had so much to give in his life, both as a son, brother and as a soldier. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Private Daniel Wilford



Private Daniel Wilford, 21, was from Huddersfield. He joined the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of Wellington's) in April 2010. He deployed to Canada as a Warrior Gunner in June 2011 before deploying to Afghanistan in the same role in February 2012.

He was an extremely effective Warrior gunner and had a thorough knowledge of the vehicle and its weapon systems. Away from military life he enjoyed playing golf and darts with his friends. He was a truly sociable person.

Private Wilford was very popular within Corunna Company. He was always up for a laugh with the boys and was always willing to help his comrades. Private Wilford proved himself as a soldier and as a friend whilst in Corunna Company and his absence will be felt deeply by all that had the honour of serving with him. He will be missed. He leaves behind his mother and stepfather, Diane and Paul, his brother Alex and his grandparents.

The Commanding Officer writes: Private Daniel Wilford was the archetypal Yorkshire Infantry Soldier; quiet, unassuming but with bags of character. 'Wilf' as his friends and indeed the Battalion called him was unique. Happy go lucky and confident, his smile could light up a room. Thoroughly honest and a dedicated Infantryman, his friends and colleagues trusted and respected him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family on this difficult day.

Brigadier-General RE Sugden CB CMG DSO and Bar, DWR

By Professor Peter J Simkins MBE FRHistS, Visiting Lecturer Department of History, Birmingham University

Last December Professor Peter Simkins presented a paper to the Western Front Association, in which he discussed how operational command and control in the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) actually worked. Whilst over-centralisation remained all too prevalent, he



showed how the degree of local initiative being exercised was markedly higher at brigade level during the defensive and offensive battles of 1918. As an example of leaders who took the opportunities for initiative offered he told the story of Brigadier-General Richard Sugden, a Duke. That story is reproduced here by kind permission of the author, though the helpful offices of Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL.

One of the men 'on the spot' who demonstrably rose to the challenges of 1918 was Brigadier-General Richard Edgar Sugden. Like many of his fellow commanders of divisions and brigades in the BEF by the summer of that year, he did not fit the popular stereotype of the British First World War general, but he had already seen considerable front-line service at battalion level.

The adjective 'rugged' could have been specially coined to describe RE Sugden, both as a sportsman and a soldier. He was born in August 1871, the grandson of Thomas Sugden – who founded the family flour mill business in Brighouse, Yorkshire – and the son of Richard Sugden, a director of the firm. He spent three years at Marlborough College, where he began playing rugby and gained a place in the First XV, before leaving, at the age of seventeen, to complete his education in Germany.

On his return to England he joined the Brighouse Rangers rugby club, scoring three tries on his first appearance for the second team. He made his debut in the senior side, as a forward, against Wigan on 11 December 1891 and maintained his position as a leading figure in the team for over a decade – helping the club to achieve victory in the Yorkshire Challenge Cup 1894-1895 season and, as captain, leading it to success in the Yorkshire Senior Challenge Shield in 1897. Sugden also represented the county.

By this time he weighed over 14 stone and was 6ft. 1in. in height. When, in 1895, Brighouse Rangers became one of the clubs that split from the Rugby Union to form the Northern Union (later the Northern League and eventually the Rugby League), Sugden loyally stayed with the club. Even though his club was now

involved in a professional sport, Sugden played as an amateur. However, later in his career, he was prevented from returning to the all-amateur code despite presenting his case to the Rugby Union authorities on a number of occasions. He seems to have played the game vigorously and, following a match against Runcorn in the 1897-1898 season, he was ordered to appear before the Northern Union Committee and was suspended for his remarks about the referee.¹ Sugden is possibly the only British general of the Great War to have played rugby league.

Sugden volunteered for the Imperial Yeomanry towards the end of 1899 and subsequently served in the South African War, during which he was commissioned from the ranks. He maintained his "amateur" military connections after the South African War and became an officer in the 4th Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the Territorial Force. Characteristically, in 1913, he personally attempted to break a strike of the United Carters' and Motormen's Association by driving a flour cart to the local station, an action which led to violent scenes and the drafting of additional police into the town.

When his battalion was mobilised at the outbreak of the First World War, Sugden, now a captain, led a special Service Section of 100 other ranks which was detached to guard an Admiralty wireless station. In January 1915, the battalion was organised on a four company, rather than an eight company, basis and Sugden, with the rank of major, was given command of 'A' Company. The battalion history of the 1/4th DWR notes that he went with his unit to the Western Front in April 1915 and was Second-in-Command of the battalion May to September and in November and December of that year. On 12 December 1915, while crossing a bridge over the Ypres-Comines Canal, he was severely wounded in the arm by a bullet and was sent home, having, up to that time, served continuously with 1/4th Dukes since mobilisation.²

After some nine months in England – and even though he had still not regained the full use of his injured hand and arm – he rejoined his battalion, as its commanding officer, on the Somme on 4 September 1916, the day after 49th (West Riding) Division had made an unsuccessful attack in the Thiepval sector. Sugden was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel a few days later. He would serve as a battalion commander on the Western Front for the best part of twenty months, leading the 1/4th Dukes in the operations at Bellevue Spur on 9 October 1917, during the Battle of Poelcappelle, and in actions near Erquinem, Nieppe, Bailleul and Kemmel in April 1918, during Lys offensive. Sugden went home on leave at the end of May 1918, but had scarcely arrived in England before he was recalled to France to take command of the 151st Brigade in the 50th (Northumbrian) Division of 7 June, with the rank of Brigadier-General.

The 50th Division had been badly mauled in the German spring offensives of 1918, suffering the highest casualties of any British formation, and had only just been relieved after its disastrous experiences on the



**At Fleurbax in 1915
whilst in command of
A Company 1/4th DWR**

the beginning of October until the Armistice, it was able to play an important role in the BEF's final offensive, capturing Gouy and Le Catelet in the Battle of the Beaurevoir Line, and taking part in the Battle of Cambrai before seeing further action in the pursuit of the Germans to the Selle and the Sambre. In the Battle of the Selle on 17 October, Sugden's 151st Brigade led the division across that river near Souplet, south of Le Cateau, by means of duckboard bridges and reached the line of the railway on the far bank only 45 minutes after zero hour. However, German resistance then became more stubborn and the brigade found it difficult to make much progress over the spur on the western side of the L'Arbre Guernon – St Benin valley. Such was the nature of the subsequent fighting that the battalions of the 50th Division's three brigades had become mixed up by the afternoon, forcing the divisional commander, Major-General HC Jackson, to divide the front into three sectors under his various brigade commanders. Sugden was given the centre section, which extended as far as the brickworks, just south of Le Cateau station.

The battalions under his command included the 1st King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (from his own brigade), the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers (from 150th Brigade), and the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers (from 149th Brigade). It says much for the tactical flexibility of the BEF and the adaptability of its "middle management" commanders at this stage of the war, that by 10.45am the next morning reorganised brigades of the Division had taken all their objectives.⁴ Sugden, as a Territorial brigade commander, had been able to draw on all his experience of combat and leadership at battalion level and to display the same blend of pragmatism and professionalism that underpinned the command style of many of his Regular counterparts in the BEF by the latter part of 1918.

Having won the DSO and Bar, Sugden was made a

Aisne in late May. Here its losses had been so great that it proved impossible to refill the ranks of its original battalions. The division was therefore reconstituted but lost its original identity. Sugden himself was a Territorial in a nominally Territorial division – and indeed was one of only eleven Territorials holding general officer rank on 29 September 1918 – but none of the battalions in his reconstituted brigade was a Territorial Force unit.³

Several weeks of intense training helped the division to get into fighting trim and, from

CMG in 1919 and awarded a CB in 1926. He remained in the Territorial Army after the war, commanding the 147th (2nd West Riding) Brigade for some years before he retired from the TA in 1929. He was also closely involved in the family business and became a prominent figure in his home town and in the West Riding, serving as a JP and Deputy Lieutenant, spending two years as President of the Brighouse Chamber of Commerce and being granted the Freedom of the Borough of Brighouse in 1943. Unhappily his elder son, Lieutenant PG Sugden, was killed in action in 1943. After a distinguished and active life, RE Sugden himself died, aged 79, in 1943. His other son, George Highley Sugden (known as "Hickey") – who bore a striking resemblance to his father – won the MC and Bar in North Africa while serving with the Royal Tank Regiment in the Second World War and died in September 2006, aged 94.⁵

The family business was sold to Associated British Foods in 1962.

Notes –

¹ David Adams, *The Rise and Fall of Rugby League: Brighouse Rangers, 1879-1906*, pp. 11, 12, 19, 21, 29-30, 35.

² For details of Sugden's battalion service, see Captain PG Bales, *The History of the 1/4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, 1914 – 1919*, Edward Mortimer, Halifax, 1920.

³ Everard Wyrall, *The Fiftieth Division, 1914 – 1919*, Lund, 1939 (reprinted in Naval and Military Press edition), pp 348-353; see also Bourne, "The BEF's Generals on 29 September 1918", op cit, p. 102.

⁴ Brigadier-General Sir James Edmonds and Lieutenant-Colonel R Maxwell-Hyslop (eds.) *Military Operations in France and Belgium 1918* HMSO, 1947, pp. 295-321.

⁵ Daily Telegraph, 3 October 2006.

The author is most grateful to John Bourne, Derek Smith and Albert Jarman for their help in the preparation of this article.

Peter Simkins began his working life in 1962 as Archivist and Research Assistant to Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart before embarking upon a long and distinguished career at the Imperial War Museum from 1963 to 1999, latterly as its Senior Historian and Head of the Research and Information Office. During that time he played a central role in the reorganisation and modernisation of the Museum and in the development of its out-stations at Duxford airfield, HMS Belfast and the Cabinet War Rooms (now the Churchill Museum). He also established himself as a leading authority in 20th Century British military history, especially that of the British Army in the Great War. He was Historical Editor of the Imperial War Museum Review, 1986-1998. After his retirement from the Museum in 1999 he was awarded an MBE for his services to that institution. The same year he was elected to an honorary chair in Modern History at the University of Birmingham, a post which he held until 2010, when he became Visiting Lecturer.

Sugden Family Memories

Richard Sugden was David Sugden's great uncle. David served in the Dukes as a National Service officer 1956/57, and then in the West Riding Bn DWR (TA) 1958 to 1965. He last met "RE" when he was about twelve. He writes....

"RE lived at Newlands, Brighouse, just up the Huddersfield Rd on the right hand side going south. Crippled in old age, he was a one-time captain of the (now defunct) Brighouse Rangers RUFC. He was made a Freeman of the Borough of Brighouse on 25th September 1943 along with my grandfather George (brother of RE). RE was at the ceremony of DWR being granted the Freedom of Halifax on 18th June 1945, on the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

He was a director of the family flourmill in Brighouse, Thos Sugden & Son Ltd, founded in 1829. After WW1 he became head of sales in the company. The other 2 directors were George i/c administration and Bert, being the miller - and peacekeeper between two strong willed characters.

One anecdote involved a meeting of all the mill's

employees during the 1926 General Strike. In those days they would number around 100. A couple of people at the back rather unwisely started to barrack RE. He got up from the managerial table, started to walk towards them whereupon they fled. Another story of the same General Strike tells of the time when striking millworkers picketed the main gate. In those days flour was delivered either by steam "sentinels" or horse drawn wagons. RE mounted one of the wagons & drove straight at them thereby clearing the way and so by such demonstration ensuring that normal service was resumed.

I have to wonder at the appalling conditions all ranks had to deal with. I came across 3 hand written notes by RE in letters home during 1902/3 from the Boer War when as a young other rank with the Imperial Yeomanry he spent most time in the saddle, complaining about lack of decent boots, food & ammunition (shades of modern days!?) .

He had one daughter & two sons. One son, Peter, was killed in WWII. I last knew RE when I was about 12 years old. These stories above were told to me by some of the old employees, moons ago."

The 1/4th Dukes in the Great War

By Lt Col Tim Nicholson

As this issue of the Iron Duke reaches subscribers it will be 97 years almost to the day when the 1st/4th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a territorial unit (see notes below on how it was formed) landed in France. On 14 April 1915, after a train journey from Doncaster to Folkestone and a Channel crossing, it landed at Boulogne, the men wearing newly issued boots which nearly crippled them as they marched off

towards their first deployment in blazing hot sun.

Captain PG Bales MC, a former Adjutant of the battalion, wrote its history. Shortly after arrival in France he noted that "From the GOC to the latest-joined private, every man in the 49th Division was new to trench warfare, and practically no one in the Infantry had had any instruction in field engineering, or in looking after his own comfort." For the next four years



Men of the
1/4th Bn
take a
break



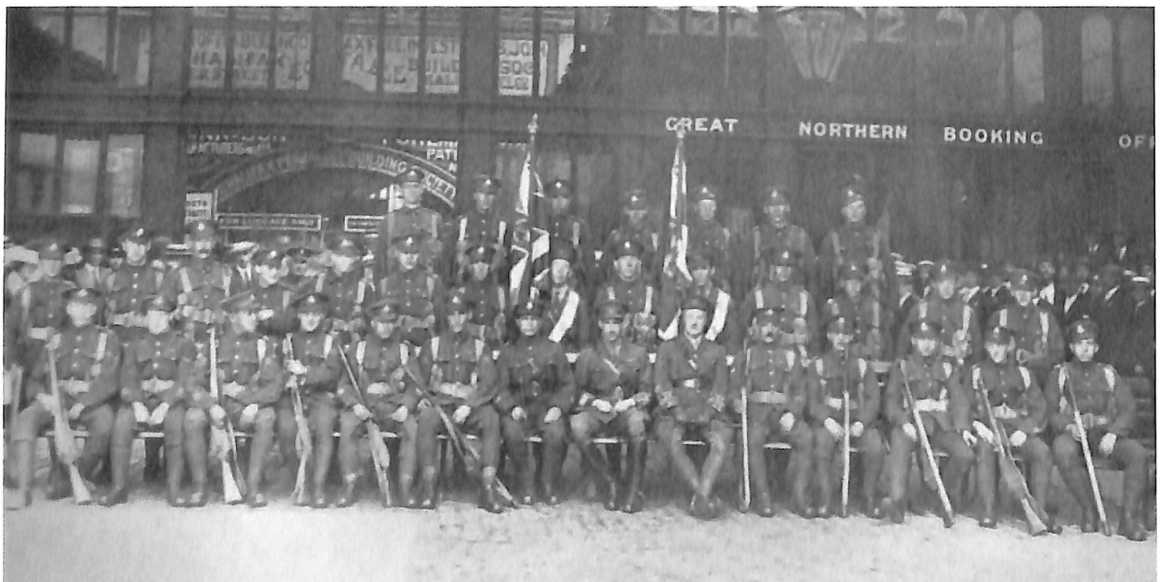
Lt Col AL Mowatt MC, who assumed command when Lt Col Sugden was promoted. “Another source of great satisfaction to everyone was that Major AL Mowatt MC was appointed to command the Battalion; few had seen more service with it, and none had done more for its good than he”

that was just about all the battalion did, either occupy front line trenches and fight from them, or, both there and in reserve, take on never ending construction tasks.

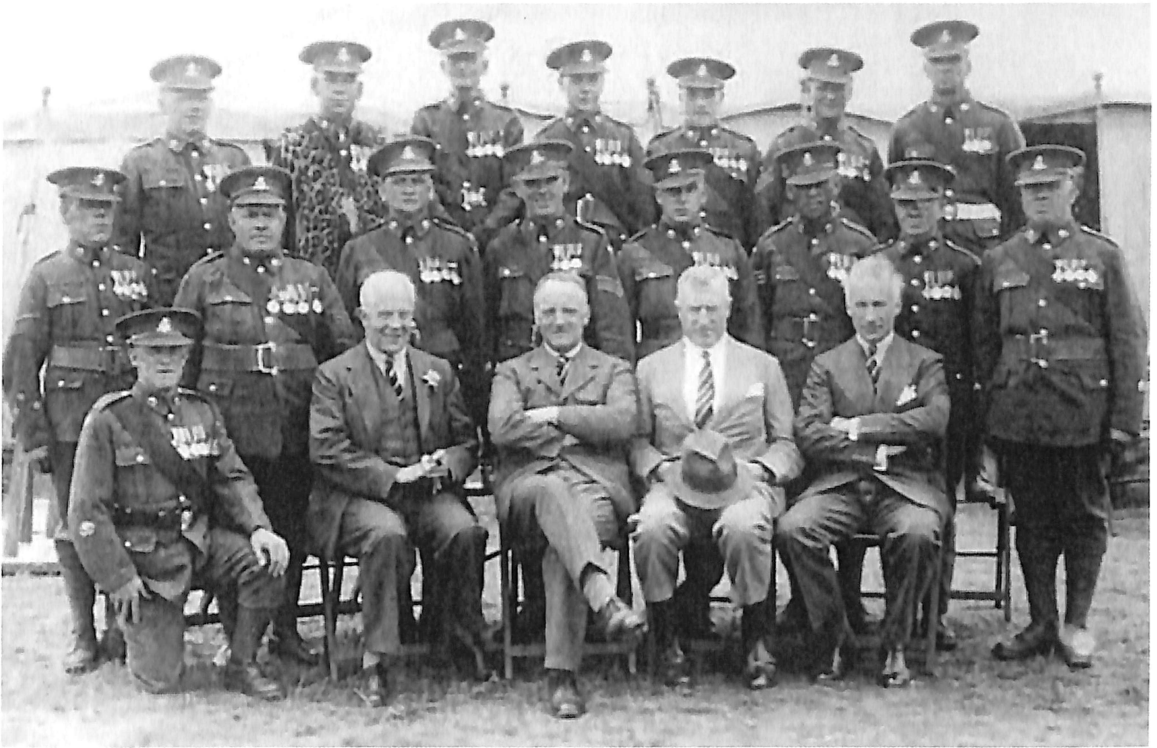
After a fairly “soft” start in the Fleurbaix area, the 1st/4th were moved to the Ypres Salient, where, in appalling conditions with mud that came over the top of the issued thigh boots, they encountered gas and “conventional” attacks in 1915. It fought in the Battle of the Somme, going “over the top” on 3 Sep 1916 (Sugden was away recovering from wounds, returning the day after the attack quoted below, or he would almost certainly have died here) – “The Battalion stood to and bayonets were quietly fixed. At 5.10 am. one great gun spoke, and then the whole sky seemed to light up suddenly. The hour had come. Up rose the three companies like one man. There was no hesitation. Over the parapet they swarmed. The attack had begun.” The total casualties of the day were 11 officers and 336 other ranks (at least 160 were killed).

For 1st/4th DWR the war never stood still; they were always on the go. Starting in Halifax on 4 August 1914 and ending at Ripon Dispersal Camp on 19 June 1919, the battalion moved an astonishing 286 times, including in and out of the line. Their area of operations was really quite small: a box, 60 kms North to South, 40 kms East to West, although the majority of its fighting was done in three small areas – West of Armentieres, East of Ypres and North of Albert. They spend years at war in these tiny fragments of ground.

Between April 1915 to October 1918 37 officers and 471 other ranks were killed, 60 officers and 1998 other ranks were wounded, and 1 officer and 264 other ranks were missing, most of the last having been taken prisoners of war. 1/4th Dukes prided themselves on being a “working battalion”. In the line if it had no



The Cadre (all that remained after the bulk had been demobilised from France) at Halifax on June 18th 1919



A group of 1/4th Sergeants wearing WW1 medals with 4 ex officers, including Brigadier Sugden

operations on hand it improved its living conditions and its defences, and it trained whenever it could (the outflow of casualties and inflow of replacements meant they had their work cut out just to stand still). It stuck to its task, whatever that was, and never lost the will to win. Occasionally there was some sport, or a concert party arrived, and men took leave, and then returned to the war.

Men serving with the battalion won one Victoria Cross (Pte Poulter), two Distinguished Service Orders and one bar (one DSO and the bar were Brig Sugden's), 27 Military Crosses and 2 bars, 28 Distinguished Conduct

Medals, and 132 Military Medals and 5 bars, 4 Meritorious Service Medals, one Italian Bronze medal for Military Valour, one Medaille Militaire, one Belgian Croix de Guerre, and 39 Mentions in Despatches. When it arrived in France there were 28 officers in the battalion. Over the years 141 more officers were needed to replace those killed, wounded or posted away for whatever reason, including promotion to another battalion. To a modern military mind the sheer scale of everything that had to be dealt with, compounded by the constant awfulness of the conditions and the daily casualties, is barely comprehensible. The soldiers of 1/4th were good men.

The Territorial Force from 1908

In 1908 a new Territorial Force was formed with an establishment of 314,000. The Force included fourteen infantry divisions, each of twelve battalions in three brigades with supporting artillery and other services. One of these divisions was the West Riding Division TF, consisting of the 1st West Riding Brigade with four battalions of the West Yorkshire Regiment TF, the 2nd West Riding Brigade with four battalions of Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, and the 3rd West Riding Brigade with two battalions of the York and Lancaster Regiment and two battalions of King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

The 1st Volunteer Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was re-designated the 4th TF Bn DWR, in succession to the numbering of the regular battalions, based in Halifax. Our 2nd Volunteer Battalion was divided to form the 5th and 7th Bns TF DWR with HQs in Huddersfield and Milnbridge respectively and companies with their HQs and in the surrounding towns, and the 3rd Volunteer Bn in Skipton became the 6th TF Bn. The "TF" seems to have been dropped and on the outbreak of war these battalions were expanded by two more, so the 4th Bn became the 1/4th, and a 2/4th and 3/4th were created, as well as a 1/5th, 2/5th and so on.

Lt R O'D Carey 2nd Duke of Wellington's Regt - POW 1914

By Graham Sargeant



Lt Rupert Carey in 1929

This is the first of two POW stories in this issue of the Iron Duke. Both prisoners were junior officers, captured some 25 years apart.

On the 11th of November 1914 the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's fought a day-long action at Nonne Böschen (Nun's Wood) east of Ypres when they virtually eliminated the 2nd (Prussian) Guard Grenadier Regiment (4th Guards Brigade). The advancing Germans, once across the British front line, became disorientated before being mown down by musket fire from their flank and were then seen off completely by a bayonet charge by the 'Dukes' HQ party and the remnants of 'C' Coy. They retreated as far as the 2 DWR original front line trench which they held on to. The Dukes' losses amounted to 4 officers killed and 3 others wounded and missing plus 98 men killed and 200 wounded. The Germans put their losses at 15 officers and 500 men. Lt Carey, who had been in the front line trench, was listed as 'missing'.

Lt Carey's report of his wounding, capture and journey into captivity in Germany would have been made at the end of the war along with all the other POWs. However, it appears that long before then Lt Carey had ingeniously managed to get an account of his mistreatment at the hands of his captors to the British authorities.

A few years ago I stumbled upon "The Diary of Lord Bertie 1914 - 1918" for sale on Ebay. Lord Bertie, a career diplomat, was the British Ambassador to France throughout the war. Bertie's diaries were published in 1924 and contained several facsimiles of letters, reports and telegrams.

On the 12th of February 1915 Bertie had a visit from an un-named French officer who had been wounded at St Quentin in August 1914 and taken prisoner by the Germans. He had been 'exchanged' on health grounds. He had brought with him sworn statements from British officers with whom he had been incarcerated in Crefeld POW Camp. These statements had been written in extremely small handwriting in order to facilitate their being smuggled out of the camp undetected.

Anti-British feelings were running high in Germany in late 1914 after the BEF had helped to stop the Germans reaching Paris. The French officer told Lord

Bertie that German conduct towards the British prisoners had been 'disgraceful.' The statements made by the British officers could only be read with a strong magnifying glass. The ill-treatment of British troops by the Germans included - the murder of officers and men who had already surrendered; prisoners being kicked, punched, beaten and spat upon; exhibited, attacked and jeered at in public; having their greatcoats and money taken; put through mock executions; their wounds left untreated; being deprived of food and water; kept in freezing and unsanitary conditions; being used as slave labour; given barbaric punishments and even the murder of innocent men in Prison Camps. Many British officers were falsely accused of having used Dum-Dum bullets.

Lord Bertie's diary actually contains a facsimile of a page from those handwritten accounts from Crefeld which includes a statement from none other than Lt Carey of 2 DWR. His full statement reads as follows -

Lt. Carey, West Riding Regt. having been duly sworn states: - 'On 11.11.14 I was wounded and taken prisoner near Gheluvelt with seven of my men of whom only two were unwounded. We were taken to a German hospital at Menin. On the march we were kicked and spat on by German soldiers and abused by the officers who took no steps to check their men. Three of the men were unable to walk by themselves and had to be supported by their comrades. I was in hospital for two days then sent to Crefeld by train. At Menin station my greatcoat was taken from me by a medical officer or under officer: I am not sure of his rank. During the journey I was moved from a 3rd Class carriage and put in a van where I found other English wounded among whom was Lt Cumming - Cameron Highlanders. He was so badly wounded that he was unable to move without assistance. He told me that one of his wounds had not even been dressed. The van was in a filthy condition - the horse dung was heaped in a corner and the smell was awful. We were given sufficient straw to lie on. Only one of the men had a greatcoat and we all suffered from the cold especially at night. The truck was so dirty that I and one of the men preferred to sit on a bench instead of lying on the floor - though we eventually had to do so from exhaustion. Lt Cumming and two badly wounded men were taken out of the train during the journey and I believe they were sent to hospital. I was in the train for two days.'

The other accounts from Crefeld reported similar or worse behaviour by the Germans. So, despite having been taken out of the war Lt Carey still played an active part in first bringing the German mistreatment of British POWs to the attention of the authorities. There appears to be no record of Lt Carey's 'historic' statement at RHQ and the regiment itself seems to have remained ignorant of its existence all these years. Did Carey ever know that his message had 'got through'?

Rupert O'Donoghue Carey was born in Guernsey, Channel Islands, in 1892 although the 1901 census showed his place of birth as India. He had been

'Mentioned in Dispatches' for carrying Pte Dickson to safety under heavy fire after he was hit during the withdrawal from Wasmes on 24.8.1914. On 11.11.14 he was wounded in the calf eventually reaching Crefeld POW Camp on 4.1.15. He was later interned in Holland repatriated to England on 31.12.18 having volunteered to stay on to help evacuate other POWs. He was eventually promoted to the rank of Major. He remained a popular figure in and around the regiment until his

death in Halifax in 1961 aged 69. Perhaps he is still remembered by some readers to this day.

This information came to light during the research for my forthcoming book - 'The Death of the Dukes' - which includes a brief summary of what became of every single one of the 28 officers and 992 men who embarked from Dublin in 1914. One of those men was my grandfather, Pte AT Sargeant, who went on to become Drum Sgt Major of the battalion.

MEMOIRS

By Lt TOM BRIGGS MC

2/7th BATTALION THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(In the interests of space there has been some abridgement of the original text.

This is Part I and the story will be concluded in future issues).

Foreword

This true story touches the fringe of the attempted assassination of Hitler. It concerns the unselfish action of an unknown number of Germans who, far from committing a treasonable act in the July 20th putsch to overthrow the Hitler regime, were inspired by a love for their Fatherland and with so great a responsibility to their nation that they unhesitatingly prepared to sacrifice themselves. They were not wishing to damage the Reich or the Armed Forces but desired to help them. Their action was described in 1959 by General Heusinger as "a shining light in Germany's darkest hour."

It was not the conspiracy of a few disgruntled Generals as an aftermath of Stalingrad, for it started in 1940 and perhaps before that for, early in 1939, Dr Carl Goerdeler wrote, "to free the World from its present

cataleptic conditions stronger forces must by their momentum break the spell of Hitlerean ideas." The attempt was an heroic failure but, if successful, would have prevented more than two million deaths and the total disaster which followed.

You may well ask did all the people involved in this conspiracy die in vain and the true answer is No! Their actions substantially changed the view that Germany was not capable of democratic reconstruction and demonstrated that the struggle for democratic revival started even before the War, as the resistance tried so often to establish itself and the open action of the 20th July was far more than an heroic failure but a stroke for freedom that ricocheted round the world.

Capture

The day dawned, I suppose just like other days had, but from the ditch I was in it did not seem like other



"Oflog
VIIC,
with
prisoners
on
parade".

days. The Glorious Twelfth, no we were two months off that, but the twelfth it was and flaming June. The cease-fire had sounded and the shock of quiet ensued; surrender, and the shock of disaster broke on you. The one entered your mind and the other your soul, and I walked down the hill into St Valerie with nothing real or tangible in mind but to avoid capture.

But the story is not about capture, starvation, fatigue, degradation or a journey in privation and discomfort for forty men in a horse box who, with five loaves and a bucket of water once a day, ultimately arrived at Laufen, then known as Oflag VIIC.

However, the story certainly starts there when, having had our beards shaved off and spent the night herded together in straw, we were eventually allowed a shower and allocated a room.

I enjoyed the rank of Second Lieutenant, having been commissioned in the Field a few days earlier. I was a solicitor before I volunteered and, therefore, had less military experience than all the others but the Germans, in their wisdom, decided I must be the Senior Subaltern and I was put in charge of 86 other Subalterns, all in one room. The location was a Palace, once occupied by Mozart, with a large tributary of the River Saltz forming one perimeter but, of course, on the other side of the wire.

One of the Subalterns was of noble lineage and became very ill but, for the first 12 months of captivity, Red Cross parcels did not arrive in any greater quantity than one between four once a week and that only after nine months, so my young charge found it more difficult

to survive than some of the others. It was then that I wrote to his relations to try and get some help either by the provision of parcels of food or his movement to more convivial surroundings where he could be properly cared for; many of them were Ambassadors in various parts of the world and one or two, like 'K-H', the then British Ambassador to Turkey, replied to say it was with regret that they could send nothing and do nothing, but this correspondence was to prove the touchstone to an adventure, the success of which would produce benefit beyond price.

It was the 7th July when we arrived at Oflag VIIC and the summer soon steeped itself into autumn and autumn storms preceded the winter with remarkable ferocity. The thunder storms were so violent that it was almost like watching a gigantic fireworks display but not much fun if you were on parade getting soaked to the skin without any capacity to dry your clothes. The frosts seemed to come early that year, at least they did at Laufen but, according to the German calendar, it was never cold enough for heating fuel until the 1st November and so we started to burn our bed boards, for we slept in racks of three and each bed had 12 loose planks on which the palliasse rested. We discovered that the minimum number of seven boards was required to be comfortable. The Germans allowed us to buy their local newspaper, the München Beobachter, and this was a most useful source of fuel and insulation when laid under the palliasse and in between the layers of one's blanket. In fact, without the Beobachter we should have been very cold.

We had plenty of snow and ice that winter and, in fact, improvised curling competitions, the bulk of our prisoners being from the 51st Highland Division, under Major General Victor Fortune.

Escape Committees were formed and no-one was allowed to endeavour to escape without permission, lest some foolhardy scheme should jeopardise another much more professional scheme. Generally speaking, if anyone thought of a good scheme they were allowed to put it into effect but might be compelled to take one or two special officers with them. At this stage many ingenious schemes came out and none was more spectacular than that attempted by a few officers who discovered that the Palace had a main drain almost four feet in diameter which went under the wire and into the river just above the water line when the river was not in flood. What, of course, they couldn't count on was what the opening was like at the other end. They put their plan into operation one evening at dusk, only to find that an iron grid, of very considerable dimensions, barred their progress and they had no tools to cut it. They determined to try again when they had made, or acquired, the tools for the job, and the whole party returned safely and were never caught.

Unhappily, they had no opportunity of using the scheme again for they were moved early in March, 1941, together with Major General Fortune and a party, in all that added up to 500, to an underground fort in Poland.

I was one of the party, and all we were told was that



A drawing of VIIC by Michael Goodliffe



**Their destination;
Fort V111
Twierdzy,
Poland**

we were moving to another camp and we had to be ready to move out at 6.0 o'clock the following morning. Again, the usual form of travel was available to us, 40 men in one horsebox, and the journey seemed interminable. The train was shunted into sidings and remained stationary for hours. After travelling for more than a day, the train stopped in the country and we were allowed out of the horsebox to walk up and down the track for half a mile either way, the guards standing armed at fifty paces on each side of the track.

Eventually we got to Posen and there formed up into our usual columns of fives. It was the first, and only, time we came across Mounted Police. Their turnout was quite immaculate, both horses and men and, in addition to their swords, they carried a long staff. They wore helmets with the flat crown of the Uhlan's and, in comparison, we were a sorry spectacle, unshaved, unwashed and generally unlovely, most of us carrying our worldly belongings tied up in a blanket.

I was a little more heavily laden than most of the other officers, looking more like a gipsy pedlar than anything else, for I had taken with me a large enamel kettle. It had been kindly given to me by a French lady as we marched through her town, telling me to keep the kettle which was then full of water and to let my friends have a drink too. It was ideal as we could drink and walk at the same time as, originally, the Germans had not allowed the prisoners to stop as we made our way through France and, as it was a very hot summer, the French had left buckets out for us to dip our cups into as we passed, but the German guards had kicked over the buckets and would not allow us to take the water. Therefore, I had quite an affection for my kettle which was to prove a most interesting instrument much later.

However, the weight of my load made me drop back in the column until I was very near the end of the line. One of the Mounted Police was detached to take care of me alone and his horse was so well trained to control

people that it pushed its head at me in order to speed me up. This happened on several occasions and, strangely enough, one had the feeling that it was not done viciously in any way. Eventually, I put the load down and said I could not go on, whereupon the policeman summoned a lorry which was at the back of us, put my load on to the lorry and instructed me to catch up with the column. I didn't know whether I had lost all my possessions or not, but I had the feeling that I hadn't which was borne out in truth for, when I got to the other end, the blanket and all its accoutrements was waiting for me at the fort – it was readily discernable as mine was the only kettle in the camp.

The whole column was paraded on one side of the moat and over the drawbridge, which didn't look as though it would work, strode a German officer who would have made a first class pantomime star. He wore boots and leggings with riding breeches, he had a monocle and a switch with which he constantly smacked his leggings. He stood, with legs akimbo, and in a loud voice in English addressed the 500 officers. He told us he regretted that this was virtually a Strafenlager (Punishment Camp) because they had heard from Canada that German prisoners there were being kept in a similar fort and they were not able to see a blade of grass or a tree. We were no longer entitled to easy circumstances and these surroundings were a reprisal for the treatment meted out to German officers in Canada and, until the conditions there changed, ours would remain the same. For every German officer that was kept in such conditions they were keeping 10 British officers.

His peroration went on to tell us we would be shot for trying to escape and any refusal to obey orders would be roughly dealt with. We were then herded across the bridge and went down into the fort, lit entirely by electric light.

Part 2 will be published in the next issue.

A RETURN TO GORAZDE

Brigadier David Santa-Olalla DSO MC

Towards the end of last summer, I received one of those interesting e-mails which triggers in one an immediate reminiscence followed by a sense of mounting excitement. It was from the Defence Attache, Lt Col Stephen Croft at our embassy in Sarajevo who was trying find me in order to send an invitation from the Ambassador, Nigel Casey MVO. Apparently, the DA had, on behalf of the UK Government, been coordinating two civil-aid projects, one based in Gorazde in eastern Bosnia and one in Gorni Vakuf in Central Bosnia. Both projects were now coming to a head and he was trying to make the appropriate arrangements.

In 1994, the 1st Battalion had deployed initially to Central Bosnia helping to monitor the recently signed peace accord between the Muslim and Croat Forces. One of the major confrontation lines ran through the middle of Gorni Vakuf, where one year earlier, L/Cpl Wayne Edwards RWF serving with 1 CHESHIRE, had been shot dead in his WARRIOR AFV whilst crossing the bridge over the River Vrbas; he was the first British soldier killed in Bosnia serving with the UN Forces. The battalion had been deployed to several bases in Central Bosnia also including Vitez in support of 1st Bn The Coldstream Guards. Subsequently, half the battalion with TAC HQ, including ALMA and CORUNNA Companies, was re-deployed by General Michael Rose, the UN Force Commander, from Central to Eastern Bosnia in order to impose the terms of UNSCR 913. The mandate required the Serb forces to withdraw their ground forces besieging Gorazde beyond a 3km exclusion zone and heavy weapons beyond a 20km zone. This redeployment occurred following a 2½ year siege which had culminated in the shooting down of a British Harrier, the pilot of which had bailed out fortunately within the Muslim defended enclave of Gorazde.

The UK Embassy in Sarajevo had been working on two projects in these towns as they had both had a close

connection with UK Forces during the war. The first project involved the establishment of an internet café in an isolated village called Beric located north west of Gorazde. The DA had asked the Mayor of Gorazde, Muhammed Ramovich who he wanted to open the café. During 1994, he had been the mayor of the small town of Ilovaca, near Beric which the Dukes had helped and having had several dealings with me, he asked that I be located and brought out to open the internet office suite. The second project was an initiative of the Mayor of Gorni Vakuf; it had been decided that the bridge over the Vrbas was to be named after Wayne Edwards and the authorities wanted to have his sister, his NOK, to be invited to unveil the memorial. As this event was timed to follow the day after my visit to Gorazde, I was invited to take part as well.

So it was that my wife Jo and I found ourselves flying into Sarajevo airport in early October 2011. It was for Jo her first visit to the country and for me my first return to the region since leaving the Balkans in 1999. We were met by the DA and his driver, Nihad Gluscic. In 1994, Nihad had been a fifteen year old boy who had been born and brought up in Gorazde. In April of that year, he had been surviving the Serb siege for over 2 years by living on his wits and air-dropped UNHCR supplies. After some formalities, Nihad was quick to tell me how, fearing for his life, he had woken on the morning of 24 April 1994 to find the white vehicles and blue berets of ALMA Company in the town. At that moment he knew he was safe and for the next 18 months he spent almost every waking day hanging on to the barbed wire fencing that quickly circled the Duke's base at the sports ground. Indeed, he claims that his excellent command of the English language both written and spoken was as a result of this early experience.....I thought I detected a slight West Yorkshire accent in his conversation!

Returning to Sarajevo was for me a revelation; the last time I had been there it was closed down by the Serb forces who were besieging the City from the North East and South. This was a modern European city that only a few years earlier had hosted the Winter Olympics. In the early 90s, Artillery, mortar and sniper fire kept the civilians in their shelters by day with only occasional forays out to find water, food and firewood. The lack of fuel meant that the only vehicles on the streets were UN or BiH military. Civilians in the main were the primary casualties and there were many each day. Here we were 17 years later and the only evidence were the scars on many building and the "Sarajevo Roses" that had appeared on the pavements to provide a modern memorial of the many scenes of civilian deaths.

After a very enjoyable evening at a local restaurant and an interesting walk around the City, the following day Jo and I headed off to Gorazde with the DA, his wife and Nihad Gluscic. We completed the journey in about 2 hours which in 1994 could take from 9 hours to 9 days depending on the state of the roads and the Serb



**Brigadier David
Santa-Ollala at the
Regimental Plot at
Westminster Abbey on
10 November 2001**

forces' humour. Gorazde was unrecognisable; there were people, cars, colour and the noise of normality. There was no sign of soldiers, no sound of shooting, no over-flying military aircraft and no tension. We parked in the centre of town near the bridge over the Drina and posed for a photo.

In 1994, nobody crossed the bridge where we stood but rather used a flimsy plank bridge that ran underneath thus avoiding the Serb snipers who constantly monitored the crossing from the hills. After a visit to the Opstina offices to meet the Mayor and his key staff, we left for Beric to open the internet cafe. The inevitable speeches from everyone, with translation took a couple of hours but clearly the past work of UK Forces and the on-going support from the UK Government was clearly recognised. At one point, I was implored to use my influence to get Bosnia admitted to the EU!

One member of the Opstina party was a Mr Dzevad

Adzem, Minister for War Veterans of the Bosnian Podrinje Canton. He went to great lengths to advise me that he and his department intended to erect memorials to the British servicemen, including Shaun Taylor (C Company – shot by the Serb forces 26 June 1994) who lost their lives defending the Muslim enclave of Gorazde. He and his colleagues really were sincere in their gratitude and I am sure that in time they will deliver on their promise. The problem is that Gorazde along with much of Bosnia Herzegovina is struggling financially, politically and historically. During the morning, the Mayor had asked me if I wanted to meet up with any Gorazde personalities from our time in the town; I told him I wanted to see Cisco who all Dukes who served in Gorazde will remember and the lady who ran the Red Cross centre on the south side of the bridge, Nefissa. I was told that if I was to take a drive around the town, I would find Cisco myself.

This I did almost immediately; he recognised me and gave me a big hug saying how much he and the people of Gorazde were grateful for all that the Dukes did in those difficult days which had clearly left a very deep, psychological scar on the collective memory of the people. A short while later, Nefissa was contacted and we had an emotional reunion on the outskirts of the town. After a visit to our old campsite at the sports ground and a tour of the town, we left on our return journey to Sarajevo. My overriding emotion was one of pleasure in having experienced the sense of gratitude from the people of Gorazde and having had the opportunity to show Jo around a place that had been such an important event in my career. However, I have to say that I was also filled with a sense of gloom for the future of the people in Gorazde which seemed mired in the petty politics being played out in post-Dayton Bosnia-Herzegovina.



David Santa-Olalla with Cisco and Jo Santa-Olalla



On the bridge over the Drina

IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF THE REGIMENT - PASCHENDAEL

The purpose of this “Footsteps” series is to give a personal account of what now exists, and what it is like, in places where the Regiment fought in days gone by, with only just enough history for a context. 300 years ago campaigns were usually tied to a relatively small geographic “patch”, where a modern visitor can go and view the ground with some ease. So it was simple to follow the path of Marlborough’s Anglo/Dutch army along the Meuse, as reported in the last issue. Next was due a report on modern day Waterloo, but given the articles on Brigadier Sugden and 1/4th DWR in this edition, it seems appropriate to tell of a visit to part of the area over which they fought. Although the geographic scale of WW1, so far as they were concerned at any rate, was still quite small, it is too large for these purposes, so the visit centred on a little area East of Ypres.

Langemark/Poelkappelle

By 1915 the village of Langemark, a few miles north of Ypres, had been completely destroyed. The population at the time it was forced to abandon the village and livelihoods was 5498; in 1918 538 of these original inhabitants returned to view the desolation that had once been their village. Nothing was left standing; all around lay only the detritus of war, overlaid by the stench of rotting corpses being picked over by an army of rats. 79 people immediately left, never to return. The remainder stayed to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Today Langemark/Poelcappelle is an amalgam of two

adjoining unassuming little villages, with a few shops, a church, a school, and all the other small establishments and minor facilities you would expect in such a place. What makes it different are the information boards spread round the village, which tell the story of those dreadful times, and the people who lived through them. It is a rural community in a landscape that is entirely agricultural.



Part of the Paschendael killing ground

In a few square miles of countryside around Ypres, including Langemark, millions men fought over a period of more than 4 years and hundreds of thousands died. As they fell they were replaced by others; the front moved a mile or two at most and sometimes just a few hundred yards, and the fighting went on until both sides were bled white of money and men. An infusion of new strength and resources from the far side of the Atlantic tipped the scales for an allied victory.

Tyne Cot

The farmers’ livestock and crops make room for numerous memorials and cemeteries. Some of the latter are very large – such as Tyne Cot with some 35,000, including 1160 New Zealanders, names on its panels and on crosses laid out in perfect order in the extensive plot; and the Menin Gate in Ypres, with nearly 55,000 names, 40,000 of them British and some 14,000 Australians and Canadians, 410 Indians and 560 South Africans. Of course the Dukes have many names on the panels at both places, Panels 82 – 85 at Tyne Cot, and 57 – 59 at the Menin Gate, the latter under the arch to the left as you face away from the town.

Over the years I have visited many war cemeteries in France and Belgium, but of them all the Tyne Cot is the most overwhelming. The visitors’ centre stands at the highest point of the West Flanders battlefield; the view from there is what the German soldiers in their trenches would have looked out over. Now you will see fields, some small woods, the spires of the villages, a wind



The Langemark memorial to the Belgian soldiers who lost their lives in WW1



Tyne Cot Cemetery, looking West towards Ypres

farm, lines of electricity pylons, and, further away, distant grey splotches of commercial and urban infrastructure around Ypres. Most of the allied soldiers have been buried with their headstones “facing the enemy”, row upon row, although nearer the top many

face inwards as well. West facing headstones have retained clear engraved inscriptions (or perhaps have been renewed?); north and east facing stones are worn and in some cases hard to read.

Headstones are grouped in no discernible order;



**Menin Gate,
on the
town side**

**Two Dukes
gravestones in
Dochy Farm
Cemetery
between
Langemark
and
Zonnebeeke**



regiments, nationalities, dates of death, all mixed together. Many stones simply say "A soldier of the Great War"; others can identify a regiment if not a name. Lewis McGee VC of the Australian infantry lies in a quiet row away from the centre alongside others who received less recognition for their sacrifice. On the panels names are listed regimentally – the headstones are seemingly randomly placed, demonstrating that this was a shared commitment and sacrifice, and death struck at random, taking these men but leaving those.

There are Dukes in smaller cemeteries as well. At the Dochy Farm New British Cemetery just outside Langemark 1439 British, New Zealand and Australian men lie, 16 of them Dukes. All these Dukes were killed in action or died of wounds between 9 October and 15 December 1917. Do families in the West Riding still talk of their great grandfathers Private MacFarlane, Sergeant Peachy, or Corporal Longbottom? Corporal Booth, Privates Kennington or Wimpenny? I hope they do. "We will remember them" should not be an empty phrase, sonorously rolled out annually for form's sake.

Dukes battalions were in action in France and Belgium from the retreat from Mons in 1914 to the Armistice. Our Regimental History reminds us that historian Basil Liddell Hart called the first Battle of Ypres "the supreme memorial to the British regular army". On 5 November 1914 CO 2 DWR, Lt Col Harrison, noted that the strength of his battalion was 15 officers and 800 rank and file: less than 3 weeks later there were 2 officers and 380 men. The German offensive of 1914 was stopped and held at considerable cost.

1917

Three years on, in September 1917, 2 DWR under the command of Lt Col Horsfall DSO who had led them through some tough actions around Arras after which the battalion was reduced to 54 effectives and was regrouped into two platoons attached to the Lancashire Fusiliers, was re-manned and moved up to the Ypres front and in October was involved in the fighting around Poelcappelle. From 9 to 11 October 2 DWR lost 170 all ranks, killed, wounded and missing, including the CO who was shot through the head leading the forward company. On 9 October 1/4th, 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Bns DWR also went into action near Paschendael, formed as 147 Infantry Brigade. By 6 November the village of Paschendael had been captured, at a cost of 245,000 British casualties.

This was far from being the end of the war, and Dukes' battalions were engaged in many actions, and took thousands of casualties, through 1918 to the end of the war. But my journey was primarily about a few days towards the end of 1917, when so much was in the balance, so much had already been lost and the future was frighteningly uncertain and lay in the hands of hundreds of thousands of brave young men from Britain and her Empire, whose task was to fight in conditions so awful that they almost defy description, to offer up their lives in huge numbers, and to sustain this effort until victory had been achieved. And all this in an area that can easily be crossed in a few hours.

A tangible memory.

In the previous report of a visit along the Meuse in the footsteps of Marlborough and the Regiment I noted

that almost nothing remained to show of those 300 year old contests of arms. What happened then is history, preserved in memory and documentation as such but otherwise gone. In contrast, signs of the titanic struggles of 1914-1918, not yet 100 years ago, are still only too present. Other than the cemeteries, and there are many of them large and small, there are but few physical scars; but somehow the mind – mine anyway - cannot separate today's peaceful landscape from the scale of that conflict, the too-big-to-grasp vastness of

the struggle for victory, and the heart-rending sacrifice of so many men.

These soft green fields, occasional stands of trees and gently rolling hills, with their small communities, fat livestock, and the ubiquitous infrastructure of modern communications and utilities, have such a tale to tell and are still telling it to a receptive, inquiring mind. But if you let it, it can take a heavy toll on your peace of mind.

TJN

Lord George Hastings, 8th Earl of Huntingdon

Researched by Sylvia Pinkney

In the last issue of this journal was an article about the origins of our Regiment and its first campaign with Marlborough in sieges along the Meuse 1702 and 1703. Since then some recent research into Lord George Hastings, the Regiment's founder and first Colonel, has come to light. I am grateful to Sylvia Pinkney of East Keswick near Leeds for permission to draw heavily on her paper to produce this short article.

He was born in 1677 in the reign of Charles II, who was succeeded by his brother James, becoming King James II. George's father Theophilus supported James against his enemies in England, notably raising a regiment (eventually the 13th Foot) to counter the Duke of Monmouth's unsuccessful invasion in the West Country. He also stood with James II in 1688 against the troops of William of Orange, who became King William III, and as a result was for a period confined after James had been banished, although he was quite soon released. He was again arrested some 4 years later and locked up in the Tower, but was released after six months or so. He thus had experience of what it was like to choose the wrong side, and perhaps had come to understand the value of keeping his head down and living quietly on his estates.

Thus as George grew up his family was regarded with some suspicion, which would have placed some constraint upon his ambitions to make a career in public life. However, not content with the prospect of a quiet existence, by cultivating influential friendships and being seen to be his own man – he and his father did not see eye to eye on a number of matters, including in particular George's refusal to stay at home and make a good marriage to repair the family's fortunes, compounded by his continual requests for money – George was received at Court. He resolved to join the King on his campaign in Flanders, and was given the responsibility for a diplomatic mission to the Duke of Bavaria.

On return to England his shortage of funds became acute, and he sued his father for money he believed was due to him. The dispute went on for some time and meanwhile George secured from the King a commission - with the rank of lieutenant colonel, (not bad for a youth of twenty with little military experience) – in the First Foot Guards. He returned to Holland and saw action with his Regiment. There he remained until the war was concluded in 1697 by the Treaty of Ryswick. He

remained in and around the Court in England and in Holland, receiving a modest but useful pension and conducting such of the King's business as was put his way, and intermittently prosecuting his case against his Father. His Father died in 1701, and the title and estate passed to George. At last he had access to funds, or at least to lines of credit.

King William died in March 1702 and Queen Anne inherited the problem of France's renewed ambitions in Europe. She authorised the raising of 15 new regiments. George, with some funds now at his disposal, spent £4000 raising what would become the 33rd Regiment of Foot, and then in due course through a variety of incrementally changing titles, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding).

It seems unlikely that he personally spent much time himself recruiting and training his Regiment, as he returned to Holland as a volunteer to join the Duke of Marlborough at the siege of Kyserswaert. He wrote home to his sister Elizabeth "Alas here we have nothing worth you knowing that can be pleasing to one of the fair sex. Nothing but sieges and retreats and alarms". He displayed gallantry in the field and there were reports that he had been wounded, although these proved false. In due course up came his Regiment and he joined them in time for the Siege of Venloo, described in the last issue.

His interest in his military career did not endure. He and the Regiment were in the thick of the action at Venloo, Ruremond and Liege, and then the Army went into winter quarters and he returned to England. In 1703 he was in Amsterdam and thence went to Venice and took the grand tour. His soldiering days were over. He travelled extensively but in 1704 resolved to rejoin Marlborough at the Hague. He never got there, dying of a malignant fever on 8 March 1704, aged 27.

It is hard to judge what sort of man he was: he was liked and disliked seemingly in equal parts, was certainly ambitious and loyal to his friends, and to King William on whose behalf he raised the Regiment. He was cultivated and charming, but at the same time he seems to have been a bit of a dilettante, perhaps not too bright, perhaps stubborn, certainly enough to defy his father for so many years. Other than the Dukes, he has left little mark on history. Many would think that a fair achievement.

Association News

President: Colonel Nick Borwell OBE.

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

BRANCHES

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

Huddersfield: 8.00pm last Friday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess; TA Centre, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield. *Secretary:* Mrs P. Harley, 11 Wain Park, Berry Brow, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 7QX.

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

London: 12 noon at the Union Jack Club, Sandel Street, London; Sat 14 April (joint with PWO Association); Sun 17 June; Sun 16 Sept. *A/Secretary:* John Greenway, 35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7AT. Tel: 01252 514786. E.mail: jbgandjpg@aol.com

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

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

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

TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE BATTALIONS' OCA 5th Battalion. *Secretary:* Mr J. T. Payne, 101 Bradley Road, Bradley, Huddersfield, HD2 1QU.

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

Regimental Trustees Meeting

The responsibility of the Regimental trustees is to ensure that our funds are properly administered and disbursed, under the extensive legal and regulatory framework that governs all charities. At their meetings they also review any matters of Regimental interest or concern, including the programme of Association events. Colonel Nick Borwell, President of the Association is in the chair. The Trustees meet twice a year, the last being on 20 January 2012.



From left:
Major Bob Heron
Association HQ,
Captain Mike Wade-
Smith Adjutant 3 Yorks,
Lt Col Tim Nicholson
Editor Iron Duke,
Colonel Simon Newton,
Major David Harrap
RHQ Yorkshire
Regiment,
Colonel Nick Borwell,
Brigadier Dick Mundell.

Royal British Legion

Bill Craddock MBE sent me a copy of a letter he had had published in his local paper, to record the amazing achievements of the Washington (Tyne and Wear) Royal British Legion 2011 collection. Despite ideally needing a few more collectors, but well supported by several major retailers, small businesses and other organisations, a record £31,000 was collected.

London Branch – Remembrance 2011.

On Thursday 10 November 2011, as in years past, the London Branch representatives arrived at Westminster Abbey in good time to set up the Garden of Remembrance, to find that the Royal British Legion had fully prepared all the Regimental Plots with their complement of small crosses.



From L Bob Temple, Fred Richardson, Duke Lawrence and Brig John Greenway at Westminster Abbey.

The RBL, having instigated a ticket system in order to prevent overcrowding, was also carefully monitoring access. So, by the time the formal opening ceremony began, all was calm and HRH Prince Philip was able to



The Duke of Wellington's Regiment's Plot at the Abbey

make his way round the Garden and speak to regimental representatives in passing.

General Evelyn managed to spread himself adroitly across the several Regiments with which he is connected and we were delighted to see him, as well as David Santa-Ollala, David Miller with his delightful stepdaughter, and Donald Palmer. Our own Branch representatives were the Auketts and the Greenways, with Mac Dowdy, John Kelly and Bob Temple.

On Remembrance Sunday itself our contingent seemed small, with only the Greenways, Fred Richardson and Bob Temple present. Then, as if from nowhere, Duke Lawrence appeared after a five year absence in the Far East. It was good to see him again. Other Dukes will always be welcome to join us on Remembrance Sunday, when, after our own simple private ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance, we move across to watch the troops and veterans march round from the Cenotaph to Horseguards parade. We then repair to a friendly hostelry which has learned to expect us. Do come and join us.

JBKG.

London Poppy Day

Major Don Palmer MBE reports that he took part in the Poppy Day collection in the City of London, organised by the Lloyd's Branch of The Royal British Legion. Rob Preston, terrorism underwriter at Novae, organised a group of Dukes and others for the second year running to collect at Fenchurch Street Station and Leadenhall Market. He did so extremely well, as indeed he did in 2010. Last year the collective tri service effort raise a quarter of a million.

Mytholmroyd Memorial Garden Soldier

Paul Taylor, Secretary of the Halifax Branch of the Association, wrote to say that Mytholmroyd (between Hebden Bridge and Sowerby Bridge, West of Halifax), Memorial Garden Soldier has at last been given a new head. The original head disappeared in 1992 and was replaced with a "temporary" one made by a local stonemason. On 16 October 2011 the statue with a permanent new head was unveiled and re-dedicated. Representatives of the Regiment's Halifax Branch attended, with the Branch Standard.

A Commemorative Book of the Fallen was produced, to honour the memory of the Citizens of the town who gave their lives for freedom in the two World Wars. The book was based on a scrap book kept by a local woman, Mrs Annie Greenwood, who between 1914 and 1918 cut from the Hebden Times pictures of the men who went to war. For this later book, it was extended to include the fallen of WW2. The book records the names of 130 "Royders" (the current population is estimated at 3700), of whom 22 from



Private Robertshaw aged 16

The Ceremony of Dedication



WW1 and 1 from WW2 served with the Dukes... and they left "with willing hearts to fight for a future of peace and dignity...they worked at Redman's clothiers, at Boggis shoemakers and Hinchcliffe's. They were hairdressers, postmen, millworkers and clog sole makers...the youngest to cross the sea with his kit bag and his pals was sixteen years of age.



Blind Veterans UK

Brigadier Johnny Walker OBE DL found his photograph prominently displayed both on the cover and inside the December 2011 issue of that charity's magazine. This was spotted by Major General Webb Carter, who sent the material in to the Iron Duke. On being asked for some comment, EJWW wrote " I support Blind Veterans UK - formerly St Dunstan's - and march down Whitehall with them every Remembrance Sunday for the last five years. The picture (below), was taken assembling on Horseguards at 0900 hrs last Sunday 13 November. John Powell (right) is a partially sighted WW 2 veteran.

Ray Hazan OBE ex-Royal Anglian blinded by a bomb in Londonderry is the President; Major General Andy Keeling ex Royal Marines is the Chairman. Our contingent is always in front of the parade about 50m from the Cenotaph and the guide's job is to tell the vet what is going on - when the PM comes out of the Home Office, when HM is laying her wreath and the other members of her family and so on. We then march round the block in Parliament Square, back into Horseguards and one of the Royal family will take the salute. We then return to the Marriott Hotel at Regents Park for lunch with our Vet and wife/partner."



The importance of good teeth to a soldier.

In a pamphlet of extracts of quotes from Max Arthur's book "Forgotten Voices of the Great War" produced jointly by the Telegraph and the RBL, there is a quote from Lt Godfrey Buxton of 6 DWR, as follows:

"We didn't have dentists in any great number until 1916. Then, when the dentists came over and the men got their teeth put right, and the dead ones pulled out and so on, it certainly got them into another era of health, because their food could then be properly digested. It seems a small thing, but it was of tremendous value when these dentists came and improved teeth. Until then I don't think the public were as conscious of the value of teeth. And I believe it began a tremendous change in the attitude of the working classes after the war – quite new to what had happened before."

The late Bernard Levin, journalist and writer, wrote in an article that General Montgomery had told him that he once had a row with Churchill, who had been looking through some lists of equipment to be landed on the beaches almost immediately after D-Day and found among the stores "two dentists' chairs". Churchill demanded to know why, at such a perilous moment, precious space had been found for such luxuries. "I told him" snapped Monty, "I told him. I said "Prime Minister, a soldier with toothache's no use to me – he can't fight. Good morning"

The Morgan Sporting Runabout.

Paul Taylor, mentioned above, also writes of his communication with the Morgan Motor Company, after finding in our archives a photograph of an officer of the Regiment in his Morgan Runabout. He wrote to Morgan seeking further information.

Martyn Webb, Morgan's own Archivist, replied at some length. "Runabout" was the name given to all the early Morgan three wheelers, of which there were

several different models. Egerton's is a Morgan Sporting Runabout and dated from around 1913 to 1914. It was fitted with an 8hp air-cooled side-valve JAP v-twin engine of around 1 litre capacity, with a simple two speed transmission. It had no reverse gear!

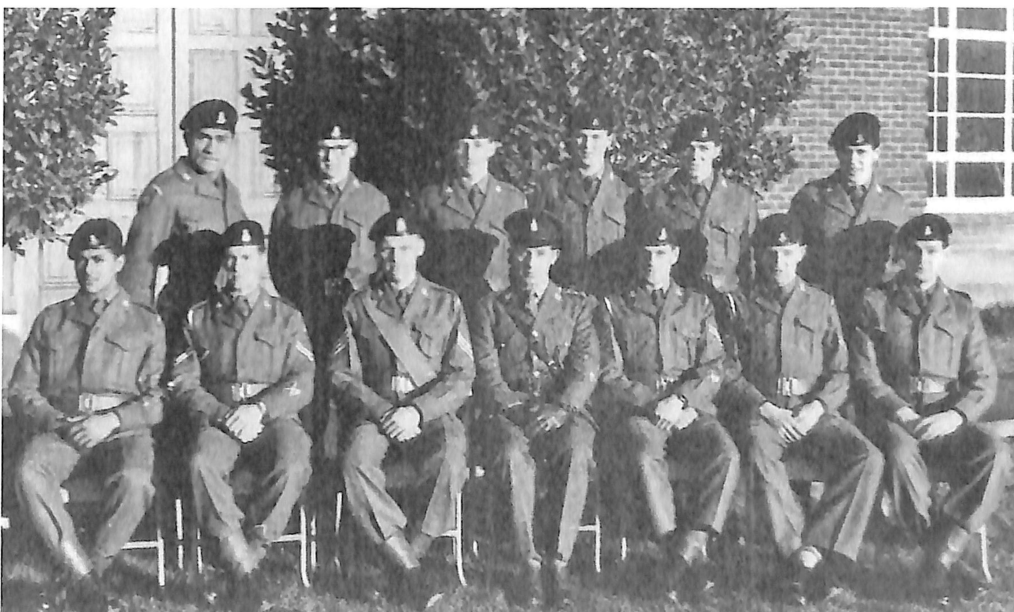


CE Egerton in his Runabout

Mr Webb kindly enclosed a copy of an advertisement for one of these cars. The price was £91.0s.0d, and potential purchasers would have been attracted by a caption which read "This body is arranged without doors, as in so light a body these would rattle and give trouble. Access is however easy by means of a step forming a tool box."

1 DWR Signal Platoon Cadre 1962

The Editor confesses that sometimes material that is sent to him hides itself and does not see the light of day for months, even years, and it is not unknown for a photograph to become detached from any explanation of the purpose for which it was sent. This is the case for the photo below but as some notable Dukes of the era are in it, it is only right to publish it now.



**The 1962
Signal
Platoon
Cadre**

Book Review

CHINESE HORDES AND HUMAN WAVES

A Personal Perspective of the Korean War 1950 – 1953 by Brigadier Brian Parritt CBE, with a foreword by Major General Mike Swindells CB.

Brigadier Parritt has produced a superb account of the war in Korea, not only from the viewpoint of a subaltern in Baker Troop, 12th (Minden) Battery, 20th Field Regiment (RA), which so gallantly and successfully supported the ‘Dukes’ on the Hook in late May, 1953, but also from the standpoint of his later career in the Intelligence Corps, becoming their Honorary Colonel in 1986.

He has given a broad and fascinating overview of the causes and lead-up to the war, with great insight into the failures in US Command, Communications and Intelligence concerning the North Koreans, their Soviet backers and the Chinese, especially with regard to their various capabilities and intentions and records excellent descriptions of life in the front line, OPs and patrols; life on the gun line, Mike and Victor targets; life behind the lines, ENSA shows and the Norwegian MASH, where he was treated for wounds suffered during a fighting patrol with 1 KINGS in June 1953, not long after the Battle of the Hook; and R & R in Japan, where he went with an unidentified ‘Dukes’ Officer, after which they concluded that it was more recuperative than restful.

The scope of this book is magnificent, from the strategic involvement of the UN to the tactical use of the 25 pounder guns in 20 Field Regiment, with a good

Gunner’s-eye-view of the Battle of the Hook; as well as the beer and rations ‘enjoyed’ by the troops. A good selection of photographs portray service life in Korea featuring the ‘before and after’ look of the Arty OP on the Hook.

This edition is marred, however, by a number of typographical errors. These do not detract too much from the overall fluid style of the narrative and this book is an extremely good addition to any Korean War book collection, or as a very good introduction and explanation of the origins and course of the war, with the political, strategic and tactical levels well covered.

Copies are obtainable from Pen and Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, S70 2BR, 01226 734222. Quote code DWR 124012 for a 20% discount, or order from their website, (www.pen-and-sword.co.uk).

For any veteran who may wish to contact Brian Parritt, his e-mail address is - bparritt@clara.co.uk. He served as a Gunner Officer in Korea 1952-53. He took part in the Third Battle of The Hook and as the Forward Observation Officer in a company level night attack by the 1st King's Regiment where he was wounded. He then transferred to the Intelligence Corps and held senior intelligence appointments in Libya, Cyprus, the Far East and Northern Ireland. His final post was for five years as Director of the Intelligence Corps.

Scott Flaving

LETTERS

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

From Brigadier John Greenway CBE Rugby at Sandhurst

Having been alerted by the Dukes’ London Group (DLG) that 3 Yorks would be playing their annual rugby match against the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Saturday 21 January 2012 I thought I would take to the touchline myself to see how things are done these days.

The first thing is to get through the tight security. I have learned that, despite having been a Cadet there in the fifties and on the directing staff of the then Staff College, I still needed to persuade the armed guards that I was friend, not foe. This was achieved by Chief of the DLG briefing Seagull 3 Yorks, who told someone that I would appear in my horrible little purple Suzuki and I got straight in!

The dry day with a strong, cold wind took me right back to training on that pitch for the Cranwell match in 1955. Except that, this time, both sides plus reserves were charging around with much shouting and shouldering of tackle bags in a lengthy warming up process.

The match itself continued in the same vein; every scrum was accompanied by a concerted shout. More of a heaving groan really. Some enormous, agile cadets faced smaller, but equally agile, Dukes, and they crashed into each other with great enthusiasm. The cadets had more ball possession, but couldn’t penetrate the Dukes’ defence. The Dukes had trouble making anything of their own line-outs and scrums, losing the ball with some alacrity, but had enough agility and

determination to get over for a try in each half. Both sides spurned kickable penalties and always tapped and set off at a high rate. Every move was accompanied by shouting from half a dozen players on each side.

It was very good indeed to hear cries of "Come on Dukes" from the touchline again. But I have to say they were usually drowned by the vociferous shouting on the pitch. Compared with the cool voice of DW Shuttleworth or EMP Hardy,¹ saying a quiet codeword, usually followed by crisp compliance, the game has become more democratic and rumbustious. I am sure the boys enjoyed it and they certainly deserved to win. Well done the Dukes.

John Greenway was "sometime member of Sandhurst 2nd XV and reserve for the aforesaid Cranwell match".

¹ Shuttleworth and Hardy played for England in 1951.

From Brigadier Johnny Walker



**Brig Walker and Col Cumberlege
at Tyne Cot Cemetery**

This photo was taken on a tour to the Western Front in 2-6 October 2011. It is in Tyne Cot cemetery the largest Commonwealth War Grave cemetery in the world with over 11,800 graves 70% of which are known only unto God. As you can see the photo is alongside the grave of an unknown Dukes soldier probably killed during the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. There is a Memorial Wall at Tyne Cot with the names of 35,000 officers and soldiers with no known grave. This number includes six columns of Dukes or over 500 men.

From Tom Rothery

Re: John Stacpoole (see last ID page 89)

When the Dukes took over from the Black Watch on the Hook position, B Company took over the actual Hook Hill. I was platoon commander of 5 Platoon. Unfortunately the Platoon HQ bunker had been completely destroyed by a shell which killed the Platoon Commander (Rattray) and his sergeant.

John's assault pioneers had the job of rebuilding the Platoon HQ. The weather at the time was warm and

humid and they accomplished the task in a few days. Meanwhile my platoon lived in a couple of tunnels that had a tendency to flood. When John eventually handed over to me he gave me a bottle of brandy saying "Tom, you are going to need this". He was right, and the brandy, shared amongst some of my colleagues, did not last very long!

A few years later I was able to return his kindness with a bottle of malt whisky. At the time he was parish priest for Kirkby Moorside in North Yorkshire. He accepted my offering but said he could not remember the brandy anyway.

After two weeks B Company and D Company changed places on the Hook and I handed over to Ernest Kirk, who sadly was killed a couple of days later. Only one out of the three platoon commanders survived, me being them lucky one. In fact my platoon was the only one in the Commonwealth Division whose platoon commander or sergeant was not either killed or badly wounded.

From Mr Leo Taylor The Last Halifax Platoon

Reference the photo in the Autumn Edition of the Iron Duke on the missing names of the last Halifax Platoon I hope I can fill in some of the spaces as I am one of them. Back row No 5 Galbraith, middle row, 2nd from left Leo Taylor, 4th from left Paddy Lyle and 5th Richard Swain. (these new names in bold type above).

I'm sorry I can't remember the others. The passing out parade was held in the gym because of the inclement weather on the day.



**Back row from left: Symonds, Fletcher,
Bob Springer, Pete Turner, Galbraith**
**Centre row: Burke, Leo Taylor, ?, Paddy Lyle,
Richard Swain**
Front: John O'Donnell, ?, Tug Wilson, ?

Obituaries

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

In-Pensioner William George Ellis.

Bill "Pinkie" Ellis died on 5 November 2011, aged 95. Bill's father was lost at sea when Bill was six months and his mother, with three children and no social support, was obliged to give up her children to an orphanage in Southampton. In 1930 when Bill was 14 the 1st Battalion was stationed in Hampshire and the Bandmaster visited the orphanage and recruited a number of the boys into the Regimental band, which Bill joined formally in 1932 as a boy soldier.

In 1935 he was posted from the 1st Battalion in Malta to the 2nd Battalion in India. He fought with D Company at Sittang (see ID No. 270 Spring 2011) and Pegu and survived the rest of the long withdrawal back to India. He was demobbed in 1945.

After work as a lorry driver and factory worker he re-enlisted in 1948 and worked with Army Personnel Services, including at Strensall, until 1957, being demobbed in 1958. Thereafter he worked in a paper mill and ran a public house before selling fish from a van in Fife, in Scotland, until retiring in 1984. He became an In-Pensioner in the Royal Hospital in 1987 and, remarkably, found himself with others who had joined the Dukes' band from the same orphanage as himself back in the 1930s. Bill clearly had wide experience; he also held strong views and had a dry wit, so it was always interesting to visit him from time to time.

On 28 November 201 The Royal Hospital held a dignified funeral service for Bill in its All Saints Chapel. A good number of his family attended as well as several from the Royal Hospital. General Evelyn attended, as did Major Mick Sullivan representing the Yorkshire Regiment, Major Bob Heron representing the Dukes' Regimental Association and John Greenway representing the London Branch.

JBKG

Arthur Robinson

Arthur Robinson, who died on 10 February 2012, aged 91, was born in 1920 and educated at Haughton's School in York. He served with 9 DWR which converted to armour, becoming 146 Regiment RAC in 1941. The Regiment embarked from Liverpool for India in August 1941, landing at Bombay, and served in India and Burma until it was disbanded at Poona in February 1947. Arthur spoke little about his military service, except to say how much he enjoyed the camaraderie of his fellow soldiers.

On return from the war he married his long time girl friend Eileen Baker, and they had a son, Philip, and three grandchildren. He joined the Police Force, serving in York. His great interest in life was flowers, and he was Secretary to the Ancient Society of York Florists for 25 years, until his retirement in 2010. The Society was

formed in 1768 by an elite group of gentlemen whose happiness was centred on florists' flowers which they grew to perfection and for prize money.

Ralph Hannam

Solveig Hannam wrote from Iceland to inform us that Ralph passed away on January 2011. She said that he has had a great pleasure in reading the Iron Duke throughout the years as being a former member of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and she very generously thanked us on behalf of all Ralph's family.

Ralph Hannam was a Skipton man who joined the 1/6th Bn (TA) as war was breaking out in 1939. Remarkably, after six months service he was promoted from Pte – CQMS in one go. He claimed he was the only man in the Company who could keep the books. He worked in a bank before joining up. He was with the 1/6th when they went to Iceland in 1940, where he met and married his wife. He was commissioned into the Worcester Regt in 1942 and served until 1946. A couple of years later he and his wife returned to Iceland where they have lived ever since. He was 96 years old, always kept in touch and always subscribed to the ID. He wrote the piece below at the request some time ago of RHQ.

60 Year old memories of the 'Dukes' by Ralph Hannam

I joined the 116th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in mid 1939 at Skipton as World War 2 then seemed imminent. As I was the only suitable member of HQ Company who could keep books (I worked in the Yorkshire Penny Bank at Skipton for six years before the war), although my military experience was then limited, I was promoted to CQMS, from Private, in one go. I served in Iceland for two years, from 1940 to 1942, where I met my Icelandic wife. We married in 1940.

When the Regiment returned to the UK from Iceland I was sent to an OCTU and was then commissioned into the Worcester Regiment, as the Hannam name originates from that part of the UK, where I served until the end of the war. Before the war, I played rugby for Skipton, for five years, and for Yorkshire and suffered a displaced fibula in my left knee in a game, which terminated my rugby career. I did not feel this much, or mention it when I joined the Army or at OCTU.

During my service with the Worcesters I had an attack of appendicitis and, after I was operated on, I was posted to a Young Soldiers' Training Centre at Derby where I served for about a year. During the active part of my instructional training my knee trouble reappeared and my left knee jammed, which had to be operated on. In all, I served for 6½ years in the army. Quite a slice of one's life.

Post War. After a couple of years in the bank at Skipton and Keighley, the rewards did not justify the

effort and we decided to return to Iceland, where we have lived, and brought up our four children, ever since. I was glad to have the opportunity of further serving my country as Commercial Attaché in the British Embassy in Reykjavik for 24 years, to the end of 1980.

My wife and I still retain our affection for Skipton, which we visited often from Iceland until my, now, 40% knee disability made this impossible, not to mention my age of 90 years. I have to thank the Duke of Wellington's Regiment for bringing me to Iceland in the first place, and for my 60 years, plus, of happy family life in this northern country.

God Bless the 'Dukes'

WO2 (CSM) Terry Cooper

Terry was born in Sheffield in 1946. Leaving school at the age of 15 he spent 4 years in the mines in the South Yorkshire coal fields. In 1967 he enlisted into 271 Regiment Royal Artillery (TA) based in Sheffield. The following year he enlisted into the Dukes where he completed 22 years service. In addition to service in UK Terry served in Germany, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, Jamaica, Canada, Gibraltar, Belize, Kenya, Northern Ireland and Cyprus (including service with the United Nations).

He was one of the few to complete all 8 Northern Ireland tours and it was during the Ballykelly tour in 1973 that he met Kayreen, who he married in November of that year. Terry spent a number of years with the Mortar Platoon before his posting to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as Staff Instructor. In preparation for this appointment he achieved a very high grade on the Infantry Platoon Sergeants Course at Brecon. He was appointed CQMS followed by Company Sergeant Major Corunna Company before retiring in 1989. Terry was a tough professional soldier and a loyal member of the Regiment, believing passionately that "once a Duke always a Duke".

On leaving the Army Terry and his family settled in Haxby near York where he worked in the security sector. Terry remained very active after leaving the Army and his love of motorbikes saw him going off on weekend holidays with Kayreen riding pillion (often with the roles reversed). He continued marathon running taking part in the Wolverhampton full marathon as well as a number of half marathons around the country. He also took up micro-lighting and gliding.

His funeral at York Crematorium was well attended with standing room only. The service was conducted by Rev Maurice Staton, the Chaplain to St Leonard's Hospice, where Terry spent his final days. Following the laying of the Regimental Wreath by major Bob Hedron, the Eulogy was given by Terry's Brother in Law and ex Duke Ernie Atkinson. Terry is survived by his wife Kayreen and children.

St Leonard's Hospice has expressed thanks for the generosity of those attending the funeral, where donations of £530 were received.

Captain Hugh Cartwright



Hughie Cartwright (jungle hat) in Kowloon, Hong Kong, returning from Border duty

Hugh Cartwright died suddenly in hospital, after a short but devastating respiratory illness, on 6 January 2012, aged 70.

The family held a private Service of Remembrance on 24 January 2012 at St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham, at which Hugh's Brother, Robert, gave a moving Address. Drawing on material provided by Brigadier Dick Mundell, Robert summarised Hugh's service with the Dukes in the sixties and seventies, reminding us of the warm, generous and courageous man we had known. He had never married.

John Greenway, attending in a private capacity with Judith, also represented the Dukes.

Brigadier Dick Mundell writes "Hughie joined the Dukes in 1962 with Charles Bunbury and Peter Pettigrew. He settled in very quickly – posted initially to 7 Platoon, Burma Company in British Honduras (Belize).

His soldiers appreciated their 'boss' and were intensely loyal to him. He always had time for them; always caring and considerate. A very successful and happy combination.

In 1969 when the Battalion was in Hong Kong, he took his practical promotions exam in the New Territories with Charles Bunbury. They stayed in our bungalow in Sek Kong prior to the exam. After supper, it was an early bed to rest – until 0300 when Hughie

woke up with a start and shouted out loud 'my God it is going to be a 'river crossing' – with the subsequent dash for the relevant pamphlet. It wasn't and he passed!

Later in 1971 his company went ashore in Barbados on British Week, after Exercise Sun Pirate in Puerto Rico. Inevitably a couple of his soldiers got into a spot of trouble in the seedier parts of the town, and were arrested by the local police. At the Court Room the following day, with Hugh in attendance as their 'officer', the judge found the 2 guilty and sentenced to a short stay in jail or a sizeable fine! Hugh immediately produced his personal cheque book and took his boys back to the ship. It was some time before the affair became public; and when Hugh was refunded by the PRI!

A true gentleman; an active and good all-round sportsman (a fearless scrum half and a very good cricket all-rounder); popular, kind and always considerate. A wonderful comrade and character; who will be missed by me and many others.

Captain J. O. Urmson, MC MA



Maj Gen Webb Carter writes –

Jim Urmson died on 29th January and his funeral took place on the 9th February not far from where we live in Gloucestershire. Jim had been one of my father's company commanders in North Africa and Italy. He always referred to them as "the barons", a reference to Macchiavelli and I know how much he held them all in high esteem. There was "brainy" Benson killed at Anzio, Peter Faulks, Sebastian's father and, of course, Fred Huskisson. All are dead so Jim was the last to go. I am sad I never saw Jim in later times as he lived near Faringdon, not far from home, until recently. Apparently Jim seldom talked about his military times as he was a very eminent philosopher and it was analytical linguistics which held his attention and career. I am always fascinated by the things you learn at funerals of people you think you know a little about. Jim's reputation as a philosopher is well covered on Wikipedia and tells us that he was a Professor of Philosophy at St Andrews and Princeton (US) and Stanford (US) and a Fellow at Corpus Christi Oxford, the latter being his intellectual home.

Jim Urmson was born in 1915 at Hornsea, near Bridlington the second of three children; his much

younger brother attended the funeral. Jim's father was Methodist minister having been a missionary in India. During the Great War the family were living at Broadstairs and Jim remembered hearing the guns across the Channel. After school at Kingswood, Bath where he was a keen rugby player and was described as "not a model of good behaviour" he went to Corpus Christi College where he read Latin, Greek, Philosophy and Ancient History gaining a First.

Then came the war. He was commissioned in February 1940 into the Dukes and went to France with the BEF fortunately escaping capture in the Retreat to Dunkirk by getting aboard a fishing boat which transferred him to a destroyer. Later he was promoted to Captain and became the Support Company Commander for Operation Torch, the landings in Algeria with the purpose of marrying up with the 8th Army. It would have been in January 1943 that Jim would have met my father. It is hard to think of two more different people; one already a budding academic and the other a Regular Army officer of the old school. But clearly they got on well because a month or so later they were in action in Tunisia at the Jebel Bou Aoukaz, known as the "bloody bou".

It was here on 5 May that the forward companies were pinned down on the lower slopes of the Bou; 24 Guards Brigade had failed to open the lock of the German defences so the Dukes and the Foresters were put for a further attack. The attacking companies got so far but were running out of ammunition and water. Jim was based at Battalion HQ alongside my father when the crisis became clear. One of Jim's friends at the funeral told me that he often recounted the conversation. Apparently my father asked Jim if he would possibly go forward with the vital supplies and when Jim said he would my father replied: "would you really? how awfully good of you". Jim then quietly and without any fuss led several carrying parties whilst under fire to the beleaguered companies hanging on the crest of the Bou. At dawn the next morning he led the Carrier Platoon up the feature with further supplies.

His citation for the well deserved Military Cross states "although suffering from a slight wound, Captain Urmson refused to allow himself to be evacuated and personally led every party up in turn. It was largely due to the replenishment of supplies, ensured by Captain Urmson, that the feature was held during this precarious period". Not surprisingly he was nicknamed "dare devil Army" by his soldiers. Later he took part in the unexciting assault on the island of Pantelleria but it was at Anzio a few months later that Jim was in action again. The Dukes were at the point of a very slim salient at Campoleone which was the high water mark of the early part of the campaign. The lack of urgency shown by the Corps Commander, General Lucas meant that time was allowed for the Germans to counter attack in force and the Dukes were placed in an impossible position and in the chaos companies fell back as best they could. In the process Jim and several dozen Dukes were captured and that was that for the duration of the war. Jim however did not waste his time since once ensconced in a Stalag; he organised and gave lectures on philosophy and established a school of

chess. He later recounted that as PoWs they were well looked after. Jim was probably specially favoured as he frequently played chess with the Commandant!

Jim retired from his academic career in the 1970s but he was a prolific author and was writing up to the 90s. He loved walking and travelled widely in North and South America. A popular man who loved his family he was described in the funeral oration as "a good old fashioned English Gentleman". In an encyclopaedia of Western philosophers Jim Urmsen is featured and a phrase in his entry rings a bell "he believed the philosopher sees what needs to be done and does it". By his action in Tunisia in 1943 he certainly practiced what he preached.

Major K. M. McDonald, TD JP DL BA

Major Keith McDonald died on 20th February 2012, at the age of 83. Keith was closely involved with the Dukes for more than 50 years.

He was commissioned as a National Service Officer into the East Yorks in 1946, serving in Caterick before joining 1 DWR in Strensall in 1948, before being demobbed at the end of his national service.

In 1955 he joined the 7th Battalion of the Dukes (TA) as a Lieutenant in Huddersfield and served with that unit throughout its many reorganisations; 5/7th DWR, West Riding Battalion (DWR) and finally as OC C Company, 3 Yorks Vols (DWR) 1970-72, after which he retired.

Between 1972-2005 he sat on many of the Regimental committees. He was a Trustee of the West Riding Battalion, the 5th Battalion and the DWR Association. Between 1983-2005 he was a member of the Dukes Regimental Council, as the TA representative. When he stepped down from the Regimental Council he was presented by the Colonel of the Regiment with a bronze Tercentenary statuette in recognition of service to the Regiment. The Colonel said at the time "As a Trustee and a Council member you have unfailingly given whatever has been asked of your time and your support has been a most valuable asset in promoting and safeguarding the Regiment's interests in our home county".

Keith was born and brought up in Halifax. In addition to his Dukes and TA involvements, he was also involved in many other Halifax organisations and Charities, in local education, sport, business and politics. He played rugby and was captain of Halifax RUFC and he played for Yorkshire. He was president of Halifax Rugby Club 1986-88. In 1994 he became a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and he also served as a magistrate.

Keith's funeral service took place in Halifax Minster on Friday 2nd March 2012 and was attended by his many friends and representatives from all his walks of life. Refreshments following the service were served, appropriately, in Halifax RUFC.

George Hayton

George was born in Leeds on 07.10.1936, and was brought up in children's homes in Church Lane Leeds and Rothwell, until the age of 15. He then became a waiter in Harrogate until he was 18 when he was called up to do his National Service in the Army. He enlisted in Leeds on 15th

November 1954 and joined 'The Dukes'. George was by no means a natural infantry soldier; he was far too much a "gentleman" in its literal sense. Nevertheless, he soon found his niche within the Regiment in the Officer's Mess where he was first a mess waiter and in due course became the Mess Corporal. Though he was briefly elevated to Sergeant in 1967 - 70 when he was House Sergeant for General 'Bobby' Bray then Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and also Colonel of the Regiment.

The Regiment was George's home for his 24 years in the Army, and he totally immersed himself in the life of the Officers Mess where he became a legendary, and much loved figure, for generations of Regimental Officers. He always took enormous pleasure in looking after his officers, particularly the younger officers, and in ensuring the mess met the standards he expected of a proper officers mess wherever the Regiment was, be it in England, Ireland, France, Germany, Cyprus, Norway, Denmark or Kenya - all places he served in with the Regiment and where he was always known and enjoyed for the character and style he brought with him.

Whatever mayhem may have been happening outside the mess, be it in the Bogside of Londonderry, the Falls Road in Belfast or the huge training exercises on the North German plains, inside the officers' mess doors life was always marked by George's absolute insistence that mess standards were to be maintained with all meals properly served and guests welcomed in a style and with a panache that reflected creditably on his Regiment - and he enjoyed enormously the affectionate 'ribbing' he got for this whether it be from the most senior General to the brand new 2nd Lieutenant who all also warmly appreciated and welcomed all that he did for them.

He was a true character in the Regiment, respected and loved for this by all those whom he looked after and in whom he too took such great pride.

When George left the Army, he became a night porter for the Railway King public house in York, where he worked for 5 years.

At the age of 64, George had a stroke, which resulted in him having to live in warden controlled accommodation in City Mills York. As his health deteriorated, George initially went to Fulford Nursing Home for 3 periods of respite care, but in August 2009, he decided to make this his permanent home. Here he was generous to a fault and never failed to give to those worse off than himself while never seeking anything in return. He was well liked for his quirky sense of humour and ability to raise a laugh with his impromptu comments whatever the circumstances.

George was not the most patient of gentlemen, as all in the home were well aware, but he could always understand other people's points of view (eventually) and took great delight in working alongside management and senior staff to keep everyone 'in line' and on their toes.

He was a familiar sight outside the nursing home where he was a well recognised local figure always willing to chat while sitting in his wheelchair in all weathers, without a coat smoking his Benson and Hedges cigarettes. He also and thoroughly enjoyed his very regular visits to his local, the Saddle Inn public

house where he went for his nip of Bells whisky with ice, and half of Bank's bitter. Here he made many friends, but especially Tom the young pub manager who was unfailingly generous with his time and support in maintaining his life outside the nursing home.

George enjoyed the finer things in life and always wanted to look smart and presentable, so much that he would often treat himself to clothing on his many jaunts into town, but most often from Austin Reeds. George

enjoyed life until his health deteriorated on the 13th November where he was then admitted to York District Hospital and he passed away peacefully on the 26th November 2011.

Brigadier Dick Mundell and Majors Peter Robinson and David Harrap represented the Regiment at his funeral together with Jilly Mundell whose three sons George often used to look after when the Regiment was based in Germany.

Association HQ have been notified of the following deaths

Peter John Chester

Peter Chester, who served as a National Service officer with the 1st Battalion in Korea 1952/3, died on 31 January 2012, at the age of 80. Peter returned from Korea on the troopship SS Lancashire in November 1953, where he met his future wife Sheila, (returning from Singapore). They were married in 1956 and had 6 children.

Walter Downs

Ex Sergeant Walter Downs, who served in the 7th Battalion before and throughout WW2, including Iceland 1940-42 and Normandy 1944, where he was wounded, died on 12 December 2011 at the age of 91. Walter will be remembered as a very fine boxer, representing the Army at Battalion, Brigade and Divisional level. After the war, Walter became a successful West Riding businessman, but he also continued to organise the 7th Battalion OCA annual reunions right up until the mid 1990s.

An extract from Walter Downs' memoirs of his service in Normandy in 1944 will appear in a future Iron Duke – Editor.

Jack Marshall

Jack Marshall, from Bradford, who served in the 7th Battalion 1943-48, died on the 20 February 2012, at the age of 87.

Stephen Robert Howarth

Steve Howarth, who served in the 1st Battalion 1965-74 in Germany, Cyprus (UN), Hong Kong and Northern Ireland, died on 14 February 2012, at the age of 64.

Major Charles Good, RAPC

Charles Good, who was the Paymaster of the 1st Battalion 1982-85 in Catterick and Gibraltar, died on 15 January 2012, at the age of 77.

Edward Sunderland Whiteley, MM

Edward Whiteley, who served in the 1st Battalion in WW2, died on 16 November 2011. He was with the Battalion as part of the BEF in 1940, taken prisoner, escaped and awarded the Military Medal in 1941.



*Making your
Will?*

*Please don't forget
the Regiment*

The Friends of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Fund was started in 1998. The fund has been and is an invaluable resource in helping to sustain and build the Regiment we are all so proud of and to foster the Regimental spirit it relies upon. There is much more we could and should be doing in the future and so ensure the Regiment retains its character and place in the Army as a living testimony to all those who have served in our ranks.

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

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

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



Regimental and Honorary Colours on parade 16 March 2012



Warminster Parade 16 March 2012