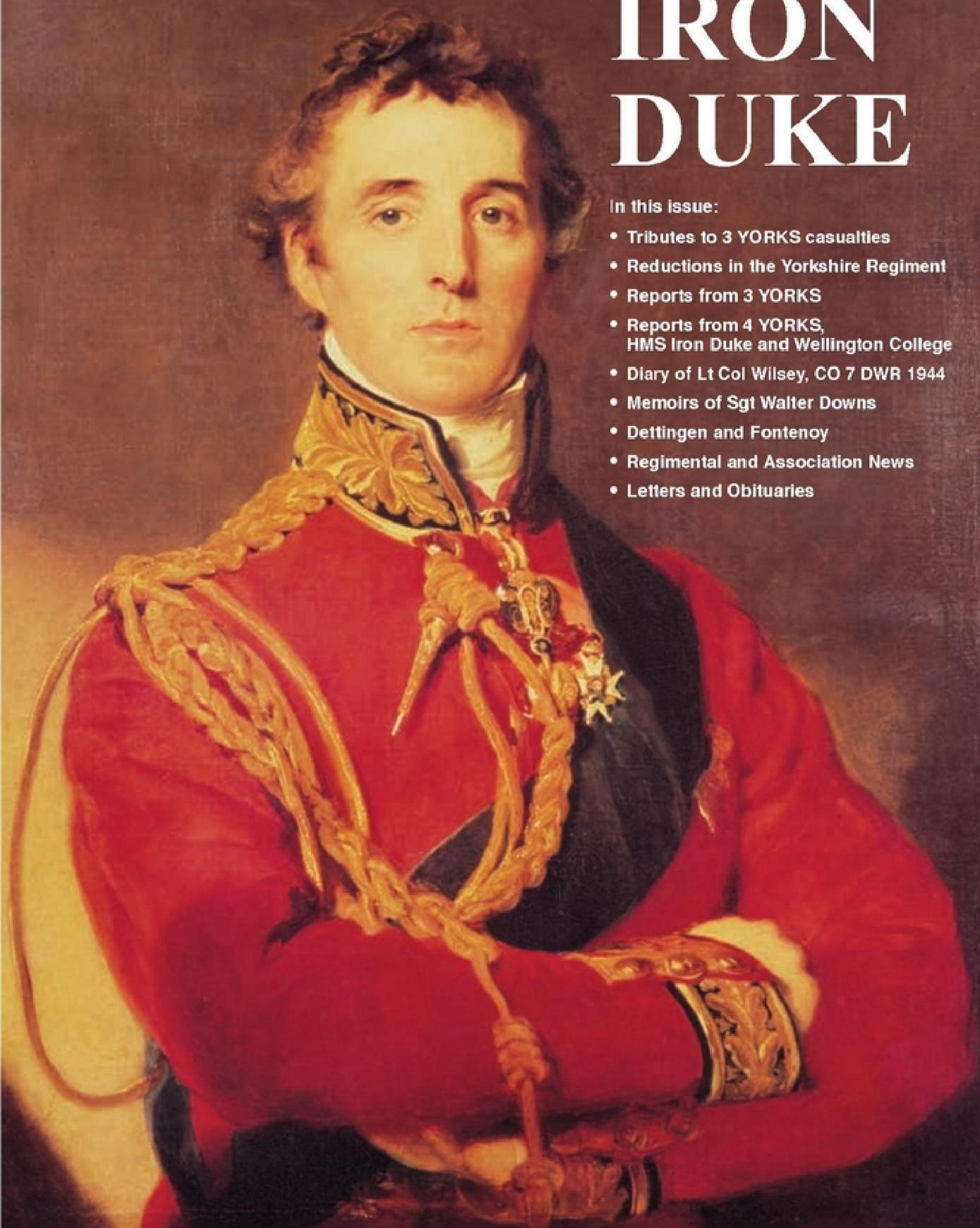


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No. 273

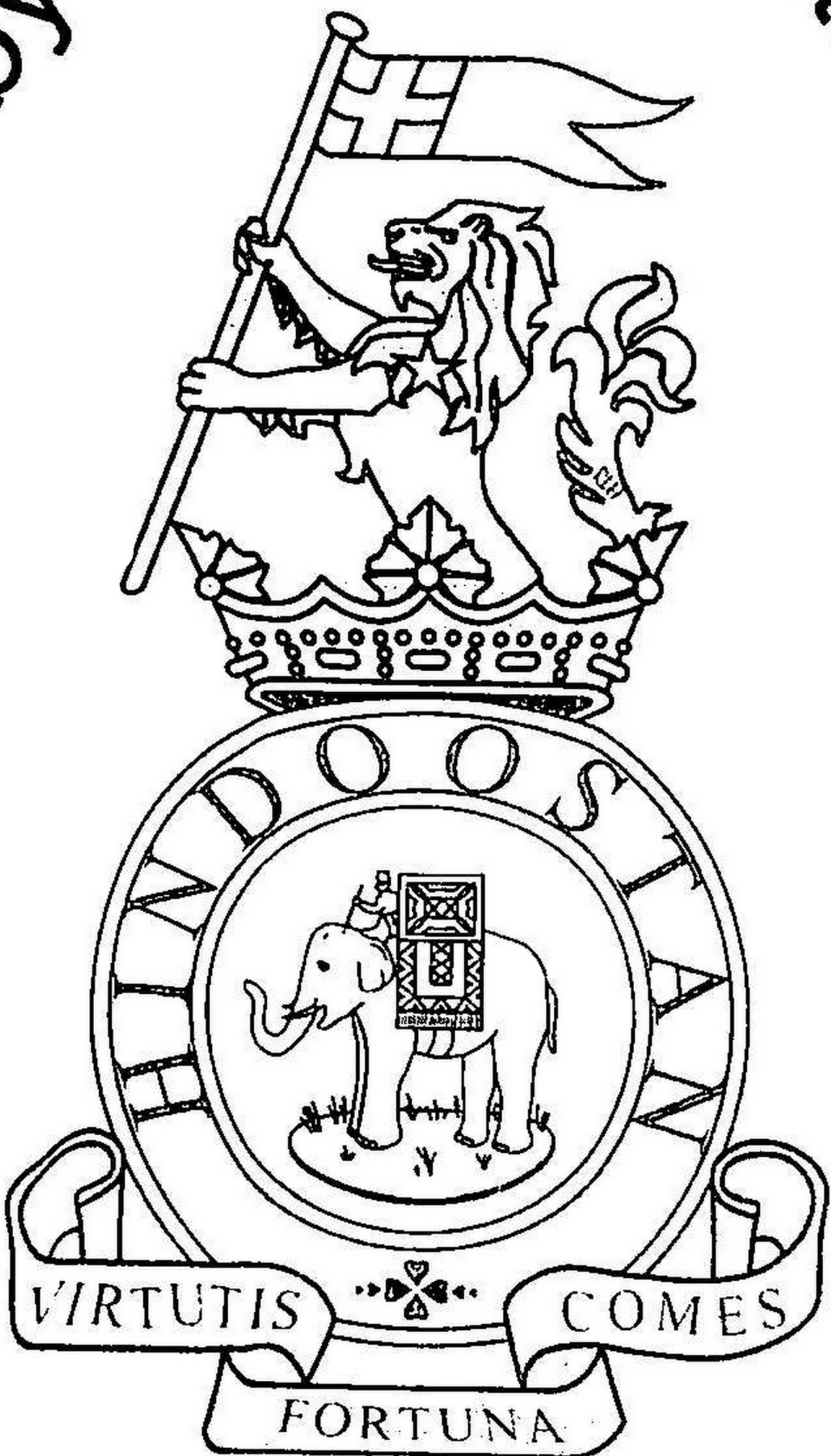
THE IRON DUKE

In this issue:

- Tributes to 3 YORKS casualties
- Reductions in the Yorkshire Regiment
- Reports from 3 YORKS
- Reports from 4 YORKS, HMS Iron Duke and Wellington College
- Diary of Lt Col Wilsey, CO 7 DWR 1944
- Memoirs of Sgt Walter Downs
- Dettingen and Fontenoy
- Regimental and Association News
- Letters and Obituaries



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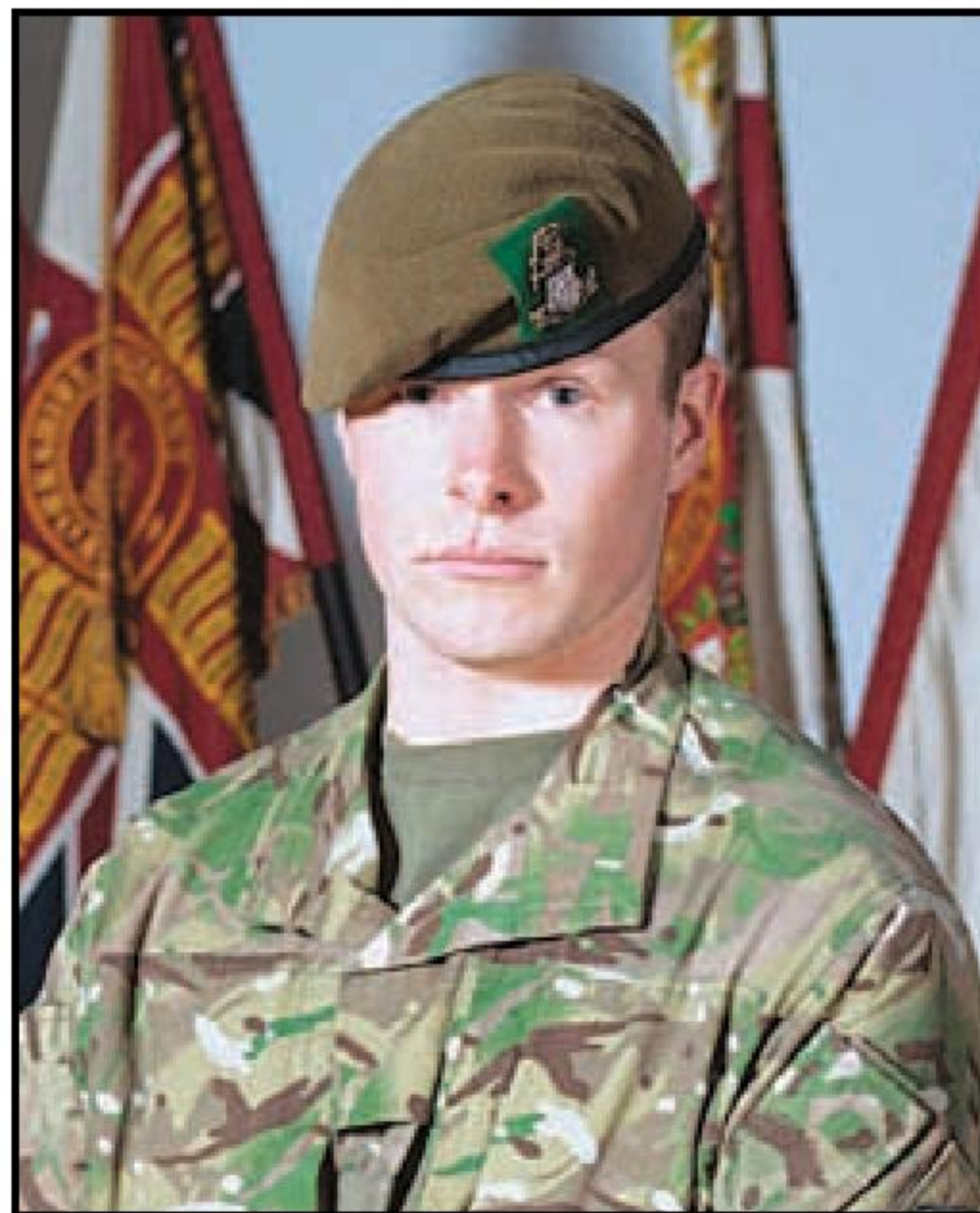




**Sergeant Gareth Thursby,
21 September 1982 to 15 September 2012.**



**Private Thomas Wroe,
27 June 1994 to 15 September 2012.**



**Private Greg Stone,
9 October 1991 to 3 June 2012.**

These three soldiers were killed in action in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Afghanistan during the current 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) deployment.

This brings the number of fatalities up to nine.

Their obituaries appear on page 4.



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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CONTENTS

Editorial	50
Report from 3 YORKS	52
Report from 4 YORKS	71
HMS Iron Duke	72
Wellington College	73
Diary of Lt Wilsey, CO 7 DWR 1944	74
Memoirs of Sgt Walter Downs	78
Dettingen and Fontenoy	83
Regimental Association	93
Letters	95
Obituaries	95

Editorial

On the face of it there is little good news around. Three more top quality soldiers from 3rd Bn The Yorkshire Regiment have paid the ultimate price in Afghanistan. At the same time Army redundancy plans, and the loss of one regular battalion reducing the Yorkshire Regiment to two, are all in play.

Tributes to Sergeant Thursby and Privates Stone and Wroe are elsewhere in this edition. By a cruel irony Private Stone was shot in a fire-fight during an operation to apprehend a group of insurgents who had abducted an Afghan policeman, whilst the other two were killed by a man dressed in Afghan Police uniform, whom they had just assisted. "Green on Blue" attacks have multiplied this year, and pose a new threat that few Dukes have faced. It has always been hard to pick out the terrorist from the faces in the crowd, but for many of us that was a familiar problem. But the uniformed terrorist who looks just like your allies, especially when the core of your purpose in theatre is to work with those allies, bringing them up to a standard that will allow them to stand on their own, is something new. By any standards this has been a tough tour.

The 2013 reduction to two regular battalions and one territorial battalion throws the 2006 reorganisations completely out of kilter. The underlying logic of those "fair to all" decisions is undermined and a new start is required. The President, Col Nick Borwell OBE, tells the bald facts in his letter at the front of this issue. Until now we have retained "The Dukes", even though under a new title with the old title in brackets after it. Three in to two won't go, not in that way anyway, and we are told that the old titles will simply vanish.

There are those who, albeit in carefully chosen words, feel that keeping anything of the old regiments drags the new regiment down: we must embrace this as opportunity and move forward with cleared decks and new identity. It is, they say, just one of those things.

Others believe that the legacy of the Prince of Wales's Own (14th and 15th), Green Howards (19th), and the Duke of Wellington's (33rd and 76th) is simply too great to drop, and should become a powerful driver for the Yorkshire Regiment. The question is, how do you harness that legacy in a modern and purposeful way without getting stuck in a quagmire of historical bits and pieces and futile wrangling over buttons and badges? How do you create a new "brand" with widespread appeal that resonates as strongly as the Dukes and the Green Howards, and the old East and West Yorkshires did, and not just in their Yorkshire heartlands? As yet anyway, the Yorkshire Regiment does not do that; there is so much more to a Regiment than the operational efficiency of its battalions; indeed if that were all that mattered there would be nothing to worry about. For whatever reasons the Regiment does not seem to get the recognition it deserves, and has lost a battalion because it is the "second least sustainable regiment" in the Infantry. In our own County! How can this be? It is heartbreaking - there is work to do here.

Whatever is done, the wish of all is surely that our County should have a Regiment containing the very finest professional soldiers and acknowledged as a model unit throughout the British Army. A Regiment that Yorkshire can be proud of, whose sons and daughters serve in it and whose people embrace it whole-heartedly as their own - "our lads". That is what is at stake and what has to be got right, and there may never again be as good a chance to make a fresh start on securing that future as there is now.

Without a dedicated contribution from a regular battalion, the Iron Duke may have to change. The very last item in this edition is a note from me asking for your views; if you have any, tell me!

The Future for the Dukes

By Colonel Nick Borwell,

President of the Regimental Association.

You will all have heard the announcement that the Yorkshire Regiment is to lose a regular battalion as part of the Army 2020 review. The battalion is one of five that the Infantry will lose as its contribution to reduce the Army's manpower from its current 102,000 to 82,000 by 2020 or sooner. This means the Regiment will reduce to two regular battalions and a TA battalion (4YORKS). Broadly how this will happen is that the 1st and 2nd Battalions will merge next year when the 1st Battalion moves from Germany to Cyprus to take over from the 2nd Battalion with a rebalancing of manpower across the Regiment. So in reality we should see this as a merging of all three battalions. With this reduction to two battalions we will lose the antecedent regiment names now carried in brackets as part of the current battalion titles.

All of us will see this as a very sad day indeed, but which in reality began on 6th June 2006. The truth is that given the financial state of our Country, the Defence budget had to take a savage reduction. The manner in which this cut was made was driven by both political and operational requirements and if we look at the political and operational constraints, the Yorkshire Regiment was always going to be in the firing line.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Graham Binns, has created an Executive Committee within the Regiment to address all the issues around the merging of the battalions. The Executive Committee is being headed up by Brigadier Simon Downey, formerly of the Queens Lancashire Regiment who transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment when he was appointed to command 2YORKS. He is a very able man and, not having a YORKS antecedent heritage, will bring impartiality when it comes to dealing with sensitive antecedent regiment 'golden thread' matters.

The Executive Committee has on it the four Commanding Officers (two ex-PWO and two ex-GH), the Regimental Secretary (ex-GH), the King's Division Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col Nick Wood ex-DWR) and Major Sam Humphris (ex-DWR). So it is a balanced committee.

Leads have been appointed for the key aspects that need to be addressed. However the Executive Committee's absolute priority at this stage is drawing up plans for how to manage the people. Getting this right, or getting it as right as possible, poses some significant challenges. The decisions on property and regimental 'branding', which are intimately linked and which most impact on the 'golden thread', will follow on in due course.

The Commanding Officer of 4YORKS, Lieutenant Colonel Ian Crowley, and the Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel David O'Kelly, are the lead for property and silver. As part of the decision making process they are, as was agreed on the formation of the Regiment in 2006, planning to consult the antecedent Regiments and their associations for their views. The Regiment and association will also be consulted on decisions about the Honorary Colours.

With the loss of battalion antecedent regiment titles we will also lose the tie to a battalion which we could consider as 'ours'. We will now have to look towards the whole of the Yorkshire Regiment as carrying forward our 'Dukes' heritage. This will have significant implications for all the antecedent Regiment associations and how ties to the Yorkshire Regiment and Yorkshire Regiment Association, of which we are all

members by right, are to be managed in the future. It will also impact on our museum if it is to continue as a 'living' museum. These questions too will be part of the consultation process.

In making decisions on these there is a recognition that there is no need for rush, rather that time must be allowed for proper consultation if we are to meet the aspiration of getting it right - or as right as possible given that the loss of a battalion has to be made.

In overseeing all of this the Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment has assured me that the merger is to be conducted as fairly and equitably as possible. From our 'Dukes' perspective I am determined that this will be the case. Sadly we have lost the opportunity to update everyone at the Regimental Association AGM and the Annual Reunion Dinner on 6th October, but we will try to keep people informed by other means.

Please rest assured I and the Trustees will be staying engaged throughout the merger process to ensure the 'Dukes' history and traditions, not least the Honorary Colours, are properly preserved and taken forward within the Yorkshire Regiment. Meanwhile we should continue to enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that we have all enjoyed as 'Dukes' and support the Yorkshire Regiment as our heritage.

Obituaries of Dukes soldiers Killed in Action in Afghanistan, June - September 2012.

PRIVATE GREGG STONE

Private Stone was born on 9 October 1991 in Hull, Yorkshire, where he attended Hornsea Secondary School and joined the Army on 31 October 2009. He joined 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment in April 2010 after completing training at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick. After training as a light machine gunner and sharpshooter he deployed with the regiment to train in Canada before starting training for Op HERRICK. He was looking forward to attending the Junior Non-Commissioned Officers' course upon return from Afghanistan, which he was sure to pass.

Private Stone deployed to Nahr-e Saraj district in Helmand province on 13 May 2012 as part of 6 Platoon, Burma Company. In the early evening of 3 June 2012 he was part of an operation to apprehend a group of insurgents who had abducted a member of the Afghan Police. It was during this operation that his unit came under fire and Private Stone was fatally wounded.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col ZAC Stenning, said: "Private Gregg Stone was a committed professional soldier and our brother in arms, who died protecting the lives of others. Fit and determined, Gregg was a happy outgoing soldier who enthused those around him. He was respected and admired by his fellows, as someone who was totally selfless and cared deeply for others. He was not only notable for his military skills but also for his singing prowess and his motocross achievements. His colleagues and friends describe him simply and unequivocally as a 'legend', such was his outgoing and upbeat nature. His hard

working attitude and eagerness to soldier, coupled with his friendliness and compassion, made him the perfect Yorkshire Infantry soldier and we are proud and honoured to have served with him."

He leaves behind his wife Samantha, mother Angela, father Robert, brothers Kallum, Jamie and Graeme, and sisters Rosie and Jennie.

SERGEANT GARETH THURSBY

Sergeant Gareth David Thursby was born on the 21st September 1982. He attended South Craven School in Skipton before joining the British Army on 3rd August 1999. After completing his training in early 2000, he joined the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. His first deployment was to Kosovo in 2003 followed by Iraq in 2005. He passed the Section Commander's Battle Course to qualify for a posting to the Army Training Regiment in Pirbright as an instructor. Subsequently, he returned to the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) as a Section Commander. In October 2010 he promoted to Sergeant and assumed his role as a Platoon Sergeant in Alma Company.

Sergeant Thursby was shot and fatally wounded by a rogue Afghan Local Policeman in Checkpoint Tora in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province on 15 September 2012. The Commanding Officer said ""We have lost one of our finest, Sergeant Gareth Thursby. His nickname 'Bull' epitomised everything; he was strong, confident and unbelievably robust. He was admired and deeply respected by his soldiers and peers

for his soldiering skills, physical strength and forthright honesty. Utterly professional, his standards were legendary.

"Having been his Company Commander and now Commanding Officer, I know just how committed to soldiering he was. When there were dangerous moments, it was always Sergeant Thursby who could be found at the front, offering steadying words to his Platoon Commander and the young soldiers. Such dedication and indeed selfless love for his fellow soldiers is remarkable and testament to the qualities of this unique man".

Sergeant Thursby was deeply respected by all that worked with him and all that knew him. His professionalism and strength of character were his hallmark, as was his commitment to his men. His unswerving loyalty, moral courage and sense of duty were an example to all. He was 29 years old and is survived by his wife Louise and two children, Joshua and Ruby.

PRIVATE THOMAS WROE

Private Thomas James Wroe was born in Huddersfield on 27th June 1994. He joined the British Army on 5th September 2010 and attended the Army Foundation College at Harrogate.

On 11th November 2011 he completed his training and joined 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). He was assigned to 3 Platoon, Alma Company as a Rifleman and completed demanding pre-deployment training, including qualifying as a Team Medic. Private Wroe spent several weeks working and training with the Battalion Rear

Operations Group in the United Kingdom until he turned 18 years, deploying to join the rest of his Company on Operation Herrick 16 on 1st July 2012.

Private Wroe was shot and fatally wounded by a rogue Afghan Local Policeman in Checkpoint Tora in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province on 15 September 2012. He was an outstanding example of a Yorkshire Regiment soldier. The Commanding Officer wrote, "Private Tom Wroe had only been with us a few months, but in this short period he had made a significant impression on his fellow soldiers and commanders. Always eager and with unrelenting energy, he had pushed hard to join the Regiment in Afghanistan.

Arriving only some two months ago, his energy and professionalism quickly earned him the respect of his fellow team members. But it was his humour and character that really stood out. Whenever anyone asked how he was, his consistent reply was 'always happy'. This phrase captured the young man Wroe was. On patrol his professional skills were impressively high given his relative inexperience. When back in the isolated checkpoint, his humour and vibrancy shone through and energised those around him".

Even in the short time he had been with his Company he had shown himself to be enthusiastic, articulate and highly capable. He followed a strong family tradition of service in the Battalion and already had aspirations to attend a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer cadre. His quick witted sense of humour made him popular with all. Private Wroe was 18 years old and is survived by his parents, Michael and Claire and sister Demi, from Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

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

Editor's note - there are a formidable number of abbreviations in this fascinating account from our Battalion. Although many are unfamiliar, the most important quite quickly become understood and the reader will do well just to read on without too much puzzling over things as the sense of all these accounts is quite clear.

BATTLEGROUP HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer	-	Lt Col Z Stenning MBE
Second in Command	-	Maj R Driver
Adjutant	-	Capt S Davis
RSM	-	WO1 (RSM) Syzmanski
Ops Officer	-	Capt H Stow
Intelligence Officer	-	Capt AD Ross
RSO	-	Capt CJ Ibbotson

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

I last wrote just before we deployed to Nahr-e-Saraj. The tour has been incredibly demanding, with much progress achieved. The one constant has been the courage and professionalism shown by all members of the 3rd Battalion. Throughout, they have maintained the highest standards of The Yorkshire Regiment and the British Army. We have paid a high price with 15 soldiers

wounded and 9 of our brothers in arms fallen. We will never forget the sacrifice of Sergeant Nigel Coupe, Sergeant Gareth Thursby, Corporal Jake Hartley, Private Christopher Kershaw, Private Daniel Wilford, Private Daniel Wade, Private Anthony Frampton, Private Gregg Stone and Private Thomas Wroe. We will remember them.

Our mission in Afghanistan was to handover the lead



The CO and Cpl Taylor

for security within Malgir District of Nahr-e-Saraj, to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Nahr-e-Saraj has been a notoriously challenging part of

Helmand for many years and we were extremely fortunate to be following in the footsteps of 5 RIFLES, 1 RIFLES and 2 PARA, who had done much hard work to improve security conditions within the area. Our Combined Force (CF) consisting of Alma, Burma, Support Company, A Company 3 RIFLES and Prince of Wales's Company WELSH GUARDS numbered some 1000 personnel. Tasks varied from training and mentoring the Afghan Police and Army, to supporting them on major security operations. As I hope you will see from the following articles, the proficiency, integration and competence of our Afghan partners has improved immeasurably. Of note, I strongly commend Sergeant McConnell's article which charts his experiences as a Yorkshire Regiment NCO through three tours of duty in Afghanistan and the palpable changes he has observed.

Whilst statistics can easily be manipulated, I think it is worthy to record the staggering efforts that the has CF delivered over 6 months; 11 Combined Force Operations conducted, participated in 2 Brigade Operations, 3100 patrols completed, 400 kg of bomb making equipment found, 34 IEDs found, 9 major weapon caches found. Perhaps most significantly, the number of Afghan independent patrols has increased markedly over the summer; this was the key metric that illustrated to us that the Afghans were ready to go alone. We were extremely fortunate at the end of our tour to formally hand over our district of Malgir to an Afghan lead for security, with the follow on force from 40 Commando, now very much in a supporting role.

The 'team of teams' efforts throughout the summer have been remarkable. Alma Company dominated PB1 AO, enhancing ALP (Afghan Local Police) and AUP



**The ALP
resting whilst
on patrol**

(Afghan Uniformed Police) capacity and most critically, integrated with the neighbouring Parchow District under US SF control, seamlessly. Burma Company enabled AUP operations in PB2 AO (Patrol Base 2 Area of Operations) with vigour and drive. Both Companies conducted offensive operations with the insurgents in the Bowri and Dashte, resulting in some significant successes. Throughout, Support Company did sterling work across the AO; Recce Platoon dominated the ground from their anchor OP at STERGA, FSG (Fire Support Group) delivered the IRG and close fires when required, Snipers hunted across the AO and wider Brigade Battlespace and Mortars fired countless fire missions. Of course none of this would have been possible without the team of Headquarters Company: the clerks, staff officers, Padre, signallers, chefs, RP team, LAD, CO tac and QMs team in Camp121, who kept the whole operation moving.

As I write, we have just bade farewell to our comrades from 4 YORKS who, to a man, performed exceptionally well and without whose help, our task would have been so much harder. They have proved yet again the resilience and professionalism of our Reserve Forces and we are deeply grateful for the commitment of them and their families.

One team who was with us always in spirit, but not

physically co-located, was Corunna Company. Operating independently from the Battalion, they earned a tremendous reputation as the Brigade Armoured Infantry Company. Operating across Helmand and against known insurgent strongholds, they manoeuvred and disrupted the insurgent 'in depth' of the protected communities where the rest of the Battalion were operating. The geographical contrast could not have been more stark; Corunna sweeping across the deserts with Alma and Burma Company patrolling by day and night in the green zone in conditions akin to the jungles of Burma or Malaya. Whatever the challenges faced, all Companies did a superb job.

None of our efforts could have been achieved without the love and support from our families back home and the vital operational support from the ROG. Both of these 'teams' did a superb job in keeping us all going. We will forever be in debt for the love and compassion that they showed.

In closing, we return to the UK as a tough, tightly knit Battalion, proud of what we have achieved. We will never forget our fallen. The Battalion has achieved its mission and it has done so with the unfailing love and support of its families, friends and wider Regiment.

Thank you.

ALMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Major F Bibby
Second-in-Command	-	Capt T Flecchia
CSM	-	WO2 D Wyeth
CGMS	-	CSgt S Harrison
Battle Captain	-	Capt O Sparks

1 Platoon
Lt T Appleyard
Sgt S Lynch

2 Platoon
2 Lieut D Arnold
Sgt L Burrows

3 Platoon
2Lt C Cameron
Sgt G Thursby

Alma Company has spent the last 6 months operating in the Patrol Base 1 AO of Nahr-e-Saraj (South) in Helmand. Our mission was to enable the Afghan National Security Forces to protect the population whilst developing them so they can operate alone. We would build the capacity of the police through partnering, raise the confidence of the ANA through supporting their operations and take any opportunity to find the insurgents and remove them from the battlefield. Our time would see a transition of security responsibility to the Afghans which would include handing over check points to our partners and the company consolidating into a single patrol base from where we can support and mentor the ANSF.

Our opportunity to remove insurgents from the battlefield came early in the tour. Following insurgents setting patterns whilst engaging patrols with small arms fire, a trap was set to strike the group responsible. The intent was to lure the insurgents out through routine patrolling, track them using ISTAR and strike using

Apache Helicopter or detain using ground troops. The insurgents reacted as expected, allowing us to track them, outflank them and engage them as they attempted to escape on motor bikes. Multiples led by Lt Arnold and Cpl Williams followed up the attack and recovered 2 PKM machine guns.

This early success disrupted the insurgent, allowing the company to focus on the main effort of building the capacity of the ANSF, especially the Afghan Local Police (ALP). The ALP are policemen that are selected from the local area, vouched for by the local village elders, trained and paid by the Afghan Government to provide local security. Multiples from Alma Company worked and lived amongst this fledgling police force, to train, mentor and enable them to grow in capability. Partnered check points commanded by Lt Appleyard, Sergeant Lynch and 2Lt Cameron worked extremely hard to build excellent relationships with their Afghan commanders. This meant lots of drinking tea, eating together, watching films together, in fact doing



Patrolling towards Patrol Base 1



Major Bibby and WO2 Wyeth enjoying a post operation cigar

everything together from weapon cleaning to patrolling. Enormous levels of trust were built at all levels as private soldiers got to know their Afghan counterparts intimately. This trust allowed a process of training, mentoring and joint patrolling to protect the population. In time the ALP began to take the lead and eventually we were able to handover the check points and support from distance. Handing over CP SHKAR to the ALP was emotional for some who had build strong and genuine friendships over the first 5 months. The image of the barmy, bearded, bear of an ALP commander Maboob will remain etched on the memory of all those in Alma.

At the company level the focus was on integrating the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) and the ALP in order to maximise their potential to deliver security. This was

achieved mainly through joint training. CSM Wyeth ran training days where both ALP and AUP were invited and trained together, attending lessons in patrolling, first aid, search, and shooting. Competition, as always brought the best out in the police and prizes were awarded for best shots. The JNCOs were excellent in delivering short and engaging lessons through interpreters and the whole process was hugely rewarding. Lunch generally followed training, ensuring the police were not only integrating professionally but socially as well.

The tour has been demanding. Multiples maintained a constant patrol tempo, operating in the notoriously difficult terrain of the Green Zone in extremely high



Lt Appleyard handing over CP SHKAR to ALP



AUP, ALP training day

temperatures. The soldiers of Alma have proved adept in the subtle art of counterinsurgency. They have skilfully got to know the people who they were sent to protect and set the example to the security forces that will continue to deliver that protection. They have pursued the insurgent and reassured the population in

equal measure and are on course to achieve the mission.

Sadly the Company's achievements this summer have come at a great cost. The tragic deaths of Sgt Thursby and Pte Wroe, both outstanding soldiers and great characters hit the Company hard. They live with us in vivid memories and we will never forget them.

BURMA COMPANY

Officer Commanding	-	Maj Rob Singleton
Second-in-Command	-	Capt Andy Lewis
CSM	-	WO2 LP Seviour
WSM	-	WO2 SJ Brighthouse
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	-	CSgt Graham Anderson
Territorial Quartermaster Sergeant	-	Sgt A Marsh

4 Platoon

Capt Rob Townsend/Lt Andy Ledger
Sgt S Pears

5 Platoon

Lt Jamie Carter/Lt Tim Glover
Sgt M McConnell

6 Platoon

Lt Luke Mason/Lt Ed Arnold
Sgt Geoff Marshall

Burma Coy, 3 YORKS deployed to the Malgir area of Nahr-e-Saraj (NES (S) on Op HERRICK 16 in April 12. Deploying as a ground holding company we found ourselves responsible for 25 square kilometres of the Helmand river valley including Patrol Base 2 and two Check Points (CP's) located deep in the green zone. The

company acclimatised quickly and began company level partnered operations with a strike into the desert to our north, with the Afghan Army, inserted by USMC (US Marine Corps) Osprey helicopters. This sort of company level operation was relatively frequent in the first half of the tour but increasingly we have adopted an

advisory role encouraging a sustainable Afghan approach to counter-insurgency. 4 Platoon in particular have made huge in-roads with the Afghan Uniformed Police whose development quickly became the company main effort.

5 Platoon in CP Perkha and 6 Platoon in CP Shaparak - in the deep green zone - have made a huge impression on the local population, enforcing the security and have moved quickly towards the transition of security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The environment has changed significantly throughout the tour with poppy fields being harvested on our arrival, a month later the wheat matured, and after a brief respite, the fields were quickly re-planted with maize which is now over 8 feet high. Both normal Brecon taught skills and more specialist jungle drills are routinely employed by multiples in the green zone, notably hand signals, silent patrolling, the use of dog-legs and snap ambushes, and crucially using satellite call-signs to retain a foot on the ground. We also own

the night and conduct both overt and covert activity to reassure the locals and disrupt the insurgents respectively. By far the most important activity has been positive interaction with the locals - good relationships saves lives and drinking chai (tea) with the locals is never wasted. So far, locals have informed us of 5 IEDs which have been placed near our CP's. Each one was removed and exploited and the only cost to us was the time it takes to sit, talk and drink chai.

We have made significant progress and are fast approaching the handover of CP Perkha to the AUP and the Afghan Local Police (ALP) in CP Shaparak are coming on in leaps and bounds. This progress has not been without tragic costs though. In a hasty operation to rescue a captured AUP officer, Pte Stone was sadly killed in action and Lt Mason was wounded. We are incredibly proud of Pte Stone and he, and his wife Samantha, remain in our thoughts and prayers. He will never be forgotten. In a separate incident Lt Andy Ledger was injured in an IED blast on his Jackal



Pte Shaw relaxing whilst on patrol



4PI heading into the BOWRI on a strike



Cpl Cousins issuing instructions



Pte Brame trying to spot the enemy

vehicle. He suffered a badly broken leg - both Lt Ledger and Lt Mason are now recovering in the UK and remain at the forefront of our minds.

As I write we approach handover to a Gurkha Company from 40 Commando Battle Group. I am confident that the AUP, ALP and the Afghan Army are much improved due to the efforts of the men and women of Burma Company. The Yorkshire soldier

has proved that he can be ferocious in combat, but more importantly he is confident in other aspects of counter-insurgency. Notably, the ability of young soldiers to talk and crucially, listen, to both locals and the Afghan security forces alike has resulted in the development of bonds of friendship which have not only saved lives but have taken the campaign forward.



Lt Carter and friends



Capt Lewis and Cpl Pugh in CP Shaparak



Jackal on patrol in the BOWRI

CORUNNA COMPANY

Officer Commanding - Maj E Colver
 Second-in-Command - Capt N Ross
 Battalion Capt - CSgt Stroyan
 CSM - WO2 Whitehouse
 Company Quartermaster Sergeant - CSgt Kitridge

7 Platoon
 Lt D Brennan
 Sgt Watts

8 Platoon
 Lt Kume-Davy
 Sgt Daniels

9 Platoon
 Lt R Becher
 Sgt Dixon

At the time of writing, Corunna Company have just returned from a demanding but very successful tour of Afghanistan as part of 12 Mechanised Brigade's deployment on Op HERRICK 16. As we are all abundantly aware this has been an arduous and kinetic tour and we have suffered heavy losses. We will never forget the sacrifice made by the brave men of Corunna and they will be honoured fully in due course. We must now look to the future and celebrate their lives and the return of their comrades.

So what have we achieved in nearly 7 months in Afghanistan? The headlines are: we have transformed the role of the Armoured Infantry Company beyond recognition. We have taken the fight to the insurgent, significantly reduced their capability, and made them uncomfortable in areas where they thought they were

safe, with the Company conducting more than 22 deliberate operations. We have had the largest find of Home Made Explosive of 2012, with all finds totalling at least 350 kilograms. We have detained more than 20 insurgents, including 5 Taleban Commanders, and sent them back for questioning. We found numerous IEDs, some of which we destroyed in place, and some which we took out of the ground and sent for exploitation.

8 Platoon and half of the LAD fitter section were deployed to the Upper Gereshk Valley in support of first 2 MERCIAN and then 1 ROYAL WELSH in Combined Force BURMA. Patrolling in depth and providing CF BURMA with a QRF and strike capability, they had a very different tour to the remainder of the Coy. It is a credit to their work that the Commanding Officer of the Royal Welsh stated that his task would have been



9Pl search compounds in Yakshal (left to right Pte Owen, Lt Becher and LCpl Bolotagne

unachievable without the AI Platoon. I am immensely proud of them for overcoming adversity and remaining upbeat whilst operating as a detached Pl from a detached Coy.

As the Brigade Armoured Infantry Company the remainder of Corunna worked in every part of Task Force Helmand to every Combined Force Headquarters. We performed a wide variety of tasks from sitting on high ground listening to the enemy's reaction to our presence, to assaulting compounds. The men of Corunna were excellent, nothing fazed them. We adapted to suit our change in role and we proved beyond doubt that we were the finest manoeuvre unit in theatre and at least equal to any in the dismounted role also.

Now in the UK the focus has switched to the process of normalisation and adjustment back to family life, and after so long away this will not be easy. There are still tough times ahead but, just as we approached the deployment, we will face them together.

Finally it is fitting to note that without the phenomenal support of our families and communities in the UK we could not have had such a successful tour. Through all of this I only hope we have made those before us proud and those after us safer.



**8Pl Cordon for MSST Sarkala Kalay
(top to bottom - Pte Rokovuncagi,
Pte Tinker-Harper, Kgn Hamilton)**

SOMME COMPANY

Officer Commanding	- Maj D Holloway
CSM	- WO2 (CSM) PJ Burke
Recce Pl Comd:	- Capt R Taylor
FSG Pl Comd:	- Capt I Martin
FSG Pl 2IC:	- WO2 L Egbury
Mortars Pl Comd:	- Capt A Hammond
Sniper Platoon:	- Sgt L Senior

Op HERRICK 16 has seen Somme Company deployed in many different roles throughout Nahr-e-Saraj and the Task Force Helmand area of responsibility. The majority of the Company has remained within the 3 YORKS Combined Force (CF), but saw vehicle crews deploy early with Corunna Company under the careful supervision of Sgt Smith. The tour has pushed the Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers to the forefront of command where as expected they performed to the highest standard, while the Platoon Commanders and other key Senior Non Commissioned Officers at short notice were moved into vital staff jobs in the CF Headquarters.

The Mortar Platoon trained exceptionally hard prior to deploying on Op HERRICK and they were graded as the best Mortar Platoon in 12 Mech Brigade; the Platoon has continued their fine form and has supported the Combined Force continuously. The ground holding Company Commanders have spoken extremely positively about the Platoon's Mortar Fire Controllers. The two Mortar Sections under Sgts Lilley and Dollimore continue to disrupt the Insurgents with their superb illumination missions and provide indirect fire

support across the AO. They are also continuing to raise morale in their respective Patrol Bases with their good natured and infectious sense of humour, a prerequisite for every mortar man.

The Operations Platoon based in Op STERGA, on the high ground dominating the river valley, has been commanded by WO2 (CSM) Burke, while supported by Sgts Barnes, Brennan and Hamer. The Platoon is made up of the Reconnaissance Platoon and a multiple from the Fire Support Group. Known as "The Men on the Mountain" by the local nationals, they have been the eyes of the CF as they constantly over-watched all of activity local area to the South and North of the River Helmand. Throughout they have relished all opportunities, especially the reconnaissance tasks and have conducted aviation insertions and ground reconnaissance of crossing sites for armoured manoeuvre, as well as providing mobile guards to prevent enemy ex-filtration. The Battle Group snipers have been led excellently by Sgt Senior and Cpl Williamson. They have deployed frequently on Prince of Wales's Company, Battle Group and Task Force operations to great effect. Sgt Holbrook-Woodthorpe's



**Mortar
Line
in PB1
Supporting
ALMA
Company
with
Indirect
Fires**



The Ops Platoon at OP STERGA

multiple that has been attached to A Coy 3 RIFLES has performed superbly in very a difficult area, during their time they have patrolled non-stop and were instrumental in the closing down one check point as the area transition to an Afghan lead.

The Immediate Replenishment Group (IRG) commanded by WO2 Egbury and Sgt Denton are undoubtedly the busiest grouping in the CF and throughout remained as engaged to ensure the CF was fully supplied. The IRG who operated out of MOB

PRICE, have been called upon to support every CF Operation as they are a valuable manoeuvre asset. During an operation in the Argandab River Valley the Operations Platoon and IRG linked up to form a logistic packet with its own organic reconnaissance force to maintain the resource hungry Armoured Battle Group which included Corunna Company, a Danish tank troop and an American armoured bridging troop. Throughout the tour the IRG carried out over 200 patrols, covered 7259km, delivered 43,5228 litres of fuel, 16, 540 tons of equipment, carried 717 passengers and still managed to turn up with a smile on their face.

We should mention those individuals who have added huge value by working in the CF Headquarters. CSgt McConnell and CSgt Baker have been key interlocutors sustaining the Combined Force as CQMSs for the CIS Platoon and CF Headquarters respectively. CSgt McKie has worked tirelessly to ensure that personnel have been efficiently manoeuvred around theatre by both ground and aviation. Capt Martin has had pivotal role coordinating training and recruiting of the Afghan Local Police, which are an additional element to aid in the transition of the rural villages. The whole Combined Force has been skilfully controlled at the tactical level by the Battle Captain, Capt Hammond and by Capt Taylor while he has not been conducting reconnaissance tasks the Battle Group operations.

CIS PLATOON

RSO: - Capt C Ibbotson
RSWO: - WO2 G Hind

Having completed an arduous pre deployment package the CIS Pl launched into HERRICK 16 in early April. The majority of the platoon was to be located in Patrol Base 2 (PB2) throughout the tour, providing the Headquarters communications for the Battlegroup. The platoon was bolstered by Sgt McCann and his team to provide the Rear Link Detachment and they have certainly proven their worth throughout the tour providing a strong and effective team. The platoon has been actively involved with many operations during the tour with the majority deploying forward with excellent results.

The CIS Platoon has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to establish maintain and enhance both voice and data communications on various systems. This has been

noticed and the platoon has been branded as gold standard communicators within the Brigade. The operators within the platoon have gained a mass of real-time experience and are now at an excellent standard. The RSWO, BSM and RSIST Sgt have worked within the 'sweat box' ISO containers throughout the tour controlling the Bowman and ECM Stores as well as the communications plan for the Battlegroup. As part of the Commanding Officer's rover group Sgt West, Cpl Taylor and LCpl Stokes have been supporting the Commanding Officer and providing him with communications. The platoon is looking forward to its return to Warminster and some well earned leave. A huge thank you to the supporting families and loved ones, you have made the tour a much more comfortable experience.

IRG PLATOON

MTO: - Capt L Wildey
IRG 2IC: - WO2 L Egbury

The IRG deployed on Op HERRICK 16 with the task of sustaining the CF NES(S) Patrol Base (PB) line during Op HERRICK 16. Made up from members of the Fire Support Group (FSG) and the MT Platoon combined with soldiers from the RLC who would drive our EPLS vehicles, the IRG have proved themselves to be a vital component within CF NES(S) Battlegroup. At the time of writing we have conducted 229 patrols covering over 9546 km. We have delivered 9530 tonnes of supplies, 318959 litres of fuel and carried 844

passengers throughout the area of operations. Our tasks have been wide and varied. We have supported all Battlegroup operations provided recovery escorts, rolling replenishments, route security, radio rebroadcast sites and a multitude of other tasks outside of our normal sustainment role. For the FSG element, this was not the job that they hoped and trained for but to a man the IRG have stepped up to this often thankless but essential task and they should be extremely proud of their outstanding contribution to the Battlegroup during Op HERRICK 16.



The IRG at MOB PRICE

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

QM: - Maj S Caine
 RQMS: - WO2 M Connell
 QM(T): - Capt N Wilson
 RQMS(T): - WO2 Simms

I am not sure what it is about this Battalion but each time we undertake an Op tour we seem to do something that has never been done before, this time it is a merger of two areas, a closure of UIN and the resetting of an Equipment Table that has not been touched for some four years! In addition there has been the life support to the troops on the ground and making sure that the returning casualties have been looked after. I am fairly sure that brigades now just wait for us to turn up to sort things out. Whilst I am joking it is worth noting that the accounts in Afghanistan were missing some 57 million pounds worth of kit and we have been the first to find it all!

Clearly life for the lads and lasses in Camp Bastion was always going to be a busy one but this summer has been frantic. They have managed to reduce the unneeded kit on the ground down by over 2000 items, which have been sent back to UK and have given our follow on brigade a really great start to life on Herrick 17.

I am hugely proud of the team we have here in the QMs who have worked tirelessly throughout the tour. Each forward company has a rear link who holds the responsibility for provisioning his company with

supplies that we get out by helicopter or road move. We have been ably assisted by WO2 Egbury and his Immediate Resupply Group (IRG) who truck on through the night getting things forward and back with aplomb. It is no mean feat by all the personnel here who understand the impact of getting it wrong may mean life and death to the lads who need the kit.

Of particular note have been Corporal Padgett (rear link Alma Coy), Sergeant Good (AMMO and Unit spares) and Corporal Lawton (Flight Programme and MT). All three individuals seem to be at full tilt constantly but never moan about their lot (well, to be honest Lawton does - constantly, but only for comedic effect) without characters like these we would struggle. For me personally it has been a steep learning curve in G4, moving from a G1 job six months before the tour and seemingly bypassing QM Tech to become QM on Operations has been an enjoyable task. I have been very privileged to have had the opportunity to lead such a team. Whilst praise is nice I am sure that I will be made to get the beers in during decompression in Cyprus, I will be happy to do so.

REAR OPERATIONS GROUP

OC: - Major M Birkett

The last quarter has been a particularly testing time for the ROG as it was the month of inspections starting with the SPSI inspection on the 4th and through the 09-13 where we had the medical ECI, the Battalion ECI and the Battalion LSI. As ever the personnel concerned were ready for all the inspection teams could throw at them. All knew their subjects intimately from the Clerks to the arms kote men from the REME to the QM's. It was evident for all to see that a tremendous amount of work had gone on both into the preparation to the delivery on the day. All the hard work did pay off as "green" is the new black.

OP RESET is going from strength to strength and a particular mention is for Cpl Rob Werencia (LAD) who, along with a small team, has been impressive to say the least in raising the awareness of the 3rd Battalion in Yorkshire and also Op RESET, this as well as raising

quite a few thousand pounds on the way. In Rotherham in early August L/Cpl Grimes, after completing his Pre Brecon Cadre, led a team up to Rotherham and raised over a £1000 collecting in buckets at the Rotherham Retail Centre. The good people of Bradford Tesco raised £1250 and collected eight MFO boxes of material such as wet wipes, toothpastes, deodorant etc that will be sent out to the forward elements of the Battalion over the next three weeks. We as the ROG are in support of the Huddersfield wives' run on the 15th September. This will be taking place from the Shay Stadium in Halifax to the McAlpine stadium in Huddersfield; again all in aid of OP RESET. A special thanks needs to go to Mr Mick Dyson and Mr Jim Delahunty who in their own time on a number of occasions have been assisting in fund raising for OP RESET particularly in the Huddersfield area.

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.

LAD

EME: - Capt M Cary
 ASM: - WO1 J Smith

The deployment of 46 tradesmen from the LAD on Op HERRICK 16 has given us the opportunity to prove our engineering prowess and the guys have certainly proved themselves up to the challenge. The majority of the team have been working in Combined Force Nar-a-Saraj South with the Battalion, but we have also had a Fitter Section (led by SSgt Thornton) in Lash-Kar-Gar Durai supporting Corunna Company in their WARRIORS, and a Fitter Section (led by SSgt McGuire) supporting 1 Royal Anglian in Nad-e-Ali,

plus numerous other detachments across Helmand.

I have been deeply impressed with the LAD - both those deployed and those keeping the ship steady in ROG - as equipment availability has been maintained at high levels throughout the deployment. Further to this, my tradesmen have also proven real depth in character and intelligence; dealing with complex equipment repairs and recovery tasks, with limited tools and spares, and always coming up with a workable solution; keeping fit equipment in the hands of the user.



Recovery of a US recovery vehicle



The REME working with Corunna Company



**Recovering
 MASTIFF
 on Op
 QALB 8**

A Non Commissioned Officer's Tactical Review of Helmand

Sgt McConnell, Burma Company, 3 YORKS

Afghanistan has changed beyond recognition over my three tours. From the extremely kinetic ground breaking tour of Op HERRICK 7, through Op HERRICK 10 to the relative calmness of Op HERRICK 16, these thoughts and reflections are of Sgt McConnell, Pl Sgt and a Check Point (CP) 2IC in 3 YORKS.

Over the years Afghanistan has certainly changed and for all the right reasons. Without doubt the country is pulling itself together. I deployed on HERRICK 7 in October 2007 with 2 YORKS. Our Mission Specific Training (MST) had gone well and this had put us in the right frame of mind for the task we were taking on. We were deploying as part of the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) working alongside the ever growing Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in small groups of 7-10 International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers with 30-40 ANSF. We moved to a small CP south of Forward Operating Base (FOB) ARNHEM in the Green Zone (GZ) of HELMAND Province to meet our Afghan National Army (ANA) counterparts. We'd received lectures on counter insurgency (COIN), but it wasn't until we got onto the ground that we really understood and appreciated how important COIN was. Two of the main Principles for me and my soldiers were Unity of Effort and Securing the Population. We simply had to develop a common bond in order to get to know them, who they were, where they had come from, where their family lived, what made them happy/sad and who were the real commanders and not just those wearing the rank. We needed to build trust and understanding. What impressed me most about the ANSF was how resourceful they were. 97% of them were doing it for their country and they wanted to make a difference, make the country safer, and a better place for their children to grow up.

Building empathy and rapport from day one was always my main effort, not just with the ANSF but with the local nationals (LNs), particularly on the streets of the District Centre (DC) in MUSA QALA. The biggest ground operation of recent times was the re-taking of MUSA QALA by the ANSF in the winter of 2007. Shown on the news worldwide, the raising of the Afghan flag in the DC was seen all over the world and was a truly historic event. Although ISAF played a huge part in Op SNAKEBITE, it was the ANA who rightly placed the flag high and proud in the centre of the town. The whole operation was jointly planned by ANSF and ISAF, showing a unified team and one which was working together from the boots on the ground to the Joint Planning and Co-ordination in the operations room.

Securing MUSA QALA quickly allowed the LNs to return to their homes and within hours of ANSF/ISAF troops securing the DC they started to return. By the time I had left for my R&R in early 2008 thousands of locals had returned to the town. Shops and markets were being used daily and children were once again

playing on the streets of the DC. Hearts and Minds projects were being implemented all over the town, for example schools and mosques were re-built after being destroyed by the Taliban during their ruthless rule over the town. Local nationals of all ages were clearly happy that they had their town back and were free to go about their daily life. The population had been secured, we had the support of the local nationals and MUSA QALA was free again.

From the streets of MUSA QALA and post R&R I returned to Afghanistan and deployed to the remote KAJAKI Dam Area of Operations (AO). In KAJAKI we settled down to a new AO and new team of ANA. The KAJAKI AO was totally different to that of MUSA QALA; it was a hugely kinetic AO with empty streets and very few LNs, those that stayed behind were simply too old to leave. It was in KAJAKI that the realisation of how inexperienced the ANA soldiers were, how much they relied on ISAF to get from A to B, to protect themselves and others particularly in a contact situation. Their battlefield situational awareness was non-existent and were hesitant to move from the protective umbrella that ISAF provided them. My first priority was again to build on trust, particularly during patrols. This helped us understand the ANA and how they worked. We spent a lot of time once again drinking chai (tea) and building a relationship with our Afghan brothers and soon enough we were able to conduct basic, but effective patrolling techniques such as hand signals and actions on. Taught practically and revised along with weapon training, IED training and the Afghan favourite of medical training. Training was organised between myself and the ANA commander and it wasn't long before the ANA in turn were teaching us their weapon systems and inviting us to play volleyball (which they had great delight in smashing us every time) and drinking more chai. The partnership we forged with our ANA in KAJAKI was outstanding; we trusted them and they trusted us. The training became easier and more frequent and their interest and eagerness to learn was typical of a unified team working in the hardest of conditions to achieve success.

The Afghanistan Uniform Police (AUP) was on the other hand a totally different kettle of fish. Although we didn't have many dealings with the AUP they did man CPs along the main routes in the KAJAKI AO. They were typically un-professional and many were corrupt, taxing LNs who used the routes on a daily basis. It was the AUP who gave the ANSF a bad name and weren't respected by the locals as the ANA were. They worked more independently and were caught on regular occasions using drugs and incapable of manning their CPs. As a result they jeopardised the success we were having with the ANA and placed both their lives and ours in enormous danger.

Op HERRICK 10 was, for us, an unexpected deployment to Afghanistan and we were given very

short notice. We were in our training cycle for our up and coming deployment to IRAQ but were re-tasked and Burma Company 3 YORKS and told to provide 100 plus soldiers as Battlefield Casualty Replacements (BCRs) for Op HERRICK 10. Op PANCHI PALANG was drawing to an end, which had seen large areas of the GZ cleared of Taliban fighters and IEDs; this had resulted in a high number of casualties which needed to be replaced in order to allow ANSF/ISAF troops to hold and dominate ground previously held by the Insurgent. We were a much welcomed boost and were inserted to reinforce Companies in various areas of the GZ in the BABAJI/NAHR-E-SERAJ (S) district AO.

The hard work of the CLEAR, had undoubtedly been done during the operation and we were now tasked with the HOLD and securing the population. COIN again was to play a huge part in my multiples patrolling techniques. I knew the 'people were the prize' and we wanted to provide a better lifestyle, peace and security, particularly for the younger generation of the Afghan population. We had to get amongst the locals, listen to them, talk to them and understand who they were. We ensured that we treated them with respect and dignity in order to gain and maintain popular support. This involved lots of patrols, meetings with local elders and key people within the AO all the while drinking lots more chai! It was once again clear to see that the majority of the locals were pro ISAF and supportive of the ANSF. You could feel that the insurgent was never too far away particularly when there was a change in the atmospherics and a once chatty person would ashamedly ignore you and walk on by, again something which initially was hard for my soldiers to understand. We moved around a lot during Op HERRICK 10 and finally settled in a series of compounds approximately 800m south of PB1. I quickly got to know my AO and the LNs who lived in the villages of CHAR KUTSA, ENEZY, AKHONZADA and MASIZAI and was on first name terms with the key elders in those areas.

Once again partnered with the ANA, who were living in compounds adjacent to PB 1 and I quickly formed a strong relationship with the ANA Commander known as 'Bobby Dazzler'! Again the partnered patrols were tough going to begin with, but once mutual respect had been formed and a main effort agreed, Bobby Dazzler briefed his men and the partnership went from strength to strength. We would do joint planning and patrolling and although the Afghan way wasn't always the smartest way, we would make it work with understanding and trust with the main effort of securing the population in order to bring peace and security to a once troubled AO. The ANA would routinely patrol down to our CP to conduct patrols. Again this was all down to the respect we had for each other and having the ANA initiate patrols with us was a huge stepping stone in our ability to partner with the ANA.

Contacts during our tour of Op HERRICK 10 were infrequent and only happened on a handful of occasions. Kinetic activity was normally aimed at other friendly Call Signs, as they would push down to the south west into the areas of AKHONZADA and DACTRAN. Here

the LNs were not all supporters of GiROA. The elders in particular had seen and heard it all before, foreign fighters in their country, promising the same things, peace, security and better futures for their children and families. Whilst I understand you should not promise things to the LNs, small hearts a minds victories are essential in gaining trust and respect and when you deliver that small wind up radio or fleece blanket you find the LNs are more willing to communicate with you, they become friends and will undoubtedly look out for you and tell you where not to go and give information on insurgent activity.

We moved into what is now called CP KINGSHILL for the final 2 months of our tour and our relationship continued to build with the LNs and with the ANA. When we left Bobby Dazzler laid on an excellent feast for us all, cooked and prepared by his soldiers, again a true reflection of the relationship and respect we had gained from the ANA and friendships that had been built with our Afghan brothers. During Op HERRICK 10 the battle group had definitely started preparing for the long term. Inevitably some CPs had to be moved for long term tactical reasons and planning. We were however holding ground, providing sustained security and dominating areas previously dominated by the insurgent who was continuing to be neutralised within boundaries. CPs became established PBs and the understanding of the human terrain and those who lived there were all routes to success.

Our pre deployment training for Op HERRICK 16 was excellent. MST continues to improve, as does the kit and equipment we deploy with into theatre. I still believe the key skills we learn in conventional training are essential and the training commanders go through on SCBC and PSBC provide the basis of everything we should be doing in Afghanistan. A key principles of patrolling at all levels, is competent life saving drills (the team medic cadre is excellent). By putting yourself constantly in the enemies shoes and asking yourself - if I were the insurgent where and how would I attack ANSF/ISAF - you will always be one step ahead of the insurgent or at the very least be prepared for what he has to throw at you. LNs are now even more on side particularly in areas where ANSF/ISAF dominate ground. We know what the pattern of life should be like, at what time of day and in particular areas. We understand the human terrain in our AO who the key locals are, where they live, who their children are and what they do for a living. The Locals know us by nicknames as do the children and vice versa. The locals on more than one occasion have gone out of their way to inform us of the whereabouts of IEDs in the area and local intelligence is key to letting us know insurgent activity both in our AO and cross boundary. Our partnering and understanding of our Afghan brothers must remain key to the success of the ISAF mission. Our ability to build relationships with the ANSF has encouraged them to help and understand ISAF. Their knowledge and understanding of the ground atmospherics and pattern of life linked with the support partnering/mentoring ensures we are continuing to head towards transition within all areas of Afghanistan. So

where do we sit now during HERRICK 16 and 5 years after my first tour with little over a year before combat troops withdraw from Afghanistan?

Over the years the British Army has had huge amounts of experience when it comes down to COIN. Afghanistan is a hugely diverse country with lots of multi-cultural differences and political issues and many countries, including the UK have got it wrong in the past. We are now continuing in so many ways to get it right. The ANA is getting bigger and stronger and are planning and executing their own operations in order to defeat the insurgency. The AUP is becoming less corrupt and with the help of the recently formed Afghan Local Police (ALP) LNs are now seeing these as a force for good. They too are conducting searches, removing

IED component parts, planning and conducting VCPs and making arrests under their own chain of command. This enables LNs to live as they want, being given the protection and security from the people who their Government has put into that position of authority and providing them with effective security. The ANSF are neutralising the insurgents in all aspects of COIN. They deny them freedom of movement, deny them economic support from the sale of opium, and arrest IED makers and facilitators. Gaining and maintaining popular Support with both LNs and ANSF has and must remain key to the success of ISAF's mission in Afghanistan. We and our Afghan Warrior brothers are continuing to work towards a peaceful and lasting solution for the people of Afghanistan.

Op DAAS 2c

Capt Chris Ibbotson

During past operations in NES(S) and the rise and fall of the kinetic environment, the insurgents' ability to transport weapons and IEDs into the area became of great interest to ISAF. Once enough information had been gathered about these supply routes 3 YORKS aimed to strike the insurgents where it would most hurt them, in an area they felt safe and where they believed they could readily move and store munitions, weapons and other weapons to be used against us.

Once the target village was found the challenge was obvious; with irrigation ditches criss-crossing the area affecting movement and the obvious threat of IEDs protecting such a valuable location the Battlegroup called upon other nations for assistance with the operation. The 18th July saw the multi-national force gather at Lashkar-Gah Durai (LGD), home of Corunna Company, to conduct battle prep and the receive formal

orders. The Operation saw the Prince of Wales company mounted in MASTIFF, Corunna company mounted in Warrior, a number of leopard 2 tanks from the Danish, the Route Proving & Clearance (RP&C) and bridging assets from the US as well as CO's TAC, the IRG and a smattering of the Ops platoon, engineers and EOD to create a truly multi-national force prepared for any challenge.

Early on the morning of the 20th July the 3 YORKS taskforce set out on for the Arghandab River Valley with the intent to conduct an operation designed to disrupt insurgent activities in an area a well know as an Insurgent stronghold in the South East of Afghanistan. The first challenge was breaking through the IED belt that had been laid to protect the valley. With a little luck we accomplished that losing just a single US mine-roller in the process and from our perch to the north of the



**MASTIFF in
convoy
heading into
the valley**

**CO's TAC
returning
from
destroying
200 Kg
of HME**



village watched a mass exodus of people as the majority of the inhabitants fled the village. The search of the village resulted in the find of over 200kg of explosives, enough to make over 200 IEDs, hidden inside a vehicle covered by a camouflaged tarpaulin. As part of the plan the Warrior company pushed further south and onto the high ground to gain the obvious advantage of being able to look down into the valley.

The extraction, however, did provide us with more problems as a series of vehicles struck IEDs making the recovery at dusk difficult and risky. The CO had little choice but to remain in location for the night and effectively sleep in an IED belt. The next day saw the taskforce recover to LGD but not without the PoW

company striking another IED whilst reversing their WOLFHOOUND through the loose sand or the forward mounted Ops room being engaged by RPG and PKM fire only to be rescued by the CO when his HUSKY dramatically appearing in the line of fire.

The second day of the operation saw soldiers from Corunna Company search a suspicious compound in the valley. This strike was launched from the high ground to the south of the objective by foot, a direction the insurgent surely thought highly unlikely and resulted in them finding a further 100kg of home-made explosives and a large number of IEDs and IED parts, all of which was destroyed in situ before returning back to the high ground.

Further to the east the rest of the taskforce had braved

**The AVLB
laying the
bridge over a
16ft culvert**



the 45 degree heat to patrol almost 2 km by foot into another village and search a series of compounds that had been highlighted as of interest. Although this search did not prove fruitful, the return journey did and whilst travelling along a picketed route a number of vehicles struck IEDs, which the insurgent had somehow managed to lay in the only patch of ground we could not see. This set off a series of events as CO's TAC led strikes on a series of compounds moving almost too quickly for the insurgents to gather themselves, and eventually chasing a motorbike with 3 HUSKYs down a dusty track with Leopard 2 tanks in pursuit as well. One can only imagine what was running through the

insurgents mind as he brazenly looked back over his shoulder and saw what was chasing him.

The final day of the operation saw Corunna Company clear a village of insurgents, explosives and weapons by searching compounds as they moved north from the high ground towards a designated RV where the rest of the taskforce waited. The obvious irrigation ditches and IED belt proved a huge challenge and the US bridging assets were deployed to span the 15 metre wide culvert. This together with the use of the mine-clearance plough and the EOD search team enabled both elements of the force to link up again before returning back to LGD, successfully having achieved it's mission with no fatalities or injuries.

Op QALB 8

Capt Henry Stow

In early July the 3YORKS BG were given an addition to their mission whilst on Operation HERRICK 16, and this was to act as a manoeuvre BG HQ for deep operations outside that of NES(S). This meant that the HQ elements and The Prince of Wales's Company 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards, were on standby to plan and then execute operations with additional elements coming from across the Brigade.

By mid August the HQ and the PoW's company had already displayed the flexibility that was required for this new role in the successful execution of Op DAAS 2 C in the Arghandab River Valley. We were set and ready now for the new challenges that faced us in Op QALB 8.

Op QALB 8 was of ANSF design and meant that

ISAF, and therefore 3YORKS BGHQ, would have to take a back seat and get used to being in a supporting role. Two areas were chosen for new ANSF CPs; 2 in YAKHCHAL, and 2 in POPALZAI. These were 2 notoriously dangerous and complex areas of Helmand Province and the Insurgent inside them has enjoyed freedom, which allowed for frequent and brazen attacks to take place on key facilitation routes used by ISAF and the ANSF.

Planning had been swift and hectic in the run up to the operation with many late nights by the HQ staff prior to even launching over the Line of Departure. It was somewhat of a relief to many that when we forward mounted and established a forward HQ in Lashkar-Gar



**Warrior
at dusk**

Durai this signified the end to staff work, thanks to the lack of computer systems at our new home!

D Day arrived on 11 September and it was the task of the new look CF NES(S) to envelop and isolate YAKHCHAL, which would then set the conditions for the ANA from the North to advance through the populated Green Zone. 3YORKS HQ had a fusion of attachments, a lot of whom were sporting the 'Blue Red Blue' of the Household Division which was a novelty for the YORKS Officer as we came to grips with lack of abbreviating, and an abundance of pinky rings. As well as our fellow English, Scottish and Welsh attachments, we were also joined by two Danish elements; one heavy Tank Platoon equipped with the fearsome Leopard 2 Tank and the other was the Danish Armoured Infantry Company which turned out to be the size of a small BG in itself. Despite its size the new team did, however, form up quickly and soon focused on the complex and crucial task ahead.

The isolate was conducted with incredible speed and just after first light on D Day the insurgent woke up to find himself surrounded on all sides. Queens Company 1 Grenadier Guards flew in and established 2 Temporary Check Points (TCPs). Left Flank Scots Guards (the new CORUNNA Coy in Theatre) had the tricky job of breaking through and effectively splitting YAKHCHAL from POPALZAI and creating an armoured block to the South, whilst linking up with the then isolated Queen's Company. The PoW's company



Providing fire-support

along with the Danish Tank Platoon moved rapidly from the West to block key crossing points identified. To the North the Danish AI Coy established Vehicle Check



Picture (ANSF moving into the village)

Points and were blocking any movement in and out of YAKHCHAL from the north, whilst 3YORKS Recce Platoon, deployed into the Eastern desert poised and ready to interdict any movement fleeing their way.

With phase one complete and the CF Force Elements in place, it quickly became apparent that we had trapped a determined and well coordinated enemy inside YAKCHAL, as within a few hours of arrival the TCPs to the West came under Small Arms Fire (SAF) and Underslung Grenade (UGL) attack. Even with the presence of the British Warriors and Danish Tanks on the high ground the insurgent continued to harass the troops throughout the operation. Over to the West the PoW's Company had an equally hard fight with sporadic SAF and UGL attacks throughout their stay in what turned out to be surprisingly luxurious compounds complete with flowing streams!

As the CF settled into the routine of maintaining the block, the Afghan National Army began their advance south. Having the Danish Tanks on their Western flank however increased their confidence and they were soon

advancing swiftly and deliberately. By the end of the operation they could be seen building one of the agreed Check Points which has since gone on to increase the local Security inside YAKHCHAL. It has also, and more importantly, meant that the people inside the village have received exposure to the offers of their legitimate Government, something which has only served to undermine the insurgency as the opportunity for a better life presents itself.

After 5 days of conducting the blocks to secure YAKHCHAL the CF were given the orders for their withdrawal. After a complex and long redeployment from our blocking positions all elements of the CF returned to their base locations knowing that Op QALB 8 was a job well done. 3 YORKS elements had successfully planned and executed their part of the plan which saw the confidence off the ANA grow inside a very hostile part of Helmand. In doing so it has set the conditions for future operations conducted by the ANSF as they strive to take the lead in all that they do, with ISAF falling into the shadows prior to the end of 2014.

D Company 4 YORKS

Life continues apace in D Company and since the last edition of the Journal we have seen our Op HERRICK 15 soldiers slowly return to the fold whilst 5 members of the Company are now well into their tour on HERRICK 16. We wish them well and look forward to their safe return in a few months time. It is sometimes difficult for TA soldiers to pick up their TA careers following an operational tour where the intensity of work is vastly different to normal TA activity. We have been fortunate however that those who do return are keen to pass on their experience and knowledge to the younger and newer members of the Company and their input provides a great boost to the Company training programme.

Regular readers will be aware that Private Matt Thornton was one of our soldiers who did not return to the Company as he was killed in action in Lashkar Gah in November last year. Matt was a superb young soldier and his many qualities have been extolled in eulogies in this and many other publications. His father, Mick is determined to raise £100,000 for charity in Matt's honour in various ways including a sponsored hike along the Barnsley Boundary Walk. This event is being enthusiastically supported by the Company and I would ask all of you to try and support Mick's efforts in this worthy cause if you are in a position to do so.

Regrettably we are losing two of our HERRICK 15 returnees to other units, the first is the recently promoted Corporal Anna Parker. Anna is a qualified paramedic in civilian life and because of this she was given responsibilities way above those expected of a Lance Corporal medic on a first tour however she rose to the challenge superbly. She was the first medic on scene following the horrific incident which saw the death of six soldiers from 3 YORKS whose Warrior was

hit by an IED only days into their tour of duty. This was clearly a difficult and upsetting experience however it was one which she dealt with admirably. Anna's civilian job back home is now firmly established in Derbyshire and she is unfortunately leaving the Company in order to join a unit closer to her home location.

Private Daniel Horrobin deployed having only been in the TA for about 18 months. He came back from operations with a superb report and has now decided to move on to become part of the Royal Marines Reserve unit in Leeds. We wish them both well in their new endeavours, they will undoubtedly be a great loss to the Company orbat.

Op OLYMPICS has seen the deployment of a good part of the Company HQ with the OC major Rob Brown, Platoon Comd Lieutenant Alec Wood and Company medic Private Laura Maguire working hard on a 3 month stint in London and Weymouth. We look forward to their return at the end of September.

Our relatively new Company 2IC Captain Paul Dawson has now successfully completed his JOTAC course and is enthusiastically taking on all manner of tasks, ably assisted by the CSM WO2 Greg Burton, whilst covering as Company OC during Maj Rob Brown's Olympic deployment.

By the end of the year we should see all of the Company back to normal jogging and the year ahead will hopefully live up to expectations following a successful Annual camp on Ex ROMAN STAR in Italy. Our recruiting is slowly picking up pace due to the efforts of our ADC recruiting team and the new training cycle will continue to stretch and challenge the Company, something which we can all look forward to.

HMS IRON DUKE

By Lt Cdr Ben Keith, Senior Naval Officer/XO, HMS Iron Duke.



HMS Iron Duke on Patrol

HMS Iron Duke, the ship in which Prince William served and winner of the 2011/12 Fleet Efficiency Award, is currently undergoing a 5 yearly refit involving major maintenance and upgrades to her machinery, weapons and sensors. Having been deployed East of Suez and off Libya during 2011, and away for 11 out of the previous 14 months, she ended a very successful operational period on entering dry dock in Portsmouth in March 2012.

Having moved to offices ashore and having reduced from 187 to 36, the Ship's Company, along with the refit contractor (BAe), are charged with delivering an ambitious package of work costing £18 million, which will see the Ship return to the Fleet ready for future operational tasking. A new Executive Officer (second in Command), Lieutenant Commander Ben Keith joined during the summer, who will also act as the Senior Naval Officer until the Captain, Commander Tom Tredray, joins in December.



In Refit

The refit is progressing broadly to plan, with the ship due to return to the water early October, and the ship's company moving back onboard before Christmas. This period requires not only the ship to be materially safe, but also the brand new ship's company trained to a high standard to be able to fight any emergency that might develop onboard. She is due to proceed to sea March 2013, for extensive marine engineering trials, before being re-accepted by the Royal Navy in June 2013. Although nearly 20 years old, the Ship remains a highly versatile platform and major upgrades to her Command and Control and SeaWolf (anti-air missile) systems, plus brand new radar type, will ensure that she is at the cutting edge of naval warfare. This will involve intensive trials in the latter half of 2013, before the ship completes rigorous sea training early in 2014 and deploys on an operational deployment mid 2014.



*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 01422 361671.

Wellington College Combined Cadet Force

Major Gerry Long, College Adjutant

Wellington College Combined Cadet Forces continues to go from strength to strength, with the new 4th Form embarking on all elements of the training with great enthusiasm, be it Drill from the ever vigilant guest instructors from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst or Shooting under the direction of Capt Nigel Ball

Meanwhile one of the many highlights of the year was on 14th March which saw the Wellington College Combined Cadet Force marching to the beat of the drum, with the formal Open Day Parade. This was attended by over two hundred families and friends of the Cadet Force. The formal part of the Parade was taken by the Corps Senior Cadet, Regimental Sergeant Major, Hattie Jones; this was followed by the always excellent Drum Corps which displays always grace Speech Day and latterly the British Military Tournament at Earls Court. As the Drums marched off the Marine Section lead by Cadet Warrant Officer Alec Trigger led the assault onto the Enemy Forces based around the Lake, a swift victory was assured and the invited guests reached

for their ear defenders as the assault reached its climax.

The rest of the day was marked by numerous stands displaying the various activities and skills of the CCF; these included the Cavalry Section, mounted display, First Aid Lessons, Drill competition and the Low Ropes Course. The day ended with the Corps converging on the Armoury for the families and guest to meet their wards for Tea and Medals, another successful operation for the prestigious and historic Wellington College Corps of Cadets.

A final note was the moving tribute paid by the Corps under the direction of the Corps Padre, Rev Tim Novis to the recent fallen of the Corps affiliated Regiment, the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of Wellington's). The Commanding Officer had only just visited the College prior to his Battalion taking the Battle Group to Afghanistan. At the time Lt Colonel Zac Stenning noted the threat and the fear that all of his command would not return unscathed, his words proved all too profound. Our thoughts go out to the families of the recently fallen.



U/Offr Hattie Jones receives the Sword of Honour



No 1 Guard



Cdt (RSM) Alec Trigger & No 1 Guard Form up

Waterloo Company: The 4th Form Coy continues to grow year on year, this year nearly 140 strong, as ever the cadets had a diverse mix of the military and not so military fun, with also the added development of personal development and leadership. The training included drill, camouflage & concealment, plus exercises involving stalking in the undergrowth, poncho-bivvy building, skill at arms, fieldcraft and patrolling. Added to this stimulating variety of other training, including first aid, map work, (in preparation for the adventurous training camps), orienteering, field cooking, building survival shelters, the low ropes course, and stretcher races over the obstacle course. There were lots of opportunities to shoot too, on the .22 range here, at clays at Bisley (under Lt Carole Blunden-Lee).

Corunna (The Advanced Infantry) Coy: The Field Day at Aldershot in October had Corunna Coy testing its fieldcraft skills to the limit - and for once it did not rain! The sections passed through a series of 'rehearsal' stances during the day in preparation for patrols around the area searching for 'insurgents'. The final stand saw a series of section attacks on the 'enemy' that had been located holed up in a 'fortress' on the area.

Anzio (Junior Leaders) Coy (L6th). The main aim of the JLC is to produce leaders and to develop potential NCOs who will instruct the younger year groups in the summer term and beyond. Therefore, the first few

sessions were dedicated to the theory of Teaching Practice and how to instruct effectively. There were some tremendous efforts at teaching cam and concealment, section attacks, ambush, SAA, etc. Even at this early stage, there were some obvious leaders emerging whose instructional skills were excellent.

Around the Corps

At Speech Day the Advanced Infantry Company under the watchful eye of Cadet RSM Alec Trigger along with the Corps of Drums gave an excellent display. The Hon Artillery Company Sword of Honour winner this year was Cadet U/Officer Hattie Jones (who after two terms as RSM moved up the ranks), The Porteus Plate was awarded to Cadet WO1 (RSM) Alec Trigger, for his distinguished final year with the Royal Marines Section. Congratulations also go to the Navy Sword Honour winner Cadet Petty Officer Barnaby Walker and the RAF Sword was awarded to Cadet Flight Sergeant Leo Sutton.

The highlight competition year was the Inter-House Drill, and March & Shoot Trophy's, a well done to the Lynedoch who won the Drill, and the Beresford who were champions of the March & Shoot. So as summer leave welcomes us, it's just time for 3rd Form to join the CCF for a week of activities including a Battlefield Tour of Flanders to begin their introduction to service ethos. *Virtutis Fortuna Comes.*

Regimental History

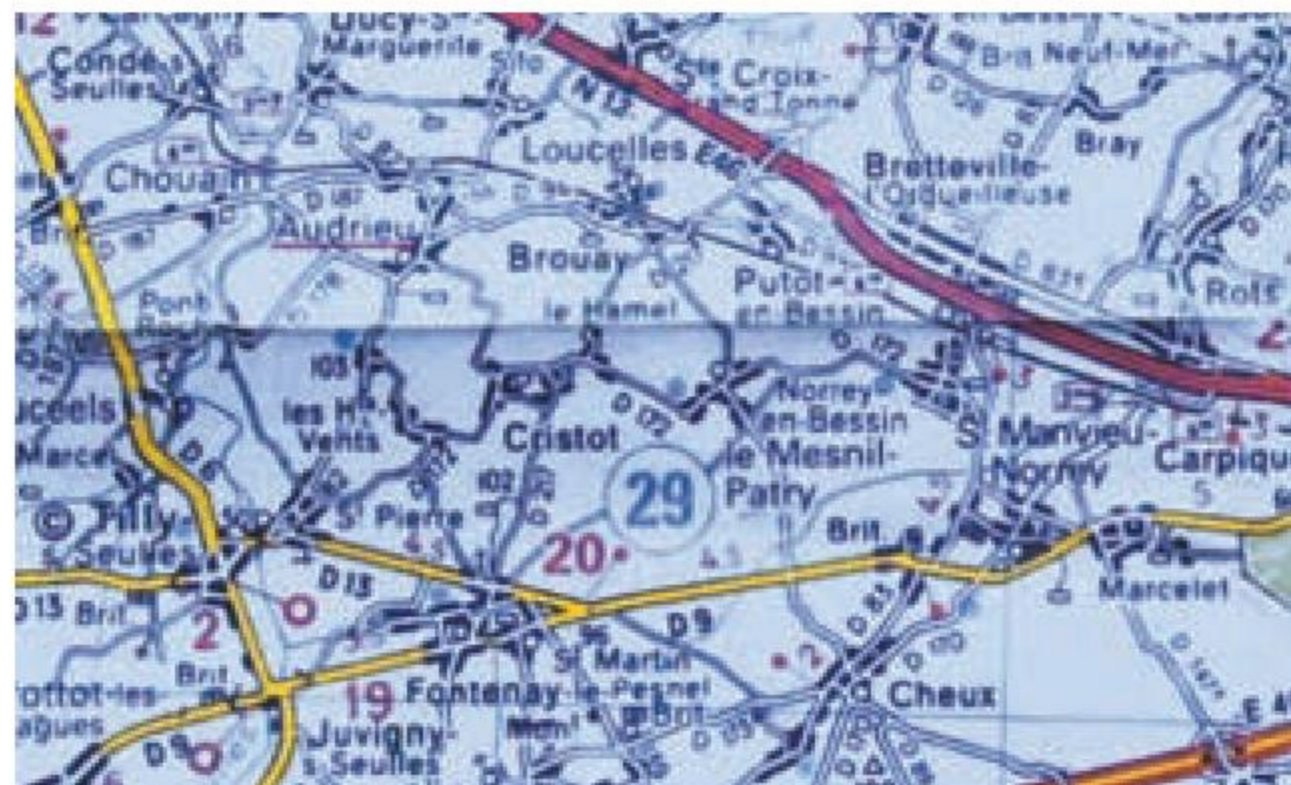
Extracts from the papers of Lt Col JHO Wilsey, Commanding 7 DWR in Normandy, June 1944.

After extensive training in UK 1/7 DWR embarked for France on 10 June 1944, landing the next day. (See also the first extract from the memoirs of Walter Downs, a sergeant in that battalion, which appears after this one). The Regimental Archive has recently acquired extensive documents from the collection of Major General JHO Wilsey CBE DSO, although most are not easily turned in simple narrative form.

After the diary below a map of the area of operations in Normandy heads an extract from Col Wilsey's narrative account of one action over 48 hours commencing on 17th June.

- 9 Jun Locked in camp.
- 10 Jun Moved - Southampton
- 11 Jun Landed.
- 12 Jun Conc area.
- 13 Jun Conc area. FRESNAY le CROTTEUR.
- 14 Jun Moved to Ste CROIX GRAND TONNE. Snipers beyond. 11 RSF to BRONAY WOODS. 6 DWR LOUCELLES. Assembly changes to defence. KOYLI moves and 11 went in. Patrol activity.
- 15 Jun KOYLI attacks CRISTOT from Le HAUTE d'ARDRIEU. Tremendous barrage by air, land and sea. Our rest area peaceful except for snipers and patrol activity at BRONAY and slight night air bombing. James Gross att as Gunner.
- 16 Jun No move.
- 17 Jun So called attack on FONTENAY. Recce am through KOYLI at CRISTOT. Desolation. 70 Bde. Nothing tied up. Bn moved. Sniper trouble. Bad day. Took over from KOYLI. Mortared. Anxious night from 102.

- 18 Jun Quiet. Conference with Brig and CO 11 RSF. Visited a Canadian Bde for view pt onto FONTENAY. Then 6 DWR seemed quiet. 1230 attack on BOIS de LONGES. 6 DWR left. Ordered earlier to take 102. Now to counter-attack. Did so 1530. Frank Scholes killed. Worrying night. (*see 147 Bde Order below*).
- 19 Jun Holding reverse slope 102. Poured with rain. Rather depressing. Nervous re-action after our battle. Padre v good. Frank Scholes buried with our other 6. 5 Subs wounded & some 70 men. Sherwood Rangers with us, of 8 Armd Div.
- 20 Jun Pt 102.
- 21 Jun Pt 102.
- 22 Jun Pt 102. Visitors arrive. 11 DLI Recce parties.
- 23 Jun Planning attack FONTENAY again. 11 RSF town - ourselves RAURAY. 11 DLI took over. We to apple orchard just behind. Back to St CROIX GRAND TONNE with 176 Fd Amb at Chateau.
- 24 Jun In orchard all day. Plans made for attack.
- 25 Jun 11 RSF went in 0430. Enemy smoke and mist. 146 got objectives. Hanging about all day. Fine day for change. Move fwd assembly. Given orders clear town. Started 8 pm finished 12 mdn. AVRE & Sherwoods helped.
- 26 Jun Cleared up town. Attacked St NICHOLAS Farm twice. Success at 6 pm. Andy Weir badly wounded. Halse also. Tough time with tanks. Enemy much fiercer. Killed many, captured 20 - 30. 12 SS Hitler Jugend.
- 27 Jun 11 DLI passed through to RAURAY. Whole 70 Bde on move. We quiet.
- 28 Jun St NICHOLAS Farm. Stepped fwd two Coys. Baths in xxx for all.
- 29 Jun St NICHOLAS Farm. Improving defences. 11 Armd and 43 Div went fwd.
- 30 Jun St NICHOLAS Farm. Some enemy activity against 15 (S) Div. Smoke screens on our left.
- 1 Jul Huns active 5 am. Shelling first time. 7 am they attacked 70 Bde. First B Coy to Lincs - then A & C moved up. Then whole Bn took over from 11 DLI who formed composite Bn with 1 TS on left. Germans held and hit hard. Relief went quite well. In by 10. Impressed with HQ 70 Bde.
- 2 Jul RAURAY posn none too pleasant.
- 3 Jul Rain. Lincs still hy mortared. Heard 9 am 4 RWF taking over. Moved out by 3 pm and came under comd 147 again. V dirty, somewhat tired. 11 RSF active in JUVIGNY area. Montgomery-Cunningham killed. Hamilton OC 143 wounded. Saw 6 DWR.
- 4 Jul 1 Leicesters took over from 6 DWR who went home to re-organise. Nice quiet morning, warm. Brig in at 11 am. Off home 2 pm. Henry Wood (Queens) new Brig. Slept.



Advance

On this day, 17th June, 1/7 DWR moved forward into the battle area. The CO received the following order: "1/7 DWR will move forthwith from present area to area already reconnoitred North of CRISTOT. Thence will move to covered area on general line 70 Northing and will deploy there with a view to an advance on FONTENAY le PESNIL. This deployment will be completed by 1615 hrs....."

The CO's reconnaissance, with Captain Steve Scarlett, was made whilst the Battalion was moving forward from the peace of St CROIX, past the BRONAY railway, into the battlefield area of CRISTOT where the stench of dead cows, the sickly smell of burning buildings and the chaos of heavy shelling dispelled forever the illusion of 'just another exercise in England'. The CO had made contact with 4 KOYLI in CRISTOT and had learnt of the thick, sniper infested, country round Point 102, which lay between CRISTOT and the PARC de BOISLONDE. During further reconnaissance towards the assembly area on 70 Northing, West of CRISTOT, the CO met Lt Col Hart-Dyke, commanding the Hallams (York and Lancaster Regiment) of 146th Brigade. It transpired that both the Hallams and 1/7 DWR were to 'advance on FONTENAY' after the 1/6 DWR attack on the PARC. In the thick bocage, with its eight foot banks, restricted visibility, snipers and un-located enemy positions, the prospect of an 'advance' was not alluring. Meanwhile, the Battalion had reached its concentration area and prepared to assemble. The 333 bicycles were still 'on charge' and the CO decided that in such country they were a liability. They were dumped in an orchard, the location was reported back and, thus unburdened and refreshed, the Battalion took to its foot-slogging with relief.

The Battalion never assembled on 70 Northing, just West of CRISTOT. At 1400 hrs the 1/6 DWR attack was heard to go in on the PARC. Information was slow coming through but it was known that Point 102 area, North of the PARC, was causing trouble. In preparation for the projected advance on FONTENAY, CO 1/7 DWR ordered Captain Jack Illingworth, with his Carrier Platoon, to reconnoitre towards Point 102 and report the situation and Captain Hibbert, OC HQ Company, was sent forward to report on the one lane leading South from the assembly area. By now the 1/6 DWR attack was well underway and the enemy shelling and mortaring was heavy. Spasmodic mortar concentrations were being directed also on to the CRISTOT area. Captain Illingworth reported later that Point 102 area was held in strength and could not be brushed aside lightly. Captain Hibbert reported that a derelict Panther tank in a deep sunken lane blocked the only axis for our advance.

It became apparent that any advance by 1/7 DWR and the Hallams on FONTENAY that evening was impracticable so long as the 1/6 DWR situation was obscure and the general CRISTOT - Pt 102 area was held by enemy troops. It was with relief that, at 1900 hours, the Battalion received orders cancelling the



Cristot Church today

proposed advance and was ordered to take over the CRISTOT position for 4 KOYLI. By last light this difficult operation in such confused country was completed and the Battalion found itself under fire for the first time.

It was then we heard the 6 DWR attack had been completely successful, against strong opposition. Their officer casualties had been particularly heavy. The PARC was an isolated peninsula of wood pointing Southward from CRISTOT to FONTENAY le PESNIL. It offered an ideal target to the German positions in and around FONTENAY. 1/6 DWR had dug in and consolidated under heavy and accurate mortar concentrations. The Germans were anxious and suspicious and, though their attention was directed mainly to the PARC, they harassed CRISTOT and sniped in and around that area.

Battle

The 1/7th Battalion position was an unpleasant one. Time was too short for Company Commanders to carry out detailed reconnaissance before darkness fell. The area was enclosed, overlooked and was constantly subjected to sharp concentrations of mortar fire which, bursting in the trees, made open slit trenches vulnerable. Snipers were active all round. The Battalion found local patrols only and stood-to during most of the hours of darkness.

The first casualties were suffered that night. Cpl Hearson, of D Company, was killed and several others wounded in C and D Companies, who were forward, and the Pioneer Platoon. The Medical Officer, Captain A V Somerville, and the Padre, Rev S Chase, set up, in stern conditions, their Regimental Aid Post organisation, which continued to the end to lack nothing in efficiency and morale as a finely welded integral part of the fighting Battalion.

During the night, the Quarter Master of 1/6 DWR, with the cooks' vehicles, reported to 1/7 DWR and orders followed for 1/7 DWR to pass these through, via Pt 102, to the PARC. This was clearly impracticable since the enemy occupied Pt 102 between CRISTOT and the PARC. It was, however, a matter of urgency to do everything possible to get food through to 1/6 DWR

and the CO discussed with Captain Scholes plans for a night operation by A Company to clear Pt 102. Before these plans were completed, the Transport Officer, 1/6 DWR, arrived at Headquarters to send the vehicles back to the PARC by the only practicable way, which was up the axis of the attack from the West.

On 18 June, Waterloo Day, events moved rapidly to a climax. Captain Ben Temple, the Quartermaster, and the Colour Sergeant, with their usual imperturbable efficiency came up with the Battalion breakfasts. At 0800 hours the CO was called to Brigade Headquarters for order. The plans given out envisaged an attack on FONTENAY by the Battalion, through 6 DWR with 11 RSF going through later to RAURAY. The CO and Lt Col Montgomery-Cunningham, 11 RSF, who was to be killed in action two weeks later near JUVIGNY, spent some hours endeavouring to find a meet point on to FONTENAY. As this was not possible for the present areas, nor from the Canadian Sector on the left, a visit was made by the right flank to 1/6 DWR. Lt Col R K Exham and his Battalion were in good heart in spite of their severe losses the previous day and a very disturbed night with heavy shelling and mortaring. The general area was quiet but any movement forward brought down accurate enemy fire. View points, even forward, were indifferent and restricted.

At 1230 hours the CO returned with orders to clear Point 102 area as a preliminary operation. Plans were made for a two Company attack supported by artillery and a Squadron of tanks of the Sherwood rangers. Suddenly the general lull on the front was shattered by intense artillery and mortar fire which sounded to be directed onto 1/6 DWR in the PARC. Obviously a heavy attack was impending or had been launched on 1/6 DWR. As the minutes passed the battle rose in intensity, tank and small arms fire swelled the general noise and commotion. Major Grosse, the Battery Commander of 143rd Field Regiment affiliated to the Battalion, picked up information on his wireless that a heavy German counter-attack had in fact been put in on the forward Companies of 1/6 DWR. CRISTOT and the Battalion area now began to be engaged by shell and mortar fire and, in the close bocage country, it was impossible to tell by sound how the battle was going. At 1330 hours the Squadron of Sherwood Rangers were ordered to move immediately in support of 1/6 DWR. It appeared, from the scanty information trickling in, that the forward Companies of 1/6 DWR had been overrun. This was confirmed by the Quarter Master of 1/6 DWR who, with some men of the 1/6th Battalion, arrived in 7 DWR area. Fighting was severe but the general picture still very obscure. At this juncture the CO was ordered, over the air, to put in his attack on Pt 102 and to gain touch with 1/6 DWR.

The situation had, however, changed materially since the original plan had been made. Little was known of the positions of 1/6 DWR and of the enemy, the Squadron of tanks had been taken away and all available artillery was supporting 6 DWR. In addition, the Battalion area was being subjected to accurate mortaring. Time was short, the situation on the front

and right flank was confused and any plan had to be simple in the extreme. At 1440 hours final orders were received from Brigade HQ that the attack had to go in at 1515 hours.

The plan was to attack Pt 102 and the northern edge of the PARC with A Company Left, B Company Right, supported by artillery concentration for 20 minutes from H Hour. C and D Companies, in reserve, were to follow up 800 yards in rear and form a firm base short of the objectives. The return of the tanks had been promised. Major Grosse, though given the minimum time, was able to report that the required artillery support would be given.

The attack went in at 1515 hours. Both forward Companies, gallantly led by Bernard Kilner and Frank Scholes, got off the start line with nothing to spare. The test was a most severe one for the Battalion. It had been 'on the go' since the previous early morning. It had received its first baptism of fire in an unhealthy, uncomfortable area. It had just suffered casualties and gone through an anxious and disturbed night and morning. It knew the 6th Battalion was in trouble and it received only the minimum time and the barest of orders to enable it to carry out its attack. But it rose to the occasion with grand courage and the precision of highly trained fighters.

The distance from the start line to the objective was about 1000 yards, slightly up hill through cornfields and hedges. The assault Companies went forward without a check and disappeared into a curtain of smoke and dust as they reached the areas where it was impossible to distinguish between our own artillery concentration and the enemy defensive fire. Snipers in trees and bushes were destroyed. Enemy positions on the objective were overrun. All objectives were captured. The battle was over. It had lasted 25 minutes.

At this juncture the Squadron of the Sherwood Rangers arrived in the Battalion area, having made tremendous efforts to rejoin the Battalion from the area of the bitter fighting in the PARC. Though they were unable to fight the Battalion in, their presence at this period of consolidation was very welcome. They were hard, experienced, battle trained fighters, second to none and the Battalion was destined to know them well and value most highly their skill and comradeship.

On the objective the forward Companies were consolidating and the reserve Companies were firm behind. Sorting out after an attack is difficult. In the bocage it was doubly so. The Commanding Officer and his Gunner, Major Grosse, had been separated from their vehicles, stuck in a sunken road carrying their wireless sets. Lieutenant George Driver, the Signals Officer, who accompanied the CO, however, had his set and his signaller with him and this was used even in the middle of heavy enemy fire when lying flat on the objective.

The CO at this time went forward round A and B Companies with the Second in Command, Major Cooke, who had come forward with the reserve Companies and the Tank Squadron Liaison Officer. Unexpectedly, the country to the East of the PARC was

found to be open rolling corn fields and it whilst examining this area through glasses that the CO saw what appeared to be highly camouflaged infantry lying at the edge of corn fields some 500 yards away and, beyond again, quite clearly, three enemy tanks. There was no doubt that this was the next counter-attack ready and waiting to be put in on Point 102. At that moment, to make conjecture certainty, one of the Panther tanks fired and the solid shot hit the nose of one of the Sherman tanks of the Sherwood Foresters, 10 yards away from the CO's small group. Through the tank wireless net the CO managed, in the space of a few minutes, to arrange for heavy and immediate fire on the enemy. Available at that time was two Regiments of Field and one of Medium artillery and this concentration was put onto the waiting enemy and broke them up.

In the meantime the Battalion was re-organising and the CO decided not to occupy forward positions in the PARC in that dangerous salient but to hold a reverse slope position and to dominate the PARC by patrols, Lieutenants Bezalt and Evans were sent forward on

patrol with an artillery Forward Observation Officer and a troop of tanks each. The evidence of the 1/6 DWR battle in the PARC became very apparent. The two forward Companies had put up a most gallant resistance and had been overrun almost to a man. No contact was made with the 6th and it was only known later that the remaining elements had withdrawn from the PARC.

The cost of this first action to the Battalion was heavy when counted up in friends all had known. But for the splendid discipline, dash and efficiency shown during those 25 minutes the cost would have been much higher. Captain Frank Scholes, a born leader and loved commander of A Company, was killed with four Other Ranks. Lieutenants Duncan, Delaney, Rogers and Bennett and 61 Other Ranks were wounded and 18 Other Ranks were missing. Private Peach, B Company, was awarded the Military Medal for gallant action in command of a 'section', though himself wounded. He has the distinction of being the first 7 DWR soldier to be decorated. Thus ended the first battle of the 7th Battalion.

The Memoirs of 4613505 Sgt Walter Downs, 1/7 DWR: Part 1

Editor's Note : Walter Downs was born in Sheffield on 24 December 1920, the son of a Hallamshire (York and Lancaster TA) Battalion Sergeant. The family moved from Sheffield to Huddersfield, so Sgt Downs transferred to 7DWR, at the Milnsbridge detachment. In due course Walter also joined 1/7 DWR, as a boy soldier and in 1940 went with the Battalion to Iceland, where he and it stayed until April 1942.

The 1/6 and 1/7 DWR Battalions embarked in HMS Cheshire on 10 June 1944 and arrived off the Normandy coast on 11 June. This extract from Walter's memoirs begins just a few days earlier. He is in D Company (OC Major Kavanagh).

On the 6th June we moved out of our camp and moved into Yarmouth, where we joined the rest of the Battalion and boarded a troop train. Before we moved off an Officer arrived at the station and reported to the Commanding Officer that a combined force of British, Canadian and American troops, supported by naval and air operations, had landed in Normandy. Everyone was greatly excited with this news and it was the sole topic of conversation as the train travelled through Suffolk and Essex into the destruction of East London and on to our next destination, a transit camp at Wanstead.

On the 10th June the Battalion was awakened a 3am and told that we were to travel from Waterloo Station to Southampton where we would embark. We joined the SS Cheshire, along with the rest of 147th Infantry Brigade, and joined the rest of the ships in the Southampton water. We sailed that night and, early on the 11th June, we found ourselves lying off the beaches of Arromanches, which had been assaulted on 6th June. We were transferred to Landing Craft Tank and moved in towards the shore. My platoon was to be the point section, the first out. We were very lucky with the landing as, when the ramp dropped, we were almost on the beach itself and were not wet at all.

We advanced up the beach, following a line of white tape, showing a safe mine-free way, my two scouts in front of me. About 250 yards from the LCT the air was shattered by the noise of an aeroplane, coming in low,

firing his guns and dropping two small bombs. We immediately dropped to the ground, this was our first taste of action and we were all shaken. Whistles started blowing, giving us the 'All Clear' signal and we all rose to our feet. We were told to retrace our steps on completing a U turn. Fortunately, there had been no casualties so, using 'Indian File' movement, we followed the rest of the Company on our new route. A couple of minutes later I heard my name being called from behind and, looking back, saw my pal, Len Sanders, coming towards me looking very distressed, and for good reason, as when we had dropped to the ground, Len had landed with his face in a cow pat and most of it was still sticking. We stopped just long enough to clean nearly all the foul stuff off and continued on our way.

About half a mile on, the column stopped for directions up at the front and Len came up to me to say that when he got to his feet on the all clear he had left his rifle, what could he do about it. As this would be a very serious offence if reported, we kept it quiet, confident that we would find another rifle. Eventually we found one, unfortunately it was without a bolt, as members of the Pioneer Corps had made all abandoned weapons useless to the Germans by removing the bolts and breech blocks. Fortunately, two days later, we came across a bolt and he became fully armed.

We marched through St Gabriel, Crepon and Cruelly and were at the edge of the battlefield and stayed in this

position after being told we were waiting for the Americans on the Cherbourg Front. Whilst in Crepon, I took a three man patrol to investigate a row of cottages. We advanced on the cottages and, leading the patrol, I sneaked around the corner of one of the cottages to be faced with a German Captain, who was pointing a revolver at me. He fired the gun but nothing happened, the gun had misfired but, the same instant, I fired my Sten gun, killing the Captain. I took his revolver and brought it back to England when I was able to fire scores of rounds with never a misfire.

We had dug in at the edge of a long orchard and, during the day, we had two of our lads wounded and we lost the first member of our Company, a lad called Cowburn, obviously by sniper fire. I called for our own sniper, a youngster about nineteen years old, and I located what I thought was the sniper, in the fork of a tree about 300 yards away. I pointed it out to Webber, who asked me to fire the shot, so, loading his rifle with a tracer bullet, I took aim through the telescopic sight and, with Webber acting as the observer, I fired, the tracer slashing straight through the centre of the fork. The sniping stopped and, the next day, one of our patrols operating in the area found the German dead in the tree, but his rifle had been removed.

During a quiet lull in our activities I was having a cat-nap in the slit trench when our platoon runner, an eighteen year old from Sowerby Bridge, called out my name and woke me. Ernest Gibson, when we were in England, used to blanco my webbing in return for the price of a cup of tea and a cake in the NAAFI but, today, he brought me some cherries he had picked and placed in his steel helmet. We sat together in my trench and ate them. He asked me if I thought we would come out of the war safely and I said that I was sure we would and he cheered up. A few minutes later he left me as he had to fetch our orders but, on arriving at his slit trench, the shelling started again and he dived into his trench. During the bombardment one of the shells hit a tree above his trench and burst, killing him instantly. I was terribly shocked as, during the past few months I had become very friendly with him and had appeared to 'father' him and I shall always remember his smiling face. I tried to contact his parents after the war but they had left the only address we had.

The order came to move forward when we were to support A Company and B Company, who were to attack a position marked on the map as Point 102. The Germans shelled the area very heavily and the officer commanding A Company, Captain Frank Scholes, was killed but the position was held and consolidated. Alongside us the 6th Battalion 'Dukes' had put in an attack on a wood and had run into heavy opposition. Also, for some unexplained reason, both German and British artillery had shelled the wood, killing both German and British soldiers. When the shelling ceased, Major Kavanagh ordered me to sit on the rear of a Sherman tank which was to reconnoitre the area. I was to look out for survivors from the shelling but there were none, just many dead bodies, both sides intermixed, obviously it had been close, hand to hand

fighting. I alighted from the tank at one point and saw the largest dead German, he was a paratrooper and must have been nearly seven feet tall, not a person you would want to meet on a dark night.

We moved forward to a place called Cristot where my section dug in just by the side of a small farmhouse. The order came though that no livestock had to be taken for food but eggs and milk could be taken. When our trenches were dug we had a look round the area, finding a hen house, where we took some eggs and noticed a very large cockerel sitting about making his noise. Here we found use for our ex-Officers' Mess chef as, sneaking back into the hen house after dark, I pulled this cockerel off his perch, quickly despatched it and handed it over to Len Sanders who plucked and cleaned it and, with the addition of some vegetables, provided one of the most delicious meals you could wish for under the circumstances. We were fortunate with Len's services as, two days later, the Quartermaster and his staff arrived and Len returned to his original duties.

We were doing patrols both during the day and night and, on one of these, a lad called Greenwood and another Private left their patrol to investigate a farmhouse, where they found a wheelbarrow with a dead German lying in it with a pistol in his hand. This was a very tempting souvenir and, despite our constant warnings about booby traps, Greenwood picked up the pistol, the lot blew up killing them both. These were the only two in our Company who were caught with booby traps, although the Germans laid hundreds, specialising in wine bottles and souvenir items like caps, belts and weapons.

We had done some street fighting and we were being fired on from a farmhouse and it was decided to send in a fighting patrol to clear the farmhouse. The NCO in charge was a Corporal called Arthur Tilley, a reinforcement from the Staffordshire Regiment. As he passed my slit trench, where I was relaxing, he said, "When are you going on the patrol roster, Downs?" I replied, "I'm not on the roster, I'm reserved for special patrols, which is nearly every night." The patrol passed on to the area where the farmhouse stood and the members of the patrol took up their positions used for this type of attack. The procedure was for the NCO to advance under cover of the riflemen and, on reaching the door, kick it open and throw in a grenade. However, we found that the Germans would either rush out before it went off or get behind cover until our chaps went in and then surrender. Several NCOs, learning of this antic, became rather daring and threw in the grenade without removing the pin then followed the grenade immediately and either shot the occupants or took them prisoner, thus saving a grenade. It was a reckless practice, frowned upon by the superiors, but this is what happened at the farmhouse, where a very cool German gunner, sitting at the top of the stairs, opened fire when the Corporal entered the door. A Sherman tank was called up and just blew the farmhouse down, when our chaps were able to recover the Corporal's body.

End of Part 1 - the next instalment will appear in the Spring 2013 edition.

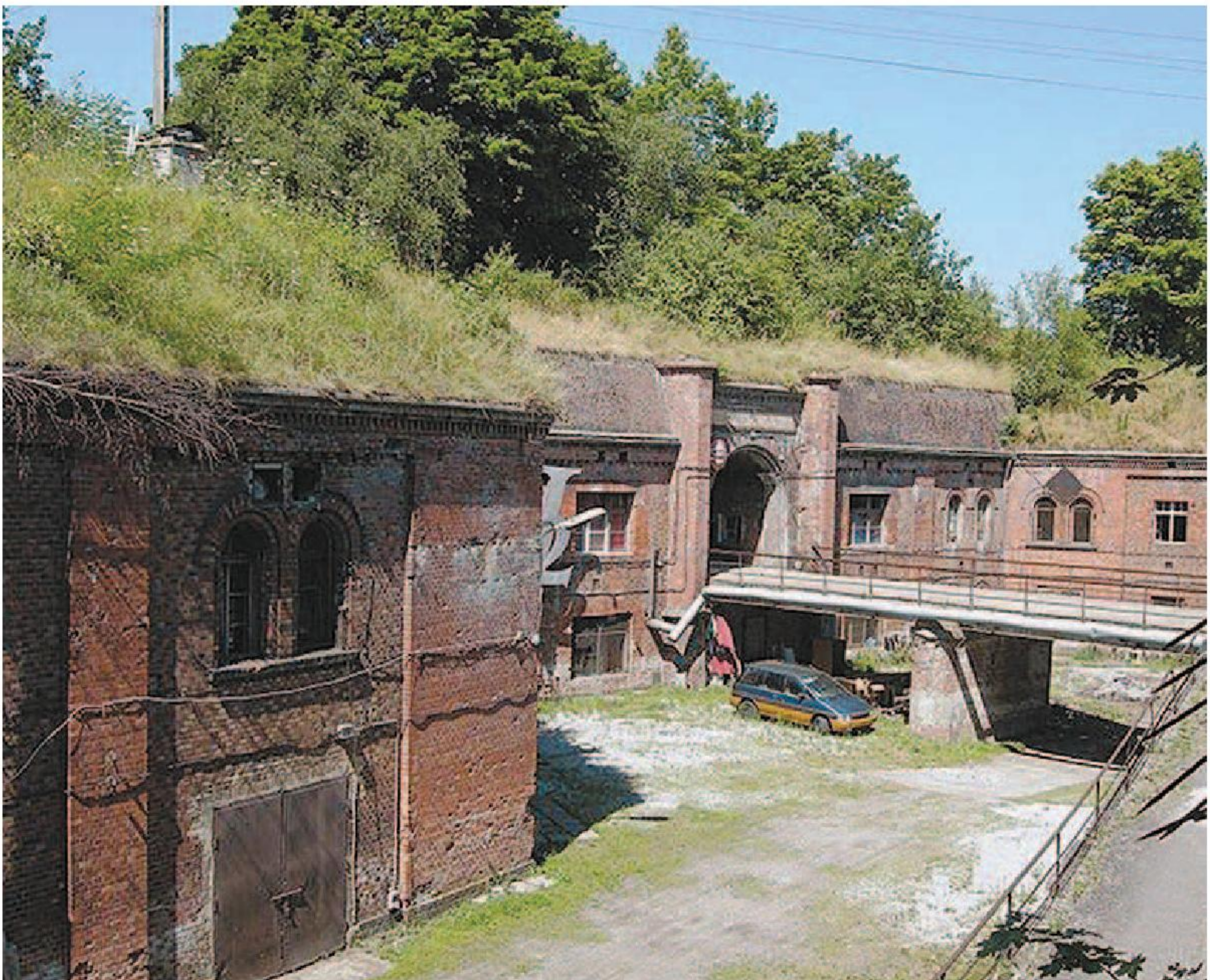
The Memoirs of Lt Tom Briggs MC, 2/7 DWR

Lt Tom Briggs landed in Brittany in April 1940 with 2/7 DWR, and was captured after a disastrous campaign on 12 July in Normandy, although the majority of the battalion managed to get away by ship. This story is about Brigg's experiences as a prisoner, rather than how he became one. He was held in a number of camps but in March 1941 he learned that he and 500 other officers were to be moved to an underground fort in Poland. The last instalment ended as he arrived there and was told by the Commandant of this POW camp that, in retaliation for poor treatment of German prisoners by Canadians, this was a punishment camp, the penalty for trying to escape would be to be shot and they would be roughly treated if they failed to obey all orders. Then they entered the fort.

The passages and all the rooms were arched like a wine cellar; each room contained one small window only looking onto the moat but one could merely see the wall of the moat at the other side although there was no water in the moat. Our allocation per room varied according to the size of the room, but I was one of 24 officers allocated to room 18.

The conditions were so awful that one's sense of humour had to save the day. There were two tables down the centre of the room and we had one 40 watt

bulb to illuminate the whole room, which meant that you couldn't read at all unless you were directly underneath it. At night one bucket was provided as toilet facilities and, invariably, this would spill over before morning. Each bed had two blankets but all of them were so damp that to use them would have been to invoke pneumonia but what was worse the palliasses, then unknown to us, were infested with fleas and lice. We knew it would be to little avail to remonstrate about the conditions but our Senior British Officer asked for



Their destination; Fort V111 Twierdzy, Poland

the Swiss to visit as soon as possible. The washing facilities were merely long troughs, with a cold water tap every three yards, but fortunately we had some soap from the Red Cross and the first thing we did was clean ourselves up and shave. Food was served to us and this was the only good thing about the camp, the rations were infinitely better than we had had at Laufen.

The forts had been constructed by Napoleon on one of his campaigns and might well have been an inspiration for the Maginot Line. We soon learnt that there was another similar fort a few miles away where there as another party of British officers, at Thorn.

It was decided that each room should have a hunt for fleas and lice and mark the 'bag' on the back of the door each day. Once a week it would be totted up and a prize awarded for the best 'bag' per capita of the room. This, strangely enough, had a marked effect in lifting morale and our Senior Officer each day drew the attention of the German Duty Officer to the list, thereby bringing to their notice the conditions under which we were living. Chloride of lime was scattered in abundance in every conceivable place and, at last, the place smelt cleaner. Fortunately, in spite of being underground the ventilation system seemed excellent for a current of air flowed down all the passages.

We had been there several weeks when a German officer was brought round with the Kommandant to see the conditions in which we were being kept and it was announced to us that he had escaped from Fort Kingston in Canada and it was his letters which had led to this reprisal. The German immediately, and very fairly, said to the Kommandant that these conditions were terrible and he had been put in a fort merely as temporary accommodation: the fort was above ground but he had been confined to the interior of the fort and its quadrangle and, therefore, could see no grass not any trees and he was not kept underground in anything like such terrible conditions as we were in. The German Kommandant, my pantomime officer, paraded the camp in the main passage and, again, with switch smacking his leggings, stated that he had carried out orders that had been given to him. He was convinced that there had been a very bad mistake and he would apologise that we had been put under these conditions. That day he would open up the top of the fort, which we had not been allowed on until then and which was covered in grass and level with the fields on either side, so that we could take advantage of the fresh air and the sunshine; he would double our rations for one week; he would try to arrange parole walks and he would have us moved as soon as it was possible. He was as good as his word.

In due course, namely in July, 1941, we were moved to Oflag VB, which was at a town called Biberach, near the Austrian border, again after a long and tiresome journey. We were only to remain there a month before some of us were moved to VIID, a castle known as Titmoning. We were still with General Fortune and it was soon realised that this was one of the more pleasant camps and was the German's endeavour to compensate us for mistakenly

having pushed us underground for nearly four months. We were given the use of a field, which we turned into a football field; parties were allowed to dig up the roots of trees to use as fuel; and we were taken up to a mountain lake and allowed to swim. We organised swimming races and ran a 'book' on the winners and this was an excellent event twice a week during the latter half of August and September, but the lake was very cold indeed and was around the lower 40's. Nevertheless, it was very pleasant to get into clean water and the camp gained a lot of benefit from the swimming.

The Germans asked if we would like to have German classes and many of us said we would like to learn German. Books were provided and a daily class was run by a Sonderführer with the rank of Officer, known as Dr Falkner. Dr Falkner would ask a series of leading questions as to the background of each individual and I reported this to General Fortune, stating that these seemed to be more than German classes. I was then ordered by General Fortune to take over most of the questions and whenever Dr Falkner came into the camp I had to go up to him and engage him in conversation. In the weeks that followed he produced photographs of his wife and family and I asked him if we could have some photographs to send home and he said he would arrange for a photographer to come in in the near future. This he did and even took photographs of our swimming which, at the time, I felt were for propaganda purposes so this was discouraged and the photographs were confined to ones of individuals for the officers to send home.

On one of his talks with me he told me that he was the censor to the camp and some of the POWs were writing home information which had never been communicated to them by the German press and this made it certain that we had a wireless set. He had not reported this to the Kommandant as it would only result in a very unpleasant search, but would I please inform the whole of the camp, quietly, that they must be careful to put only statements in their letters which had appeared in the German press.

This I duly reported to the General and the warning was included in our nightly bulletin. Incidentally, the wireless set was at that time kept at the bottom of a double-bass and was ingeniously contrived so that the wires formed the aerial which would readily be connected to any other aerial that was available with a clip, and the bottom peg formed the 'earth'. The double-bass had been provided by the Salvation Army together with other musical instruments.

One day in October, 1941, when I saw Dr Falkner in the camp he said he was very sorry that we were to be taken from the camp to a very much larger camp and, regrettably, the new camp was by no means as pleasant and he would not be coming with us. I asked how he avoided coming to the more unpleasant camp and he smiled and replied that he had some little influence with the authorities and he did not wish to go to the new camp as it was some miles away from his home and, in any case, the conditions did not please him, but he

hoped I would remember his friendship for it was more than likely that we should meet again. I asked him when we would leave and he said that it would be at 5 o'clock the following morning and we were to be roused at 4 and given one hour to prepare. I immediately went to the General and informed him that we were to leave the next morning at 5 o'clock; he sent for the Senior British Officer and asked if the Kommandant had said anything about this. He had not so it was decided that he should be asked the direct question. The Kommandant said that we were not going to move and the General called me back to his room to tell me that Dr Falkner had not been accurately informed. I told the General I felt that Dr Falkner was usually well informed from all his conversations and we should prepare all that was difficult to move, such as the double-bass and all escaping material which had to be hidden. This was thought to be prudent and orders were given.

At 4 o'clock the next morning we were awoken by a new Guard Company, complete with dogs, switching on the lights in each room and shouting, "Raus!" which we knew of old meant 'get moving'. The pleasant atmosphere was changed in a flash to one of roughness. This time we were put on a train with just wooden seats. We were not told of our destination but it was appreciated that the journey could be a long one as we were given rations for a whole day.

One of the treasures that had been given to me in Fort VIII by a Polish electrician who had been called in on one occasion, was a short saw and this had passed several Gestapo searches in the false bottom of a chip basket which I had used to carry my food. As I thought we were off to another reprisal camp from the statement by Dr Falkner, I decided that we ought to make an attempt to escape, particularly as sooner or later we knew the train would stop, go into a siding and possibly remain there for hours. The saw was unearthed and we chose a seat in the railway carriage exactly over the axle and asked the fellow prisoners to move as we were intending to escape. We then proceeded to saw through the floorboards of the train whilst the guard was actually at one end of the compartment.

One of the difficulties was to get through the first boards so the saw could get to work and this had to be done with a penknife, and it really is quite difficult to cut through the floor of a train with a penknife. The real trouble was it was time consuming, the guard could be easily watched and we could kneel down without being seen and cut away furiously so long as we did not make too much noise to alarm the guard at the end of the compartment. The saw had to be manipulated at an angle of 60° so that the block, when completely cut out, would not fall on to the track but could only be lifted out upwards. We discovered that the saw made far less noise if the wood was kept wet, so we had to contrive to keep it wet. This was quite successful but the whole question was that we didn't really know where we were as the train seemed to zigzag across the country, but we knew we were going north which really made things a

lot more difficult for, even if we got free of the train, the distance to freedom was always increasing.

When the train stopped the guards had a specific drill; they immediately went down on to the track and stepped away from the carriages for ten yards with loaded rifles. Therefore, it was resolved that it was not a good thing to get out of the carriage whilst the train was stopped. The question of perching on the axle and dropping off was a bit hazardous and two of our team decided that they would lie on the track under the coach and let the train pull away from them. Unhappily this did not work. As the train pulled away the guard at the back of the train spotted them, putting a warning shot down; the train stopped and they were recaptured before they had moved at all. The guards made a very perfunctory search of the train, decided they had escaped though the window and gone under the train. In the meantime we had covered up our bit of handy-work with a piece of linoleum so our escape hatch was never discovered. One other person decided he would try whilst the train was moving, so we got him through the hatch sitting on the axle in an uncomfortable crouched position and he rapidly decided that to drop from the axle whilst the train was moving at anything over five miles an hour would be almost certain death, so the whole escapade was abandoned after we had dragged him back into the compartment. I often wondered which unhappy German dropped through our hatch after the chamfering of the trap-door had collapsed, which it certainly would if anybody stood on it with their full weight, but that was a question I never had answered.

We went through the station at Kassel and stopped on the line a few miles outside whilst an air raid took place on Kassel and, within a short period of time, we arrived at Warburg at a camp known as VIB. It was here that Senior Officers were taken from us and sent to a more convivial camp at Spangenberg. Dr Falkner was certainly right when he said that our camp was not a pleasant camp, it was quite positively disagreeable. Even the German Kommandant seemed disgusted with the place and he had been put in command two days before we arrived together with a full complement of 3,000 officers. Washing and latrine accommodation was disgusting, the overcrowding was appalling and the rations very poor. Yet, in spite of all this the camp was known as a reconciliation camp and one was almost tempted to ask, reconciled to what?

We met up with officers who had been captured in Greece and who had been taken to a camp at Lubeck in the far north, almost at the Baltic, before coming here but, of course, it was not as far from Lubeck to Warburg as it was from Titmoning to Warburg and it was decided that any escapees would make for Lubeck in the hope of getting a ship out of there.

We had snow in October and a thaw in November which reduced the camp to a quagmire of mud.

To be continued

In the Footsteps of the Regiment - The War of Austrian Succession

DETTINGEN

"What the 'ell are we doing here, Sergeant?"

The reader has every right to wonder what the brave lads of the 33rd were doing a few miles East of Frankfurt in June 1743, as no doubt they did themselves. To be told that it was to fight a war to decide whether the daughter of the late Emperor of distant Austria would succeed her recently deceased Father, or whether an opportunistic relative, backed by (who else?) France would seize the crown, would hardly have provided an intelligible answer. So what?

The allied troops supporting the young Empress were commanded by the Earl of Stair, an elderly man of considerable military experience who served with Marlborough and so would have come across the 33rd before. The army comprised Dutch, Hanoverians and English; the Germans because George II, a non English speaking Hanoverian, was on the English throne and felt that his home province was under threat from the French Army, which, with sundry allies such as Bavaria, was drifting about looking for a fight to see off the Empress' allies.



King George II at Dettingen

George II was an active monarch with a strong sense of the royal prerogative to always be right, and sent the Earl many contradictory instructions and words of advice, and finally arrived, with a huge entourage, to take personal command. This would undoubtedly have spurred on the Hanoverian troops, who were unwilling to take orders from anyone else, and it certainly gave the battle which was to follow its only lasting distinguishing feature, as the last battle to have been fought by an English army under the personal command of the reigning monarch. Otherwise the Royal Presence simply added to the confusion.

East of Frankfurt

Frankfurt is Germany's modern financial capital, and is an impressive city set in very beautiful countryside, being quite close to the Rhine and the Mosel and is

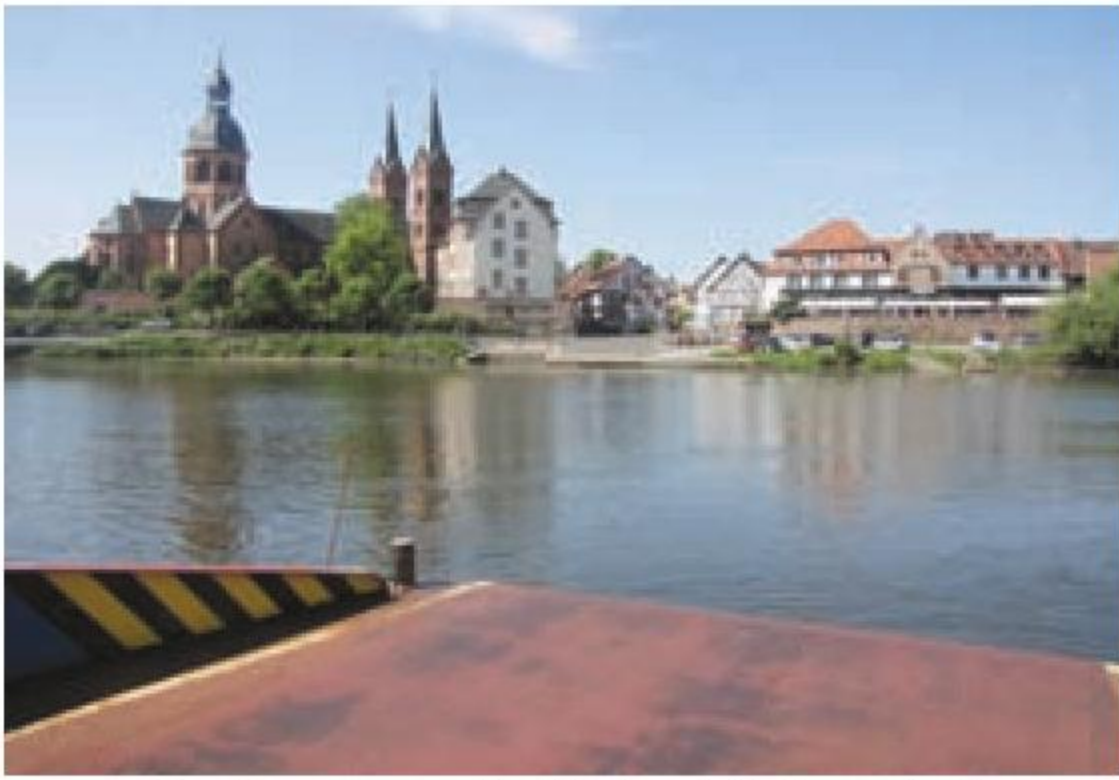
actually situated on the Main. 15 kilometres or so to the east the river winds through Hanau (George's HQ in 1743) then turns South towards Aschaffenburg, where his Army had drifted to that summer. The Dettingen battlefield lies on the east side of the Main between these two more substantial towns, around the actual village of Dettingen and, on the opposite bank and a half an hour's walk upstream, Seligenstadt. Now an autobahn, main road and railway line all run close to the engagement area, but despite them the feeling on the ground is of a peaceful agricultural area.

Seligenstadt is delightful and a model of what a German village of some antiquity should look like. The centre is all timber-framed houses and cobbled streets, with restaurants and cafes surrounding the main square, which boasts a very tall maypole-like structure, decorated with figures of craftsmen - bricklayers, plumbers, road menders, decorators - of quite modern appearance. Well worth a visit if you are passing.



The main square in Seligenstadt

The French forces were based in and around Seligenstadt, and their commander, the Duc de Grammont, became aware that the allied forces were on the other side of the river, heading to their base in Hanau, having missed all contact with the enemy. At this stage King George had no idea where the French were, nor that they had built a bridge of boats over the Main near Seligenstadt, giving them the flexibility of deployment on either side. Today there is an excellent 4 - 6 car ferry that trundles back and forth every ten minutes or so, two euros return for a man on a bicycle.



The ferry over the Main at Seligenstadt

Field of Battle



The French laid a battery of guns below Seligenstadt, clearly visible to the Allies but out of reach on the far bank. The Allies formed into battle array and then moved off to engage the main French force at Dettingen some miles ahead. Meantime Grammont pushed a strong force down river, in sight of the Allies on the opposite bank, to cross at Aschaffenburg with the job of preventing the Allies from retreating back the way they had come and catch them between two forces. As soon as this force was clear the French batteries opened fire, although this seems not to have been very effective. An



The approach to Dettingen; Spessart Hills to the right and the river on the immediate left

allied force was detached and rushed back to hold the Aschaffenburg bridge. These detachments had no impact on the rest of the battle.



View from Dettingen of the Allied Army's approach

Grammont's plan was to hold fast in Dettingen in a commanding position with long fields of view and fire, forcing King George to attack him. But the French advanced prematurely, eager to engage. The time of my visit was within a week or so the same date as the battle, 27 June. Fields of corn stood ripening in the fields, as it is reasonable to imagine they were then. The river meanders along wide and slow; now as then there are few trees to provide any kind of cover; it is a long, uphill approach of several miles under the fire of the guns on the far bank coming in from the left. Perfect country for cavalry, and the French opened their assault with a charge by the Maison du Roi (the equivalent of the Household Cavalry) on the allied left flank down by the river, where the 33rd amongst others was deployed, and were seen off after some hard fighting. "The 33rd faced the attack ... boldly, never giving way for an inch, and brought men and horses crashing down by their eternal rolling fire" says Fortescue.

I walked the path of the Allies' advance, keeping line on the river, a pleasant stroll in delightful countryside. It probably took two hours for the infantry to engage, (it took the Allies three to get into formation from the line of march), with cavalry skirmishes and charges to repulse, incoming cannon fire, and a great deal of confusion. The infantry was of little use except as a block until it got within fifty yards or so of an enemy to fire their rifles at, shortly afterwards, if all went well, taking to the bayonet. These troops had little or no battle experience yet they plodded on, regardless of all going on around them and the occasional casualty falling and being left where he lay, until they met, and overcame, the enemy. The infantry's "eternal rolling fire" again defeated the enemy, and he broke when engaged hand to hand. This is what we did best; the "eyeball battle", up close and personal.

The Outcome

120,000 men were engaged in this battle, 50,000 allies and 70,000 French. Casualties were surprisingly light; the French lost 8000 killed, and the allies under 1000 (the 33rd lost 30 killed and 80 wounded).



A local inn; it was closed so the significance of the name remains a mystery

Although a clear victory for the Allies there was no follow up, no exploitation. George led his victorious army to its Hanau base - rushing off himself back to England to receive the plaudits of the nation, and Grammont led his away from the battlefield. Strategically you might sum it up as a waste of everybody's time and 9000 lives, but it was, despite this, bravely done by all those on the ground at the time. The battle Honour "Dettingen" is well deserved by the 33rd. On the ground there is very little to show that a battle ever took place there.

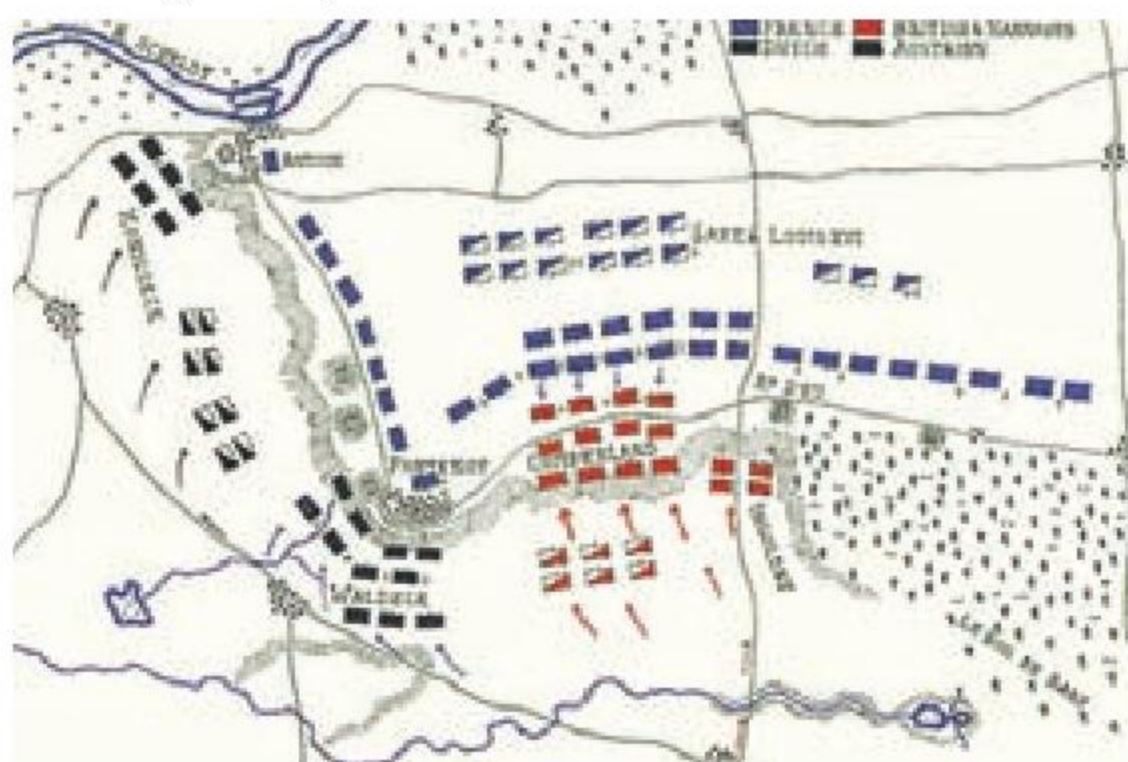
FONTENOY

Same war, different country.

Which is not the case at Fontenoy. After a stalemate of some two years the 1745 campaigning season began with the French laying siege to Tournai, a few miles east of Lille. The Duke of Cumberland, George II's second son, commanded the army of allies who supported the still, by the skin of her teeth, Empress of Austria. The siege stirred the allies into action, and around 47,000 men, with nearly 17,000 British, including the 33rd, set off to relieve the siege.

This is more traditional Flanders battle country - Bouvines (ID Spring 2011, page 31) is close at hand, Waterloo only down the road, and the great killing fields of WW1 are not far away. The French commander, Marshall Saxe, came out to meet the allies with 60,000 men, leaving enough to contain Tournai.

The right way to lose a battle



The Allies lost this battle. Unlike Dettingen, the ground is littered with memorials, both French and, in surprising number, Irish. The French held a ridge just outside the village, which commands a view over open ground for miles. There is a modern, walled cemetery just outside Fontenoy (a very quiet little agricultural village), and next to it a "sucrerie" (sugar beet processing plant), and these three lie along the line of the top of the ridge. In addition to the main ridge the French held some high ground on the allies' right flank, and a force sent to capture it failed to even reach the approaches to its objective due to the dithering and fearful leadership of Brigadier Ingoldsby of the 1st Foot Guards.



British Infantry line of assault

The allied infantry faced a steady, uphill slog under cannon fire. The Dutch, in the lead, came under withering fire and broke, streaming back through those behind. Cumberland placed himself at the head of the British contingent and advanced, with half a mile to cross, no cover and negligible artillery support. Advancing over their dead the ten British battalions, including the 33rd, reached the top of the ridge and confronted the French infantry. Their determined advance and again their "eternal rolling fire" broke the French front line, which scattered leaving the redcoats in possession of the centre of the battlefield. Fortescue wrote that "as an example of the prowess of British infantry, Fontenoy stands almost without parallel in history".

So far so good, but French superiority of numbers told. New troops were brought up by Saxe including regiments of Irish foot, who had been hiring themselves to the enemies of Britain since the Battle of the Boyne



in 1690. It was too much, and the British and rest of the allied army withdrew back down the hill and out of contact; 6300 killed and wounded (the 33rd lost 207), the French some 7000.

Memorials and mementos

There is a memorial to the Irish on the cemetery wall, "erected by Frank Sullivan of San Francisco USA", one to Colonel de Tallyrand and the officers and soldiers of the Normandy Regiment who fell here, and who perhaps faced the 33rd's bayonets, and a little way along a later French regiment pays homage to its antecedents.

The small road through the battlefield is named Rue de Bataille de Fontenoy; the café in the village centre is called the Café des Irlandais and a celtic cross just behind it commemorates their effective intervention; a



tricolour flies nearby. The plinth of the cross has an emblem of Dublin Castle and it has been restored by the Office of Public Works in Dublin. In the village the Union Jack flies with other flags. French villages never miss a trick when it comes to making the best of themselves to attract tourists.

If ever a Battle Honour was deserved, it was at Fontenoy. But who wants a defeat on their Colours?



The Fontenay Celtic Cross

ACCOUNT OF 33rd REGIMENT, WATERLOO

By Lt J A HOWARD

Copy of a letter from Lt J A Howard to the Commander in Chief: transcribed by Scott Flaving.

To His Royal Majesty The Commander in Chief.

The Memorial of James Arnott Howard reduced Lieutenant 33rd Regiment.

I humbly solicit permission to lay before your Royal Highness a few particulars regarding the different Services in which I have been with my late Regiment and extremely anxious to be restored to Full Pay.

I volunteered from the Nottingham Militia in April 1813 bringing into the Line a complement of 80 Men, 50 of whom came with me into the 33rd Regt to which Battalion I was appointed in June following and in July embarked for Stralsund since which period I have invariably been present with my Regt in Germany, Holland, Flanders and France, serving in the Light Company during the whole time and until the reduction of the supernumerary ranks. I have, on several occasions, acted as Adjutant to the Regt for many months together at the request of my different Commanding Officers, all of whom I've already confirmed will readily give your Royal Highness information respecting my conduct as an Officer.

I was with my Regt at the storming of Bergen Op Zoom, on which occasion I was wounded. I was also with my Regt at 'Les Quatre Bras', 16th June, 1815, when I was also slightly wounded, but was afterwards at the 'Battle of Waterloo' during a part of which day I acted as Adjutant and did that duty on our march and some time after we reached Paris, when, from the exertion and my wound, I was taken extremely ill.

In August, 1815 I purchased my Lieutenancy with the supposition that I should be retained on Full Pay.

I, however, unfortunately fell with the super-numeraries. I have also been extremely unfortunate in the promotion of Lieut Lynam over my head, through the recommendation of Lt Col Elphinstone when absent from the Regt and unacquainted with Lieut Forlong and myself being prepared to purchase. Had this not happened I should now be in the situation of Lieutenant Forlong.

I humbly trust from the unwearied and devoted attention of your Royal Highness to the service on all occasions that my situation may be most graciously taken into consideration in the event of any vacancy occurring in the 33rd Regt which may leave it in the power of your Royal Highness to restore me to Full Pay.

I further hope your Royal Highness will find the nature of my services such, together with my never having received any other promotion than my appointment (except by purchase) for the number of Men which I brought with me into the Line, that should any Lieutenant of the 33rd Regt wish to retire "Receiving the Regulated Difference" that I may be allowed to succeed him. Any recommendation your Royal Highness may deem necessary I may with the greatest confidence assert I can easily obtain from my late Commanding Officer.

I have the Honour to be, Your Royal Highness's
Most obedient humble servant
J A Howard, Late Lieut 33rd Regt

		£	s	d
1	Portmanteau	2	10	
6	Shirts	6	6	
2	Waistcoats £2/2 & 5 towels 10/-	2	12	6
7	Handkerchiefs and 4 cravats	3	17	
6 pr	Stockings		18	
2 pr	Boots	5		
2 pr	Shoes	1	1	
2	Linen shirts	2	10	
1	Regulation Sword £3/3, Sash £3/3, Swordknot 12/6	6	18	6
	Regimental Breast Plate	1	15	
1 pr	Overalls	2	12	
	Gloves	15	6	
	[illeg]		10	
2	Blankets	1	15	6
	Silver Hunting Watch	8	8	
	£15 money lost in the Portmanteau	15		
		62	11	6

Researching Military History

Scott Flaving offers some advice to those wanting to carry out research

What:

Individuals

Some records have to be requested by the subject of the record or their next of kin, if deceased, - ie post 1922 records held by Glasgow.

Units

Unit histories and War Diaries are generally held at the various Regimental Headquarters and/or the National Archives.

Campaigns

Military history books are the best source of information on the various wars and campaigns. A good place to start is to make a search at the British Library Catalogue at www.bl.uk. Most reference books cannot be lent out. Books can be requested online for perusal by appointment. Personal callers have to register online and then provide evidence of identity and residence in order to obtain a Readers Card. Certain books can be copied and posted. This costs money.

Battles

Most Regimental Headquarters will have information on the various battles the Regiment was involved in.

Where:

National Archives

For soldiers pre 1922. The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW1 4DU. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> Personal visitors to Kew need to take a 20 minute familiarisation course in order to obtain a Reader's Card. This can be arranged by appointment only.

Glasgow

For soldiers post 1921. PPPA, Historic Disclosures, Mailpoint 555, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX.

Military Museums

Mainly for artefacts. Most military museums are run by the relevant Regimental Headquarters. Internet list - AMOT - <http://www.armymuseums.org.uk/>

Regimental Headquarters/ Museums

Most Regiments have an Archive - some more detailed and accessible than others. Each RHQ holds a list of all the RHQs in UK. Your local one is: AHQ YORKS, Wellesley Park, Halifax, HX2 0BA. 01422 361671.

Libraries/Internet

Most libraries now provide basic internet access for research purposes.

How:

Internet

Go to ancestry.co.uk/ and then to Military Records for a full list of available records - of which there are too many to list here, some are free. Also try the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, <http://www.cwgc.org/> listing those who died in WW1 and WW2. The CWGC is currently being reorganised and their index digitalised. Documents, such as Medal Index cards and Reports, etc, can cost several pounds each to download via the Internet.

Telephone

RHQs and Museums mainly.

Post

The only way to access the MOD records (post 1922) through Glasgow.

Personal visits

The main way to access the National Archives collection, with the exception of various rolls

Appointed researchers

(ie medal rolls) now on the internet.

Regimental News

Opening of the new Dukes' Museum case

On Saturday 6 October one hundred or so people gathered at the Bankfield Museum, Halifax, to watch the Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale, Councillor John Hardy and Mrs Hardy, unveil the new Afghanistan case. The Dukes' section of the Museum is arranged chronologically in a series of display cases, with Northern Ireland, Bosnia and now Afghanistan being the last three in the sequence.



Brig Mundell introduces the proceedings.

Prior to the unveiling, the audience was fortunate to hear short presentations by soldiers of 3 YORKS (Duke of Wellington's) with personal experience of operations in that theatre. After an introduction by Brigadier Dick Mundell, Major Sam Humphris spoke of his tour there in 2009, commanding Burma Company in the battle casualty replacement role.



Major Sam Humphris



Capt Will Sutton

Next Captain Will Sutton, then a platoon commander, spoke of his experiences commanding "the luckiest platoon in Afghanistan". His men were shot at and in one case the bullet protruded through to the inside of the flak jacket but did not get far enough to wound the wearer; others were blown up yet emerged largely unscathed.

He was followed by former Corporal and now retired Andy Reid, who was very badly wounded by an IED,



Andy Reid



Cpl Reid on parade 9 July 2012

injuries which caused him to lose both legs and one arm. Andy Reid stood strongly on his prosthetic legs and with great good humour told us about his attempts to gain weight in order to be allowed to join the Army, and then of the incident in which he was wounded.

His determination to lead a full and active life and his general positive outlook have been an inspiration to us all. Many will remember the very moving moment at the medal parade in Warminster on 9 July 2012 when Andy managed to march off parade unaided.

Finally Major David Harrap closed the proceedings and led the Mayoral party to the unveiling, and once done it was open to the rest of the spectators.

The event reminded us what an excellent museum we have, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Museum Trustees, the Museum staff, and the continuing support of Calderdale Council.

Museum News By John Spencer

Recent Additions to Museum Exhibits.

The following items were donated to the museum during 2011-12. On behalf of the museum I would like to record our thanks to those who have generously contributed these items.

Sword, photographs and books relating to QMS J W Lister, 6DWR, 1914-25.

Army pay books, letters, telegrams, photographs and Chinese propaganda material relating to Private J S Beckett, 1DWR, wounded at the Battle of the Hook.

Framed memorial card and commemorative plaque relating to Private E W Wroe, 9DWR, killed in action 26/5/18.

Bayonet for US M1 Garand Rifle.

Army pay books, documents and cuttings relating to Private Victor Mottram, 1/7 DWR 1939-45.

Delhi Durbar certificate 1911, bible and photographs relating to Private W Redman, 1 DWR.

Kitbag and contents as issued to 3 Yorks on deployment to Afghanistan, 2012.

Mess Dress jacket worn by WO11 W Ashby, DWR.

Regimental watch fob worn by Corporal Butterfield, DWR, 1914-1918.



Mayor and Mayoress at the new case

The Mohmand League Cup.

2 DWR had been stationed in India since 1928 and in March 1934 was posted to Nowshera in the North West Frontier Province. The Nowshera Brigade was commanded by Brigadier H R L G Alexander CSI DSO (later Field Marshal Lord Alexander of Tunis) and included the 3/2nd and 2/15th Punjabi Regiments and the 4th Mountain Artillery Battery.



Mohmand Cup

In February 1935 the Brigade, reinforced by 5/12th Frontier Force Regiment (The Guides) took the field against the Fakir of Alingar, a Pathan leading an insurrection against the Raj in the Malakand Agency. The aim was to establish a permanent outpost at Loe Agra. After initially securing the position, building a supply road and returning to base, the Brigade was forced to repeat its movements when the Fakir's forces routed the local militia garrison. By May 10 the second Loe Agra Operation was successfully concluded and the enemy dispersed.

These 4 months of Frontier warfare gave 2DWR and

its CO Lieutenant Colonel M M Cox MC valuable experience which was soon to be called upon again. In August Mohmand tribesmen began to demolish the strategic road which ran from Peshawar through the Gandab Valley. Mohmand Force, consisting of the Peshawar Brigade, the Nowshera Brigade and the 3rd Infantry Brigade moved out to counter the threat. As before, 2DWR were faced with the task of road building and repair in addition to the rigours of mountain warfare.

Brigadier Alexander reported that the battalion were: 'Keen and efficient in all departments of soldiering. Good at all games...a Battalion always ready to help and pull their weight at anything and anytime, with the consequence that they are immensely popular with the other Indian units in this Brigade.'

Once again, the enemy were dispersed and a Jirga held at which the Mohmands agreed to accept the British terms unconditionally. These events are described in the 'Iron Dukes' of 1935 and 1936, as is another effect of the operations. The sporting notes record that 2 DWR's company Association Football teams were performing well, but so far as the battalion team was concerned: "as the battalion has been out on training or on 'wars' nearly all the time since the beginning of the year, we have had no chances at all".

But Brigadier Alexander's comment that 2DWR were

good at games is borne out by the account of Major-General R K Exham, who served as adjutant:

"A memento of this exists in our Regimental Museum in the shape of the Mohmand Force Football cup. This was presented by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Alexander, and was competed for, in an inter-company competition, by all units in the camp. It was won by our 'HQ Wing'. It was made by the 5th Field Company KGO, Sappers and Miners, out of kerosene tins and is decorated with a wreath of barbed wire. The 'field' on which the games were played was well within the ring of camp piquets. In spite of this, during one of the early rounds, the tribesmen managed to get within close range and opened fire on the players who left the ground hurriedly - all except one keen sportsman. He remained behind and scored a goal. However, the referee having taken to his heels, this was disallowed."

The cup remains in the museum collection-one of the very few artefacts from this period of the Regiment's history.

The winning team:

Cpl W Grant, Cpl G Mason, Cpl P Stafford, L/Cpl E Nicholson, L/Cpl F Pratt, Dr E Grocock, Pte E Driver, Pte G Callaghan, Pte J Hough, Pte J Johnson, Pte W Marlow.

Shoulder to shoulder



With the prospect of further amalgamation next year it seemed worthwhile to see how often our Yorkshire Regiments have served shoulder to shoulder with each other in the past. The following is drawn from a quick review of the PWO (effectively East and West Yorks), Green Howards and Duke of Wellington's Regiments' Battle Honours.

In the early years there are no shared Honours, although the East Yorkshires took part in Marlborough's Blenheim to Malplaquet campaign, as the 33rd had in his sieges along the Meuse some 18 months earlier. The West Yorkshires served in the Peninsular under Wellington, and share Corunna with the Dukes, as they do Waterloo. The Green Howards, West Yorks and Dukes all fought together in the Crimea, although the 14th seem to have turned up late as only Sevastopol was awarded, whilst the others have Alma and Inkerman as well.

The West Yorkshires, Green Howards and Duke of Wellington's all served in South Africa, and all have

South Africa 1899-1902 or 1900-1902, whilst the first and last named also have Relief of Kimberley and Paardeburg. In WW1 the Dukes share Marne with the West Yorks, Ypres 1914, 15, 17, Somme 1916,'18, Arras 1917,'18, Cambrai, and the Landing at Suvla with both Green Howards and one or other of the West or East Yorks, and Lys with the West Yorks.

The Green Howards were at Dunkirk with the Dukes in 1940, and although specific WW2 Honours vary, all the Regiments had battalions landing in Normandy and shared much of the fighting through France, Belgium and Holland to the Rhine. The Green Howards also served in North Africa, and share Anzio with the Dukes. The East Yorkshires share Burma and Sittang with the Dukes.

All in all the Dukes share 21 Battle Honours with either the Green Howards, the Prince of Wales's Own antecedents, or with both. It seems a reasonable basis for getting along together now.

The 3 YORKS Military Wives' Choir

Some months ago the Regimental Trustees were asked to give a modest sum to support the activities of a military wives' choir which would be formed during the Battalion's current operational tour. The request was granted and nothing more was heard.

Out of the blue came an email with an invitation to attend the reception in the State Rooms, Speaker's House, House of Commons, on Tuesday 23rd September at which the Military Wives' Choir of 3 YORKS would sing. Despite having only 48 hours notice, this was something not to be missed.

The host was Dan Jarvis MP, Member for Barnsley Central. The State Room was fully grand enough for such an occasion and is lined with life-sized portraits of former holders of the office of Speaker, and the presence of senior parliamentarians such as two former Defence Secretaries Tom King and Bob Ainslie, as well as David Blunkett and guide dog, three ministers from the MOD including Minister for International Security Strategy Dr Andrew Murrison, and a good number of West and South Yorkshire MPs. The Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment, Major General Graham Binns CBE, DSO MC, and a number of retired and some serving members of the Regiment also attended, with friends and relations of the singers.

After a welcome from Dan Jarvis the Choir (more correctly that of Warminster Garrison and not just 3 YORKS) sang - fans of Gareth Malone's TV programmes, where he creates a choir from scratch in various organisations, will already be familiar with what can be done in remarkably little time if choirmaster and choir members are dedicated to their task. The audience was thrilled by this performance. No-one is less well

qualified than myself to write a musical critique - so far as I, and surely everyone in that room, was concerned, the six song performance was superb, uplifting and moving. Huge congratulations to all concerned.



Interspersing the singing a few words were said by various people including Minister Andrew Murrison, and General Binns. Sarah Stenning spoke briefly, and expressed her thanks to all the girls in choir. Full recognition was given to the love and support that the wives have given their men in Afghanistan during a particularly tough tour; perhaps there was not enough recognition of how tough it has been for the wives themselves and how incredibly well, as this performance showed, they have coped.



Looking over the audience's heads in the Speaker's State Room



When all the boys are home no doubt there will be an occasion when this choir sings to them. I hope the roof of whatever building that happens in is firmly attached.

Corporal Andy Reid's Book

Corporal Andy Reid, of Burma Company 3 Yorks, lost both legs and an arm to a Taliban bomb when serving with the Rifles battle group in Afghanistan in October 2009. He was evacuated back to Selly Oak Hospital where it was not thought likely he would survive. However, survive he did and through great courage and strength of will he was able to attend the 3rd Battalion Remembrance Day parade less than a month after his injury. He then went on to win the Sun's Millie Award for triumph over adversity, go on a world cruise, go sky diving, ride a motorbike from Land's End to John O'Groats, become an Army Benevolent Fund ambassador, establish a new career as a motivational speaker and charity fund raiser, marry and now he and his wife Claire are expecting their first child. In between doing all this he has found time to write an account of his extraordinary experiences and the book, entitled 'Standing Tall', will be published early next year by John Blake. Copies can be ordered through Andy's website: www.Andyread.org.



Andy gets on his bike

The Signal Platoon Cadre in 1962 Brigadier Michael Bray, RSO 1961-1963

The Spring Journal displayed a photograph, which the Editor found in his bottom drawer, of the Signal Platoon Cadre in 1962 in Catterick. As the RSO shown, together with Sgt Derek Battye, Cpls Lawrence, Turner and Coll and our two Fijians, Waqabaqa and Ponijiasi, and others,



The 1962 Signal Platoon cadre

I write to contribute some reminiscences of that time.

We spent much of our time practising skywave communications with our 62 sets, deploying detachments around the country and sharpening up our morse skills. Signalling in those days required great skill. I presume that now you just switch on and talk. Part of the skill was constructing suitable aerials from cable and getting them up to the right height, which sometimes required ingenuity.

One day in the barracks at Catterick we were contemplating whether a cricket ball with string attached could be thrown over a barrack block to haul up our cable, when along came Major Denis Shuttleworth, a renowned cricketer. We invited him to throw the ball over the block and he smartly put it through a second floor window! Waqa solved the problem with an inert energia grenade, which did the job a treat.

It was long before the days of mobile phones and we ran an enjoyable exercise by sending a detachment to the Dukes TA annual camp, putting detachments in the West Riding drill halls and producing a service allowing the deployed soldiers to send messages home to their families. This went well until the Daily Express had a front page photo of a girl in Huddersfield being proposed to over our link by her man at camp. At this stage our CO got a major rocket from the MOD because it appeared that we were infringing the Post Office's monopoly on communications.

The TA CO was Colonel Morland whose company produced a biscuit called Morland's Munch, after which our exercise was named. I was sent for by Colonel Barry Kavanagh, our CO, who roared with laughter and said that we had better un-Munch Munch. A CO with broad shoulders, who protects his young officers when their crimes are honourable, is a great asset.

We were in the process of changing over from National Service to Regular and I remember the RSM saying that we would never match the intelligent young National Servicemen in the Signal Platoon for effectiveness with our volunteers. A couple of years later, he had the grace to admit that we had. The experience, continuity and enthusiasm of the Regular compensated for any initial lack of intellectual agility.

Incidentally, we had a Platoon club with its own premises, which were recreated when we moved to Germany, and evolved into the Battalion Sports Club which has flourished ever since.

1 DWR Signals Platoon 1951/52.

Ian Warrington wrote to the ID enclosing a notice from the Daily Telegraph of 14 June 2012 which announced a reunion lunch of "The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Class of 1951/52 Signals Platoon, held on 10 June at the Punchbowl Inn, Marton-cum-Grafton. Dr JM Reddington, Regimental Signals Officer 1951/52, was the guest of honour". Dr Reddington, who now lives in Australia, also attended the Officers' Dinner at RMA Sandhurst in 2009.

With the exception of Lt Reddington, the platoon sergeant and two corporals all the members of the

platoon were all National Servicemen, and some played in the rugby, hockey and cricket teams, serving in Chiseldon and Minden, Germany. For a number of years former members of the platoon who could be contacted have met annually for lunch in or around York. Photo Warrington 5. Caption "From left, Alan Hirst, John Reddington, Ian Warrington, David Benson, Bob Dawson, Ian Edwards, Brian Evans, Paul Busby, Roddy Barnes, Steve King.

Ian Warrington suggests that it must be unique for a group of ex National Service soldiers from the same platoon to still be meeting socially sixty years later, and he may well be right. Unless a reader knows different?

There seems to be something about signals platoons which makes them stay in touch after their service; this Journal receives more news from ex signal platoon members than from any other element of the Dukes' battalions.



Korean Veterans, from Left Dr John Reddington, General Sir Charles Hustable and Col Peter Mitchell



The Dukes rugby team 1951. Warrington is second from left back rank, and Barnes second from left front rank, and on his left well know Duke's rugby players Hardy, Cowell (with ball), Shuttleworth and Hoppe.



From left, Alan Hirst, John Reddington, Ian Warrington, David Benson, Bob Dawson, Ian Edwards, Brian Evans, Paul Busby, Roddy Barnes, Steve King

A SAILING MEMOIRE By Brigadier Michael Bray

In June 1965 I went from Osnabruck to Kiel to take part in a four day 2 Division passage race in a 32foot Danboat. With me were Corporal Paul Taylor of the Signal Platoon, Lance Corporal Bowes of the Int Section and Private Bob Heron of the Orderly Room. Since two of these three are prominent members of the Dukes today, I thought a couple of extracts from my log of the time might amuse readers.

"Day 4. Heron, whose first ever sail this was, took over the helm and seemed to have got the idea of sailing close-hauled so well that I left him to it. Considering that I had given him very little instruction on how to sail to windward, he put up a remarkable performance. He helmed throughout the night for a good many hours and it was not until later that I realised that during the 21

hours we were at sea he had only been below once and that was to get a pair of trousers! We were much helped by an excellent curry meal produced by Taylor and Bowes. Without Taylor the producers of curry powder would go broke and without Heron the manufacturers of compo sweets would be on half pay."

"Day 5.....Success having gone to the head of our expert helmsman of the night before, he put us about accidentally which caused some surprises down below, where the skipper was preparing an evening meal. An unusual amount of vinegar found its way into the corned beef, which did not meet with the crews approval!"

How nice to find that 46 years later three of us were still in "action" together on the 2011 Battlefield Tour. Anyone know what happened to Bowes?

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 the Keighley TA Centre. *Secretary:* Mr David Connor, 144 Whitehead Lane, Keighley BD22 6LU

London: 12 noon at the Union Jack Club; Sunday, 13 January; Saturday 13 April (joint with PWO Association); Sunday 16 June; Sunday 15 Sept (AGM). *Secretary:* John Greenway, 35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7AT. Tel: 01252 514786. E.mail: jbkgandjpg@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.

SKIPTON BRANCH NOTES Report by Mary Bell

On Saturday the 9th June 2012 we held our annual Waterloo Dinner at Skipton Golf

Club. The chief guest was Colonel G Kilburn and his wife Penny who gave us a short speech about his time with the Dukes. The evening was enjoyed by all. The entertainment was provided by Liam Rowbottom, an illusionist, which went down well. The rest of the night was taken up by our annual raffle and just getting down to talking and drinking.

The following week was Armed Forces Day in Skipton, on 16th June and the Branch took part in the activities as well as the parade. Charlie (Cuth) Battersby

(see obituaries) an old Duke received the Armed Forces flag, but the council wanted it back, so they could fly it all week.

On the 23rd of June we received an invitation from the Mayor of Scarborough to attend their Armed Forces Day. So armed with sun cream and brollies we were covered for ever kind of weather, but brollies were not needed until the Parade was taking the final salute by this time it was too late for brollies. There were 19 members from the Branch went with a stop off in York for supper.

Then on the 30th June it was Armed Forces day in



**Skipton
Dinner**

Halifax a group of 10 went and we enjoyed ourselves. We attended the Parade, the Salute in Piece Hall, then a Service in Halifax Minster, then the rest of the day was spent enjoying ourselves, with a stop off once again for tea.

On the 15th Aug a few members of the Branch joined together with a Japanese prison of war at the Memorial in Skipton for a short service to celebrate V J day.

9 DWR 65th Reunion

Annual (65th and Final) Reunion of 9 DWR (146 Regt RAC)

Report by Brigadier John Greenway.

In September 2012 Tom Moore wrote: "When we

started our first Reunion in 1947 no-one thought of the time when it would come to an end; time does not come into the equation when you are 20 years old. The attendance at the first reunion was 165; this number has of course diminished over the years and we are now left with only 3 ex-Dukes. In this year the 65th reunion would seem to be the perfect cut off. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the family and friends of the 9th Battalion for all the support you have given me through the years. I sincerely hope to see you again this year."

So it was that, led for the final time, by Tom Moore seventeen people gathered for lunch at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Leeds on 2 October 2012 to mark this auspicious occasion. Tom, now in his



**Tom Moore is
seated to the
right of
Brigadier
Mundell**



Tom Moore, Mrs Wendy Storey (daughter of late CSM Gary Hall) and Tom Dickson.

nineties, ably and charmingly supported by his daughters Lucy and Hannah, took the chair and, representing Captain Tom Dickson, who was accompanied by his wife, Rosemary, and daughter, Elizabeth, spoke generously of their guests and gave the Loyal Toast. Mrs Wendy Storey, accompanied by her husband, son and sister, spoke on behalf of her late father, WO2 Gary Hall, who had been a stalwart member of the Regiment and of many of these reunions, and unveiled a commemorative cake.

Brigadier Dick Mundell responded for the guests and commended Tom Moore and Tom Dickson on their loyal fortitude over the years.

Major David Harrap spoke of Tom's service. Tom was born and brought up in Keighley going to Keighley Grammar School before completing an apprenticeship as a civil engineer. He enlisted in 8 DWR (145 RAC) at the beginning of the war and in 1940 was selected for officer training after which he was posted, via the Depot at Halifax, to 9 DWR in India. He served and fought with them on the Arakan and then went with the Regiment to Sumatra after the Japanese surrender. On return to England he was an instructor at the Armoured Fighting Vehicle School in Bovington. On return to civilian life he returned to his trade as a civil engineer working first in his family building business and finally finishing his career as managing director of a concrete products company.

Brigadier John Greenway read out the citation of 15 November 1946 (see below), by Major General RCO Hedley DSO, Commander 26 Indian Division, which had been earned by A Squadron, 146 Regiment Royal Armoured Corps (Duke of Wellington's) in the Arakan and Sumatra.

Also attending was Judith Greenway, Scott Flaving from HQ Yorkshire Regiment and Richard Harvey.

Special 26 Indian Division Routine Order

15 November 1946

A SQUADRON 146th REGIMENT ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS (DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

After having served with the 26th Indian Division for two years, you are now about to return to India to rejoin your Regiment.

You fought with this Division in the Arakan, and particularly distinguished yourselves at Kyaukpu, Letpan and Taungup. It was during this time that a real feeling of mutual trust was engendered.

Subsequently you came to Medan in December 1945, and you have served here under difficult and often dangerous conditions. There have been many calls made on you; you have answered them all cheerfully, willingly and efficiently. Your help has been invaluable.

Apart from your outstanding operational efficiency, you have built up your Squadron a most enviable reputation for your very high standards of discipline, smartness and turnout. You have a record of which you may well be proud, and you have proved yourselves to be worthy sons of your famous Regiment, the Duke of Wellington's. I am proud to have had you serving under my command.

I thank you most sincerely for the fine services which you have rendered, and wish you all the very best of good fortune in the future.

Signed RCO Hedley,
Maj General, Commanding 26 Indian Division

The London lunch for officers and their families

The lunch next year will take place on Saturday 23rd March 2013 at the East India Club in St James's Square, London. All officers, wives, partners, sons and daughters are welcome to attend. It is being held next year on a Saturday so that working people can more easily attend.

If you wish to attend, or be provided with details with a view to deciding later, please get in touch with Michael Bray on mbray@hotmail.com or by post to Hill House, Hillhouse Lane, Rudgwick, West Sussex, RH12 3BD.

London Branch members were very pleased to hear that long standing member and former Chairman of the Branch had accepted a place at the Royal Hospital. His new address is in the list below.



Mr Fred Richardson

LETTERS

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

Dear Sir,

As a collector of "Wellingtonia" for nearly seventy years, I have had, hanging on the outside wall of our house, a cast-iron plaque commemorating the "Great Duke".

On the morning that the possible "axing" of the 3rd. Bn., The Yorkshire Regt.(Duke of Wellingtons) was

announced, I found that the plaque had fallen from the wall, sustaining minor damage.

The plaque can be repaired, but can the same be said of the damage to the Armed Forces?

Yours Faithfully, Elizabeth
Diacon. Warminster.



From ex Private A Hitchen 6 Platoon, B Company 1951 - 1953

I have a bar at home to remember all my friends in Korea. I thought I would send you this photograph, once a Duke always a Duke so they say. My bar is named The Iron Duke, never to forget.

Obituaries

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

John Stacpoole (Dom Alberic Stacpoole)

John Stacpoole was born on 19 April 1931 and died on 30 September 2012. He was the Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander in 1 DWR on the Hook in Korea, with the task of wiring all the sides of the battalion's defensive position, and was wounded and awarded the MC. The citation included "...the Assault Pioneers worked continuously on mining, wiring and bunker construction. Much of this work was done at great personal risk and often under fire. He and his platoon earned the admiration and confidence of everyone in the forward companies".

He also served with the Parachute Regiment, and hunted EOKA terrorists in Cyprus and landed in Egypt with 2 PARA during the Suez crisis. He was ADC to Major General Ken Exham (former wartime CO of both 1/7 DWR and 1/6 DWR, and GOC Nigeria District when Stacpoole was his ADC).

On leaving the Army he joined Ampleforth College where he took the name of Alberic Stacpoole, earned a

First at St Benet's Hall Oxford, and served both as parish priest and housemaster at Ampleforth. John Stacpoole had eclectic interests, wrote on many topics, and his interest in military matters continued throughout his life. He was a frequent correspondent to the papers, and to the Iron Duke, peppering the editor of the day with newspaper cuttings and comments, some on serious matters and some little more than fascinating gossip. He was a regular attender of battle field tours.

In Pensioner Sidney Edward Saunderson

Sid was born in Liverpool on 22 November 1924, and there he enlisted into the King's Regiment on 13 August 1942. After basic training at Formby he joined his battalion at Westerham. Later he was transferred to the 2 DWR in India in 23 Independent Brigade, and he served with the Chindits in Burma.

In 1947 he caught malaria and was hospitalised, returning to the UK for treatment and convalescence, and was discharged in August. He re-enlisted in 1950,



**Sid Saunderson in his scarlets
at a London Branch function in 2011**

and was posted to The East Yorkshire Regiment in Germany, then to the Duke's Depot in Halifax, and finally moved with 1 DWR to Minden. He was discharged in 1953.

After Army service he became a nurse at the Brency Hospital for the physically and mentally handicapped until 1969, then he was a petrol station attendant until he finally retired in 1998. He joined the Royal Hospital as an In Pensioner on 14 June 2004; he was a Gate Constable, and took full advantage of the many activities and excursions on offer, including three trips to Guernsey for the Annual Liberation Celebrations.

He attended a number of Dukes events, including some London Branch meetings and the annual dinner dance - he was a keen dancer and a regular at the Chelsea Pensioners' dance evenings, always immaculately turned out in his white tuxedo - and he was at the Yorkshire Regiment's presentation of New Colours in York in June 2010.

He died on 11 August 2012 at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. His funeral service was held in All Saints Chapel, The Royal Hospital on 29 August 2012, and was attended by Brig John Greenway, Lt Col Tim Nicholson and Maj Bob Heron, with family members and many comrades from the Royal Hospital.

WOII Gordon Keith "Duke" Lawrence

Gordon "Duke" Lawrence died on 6 June 2012 in Trinity Hospice, Clapham, aged 71. During his service with the 1st Battalion he had been an active and successful soldier, with the huge enthusiasm for His Regiment which earned him his nickname. He served as Company Sergeant Major of Corunna, Somme and Hook Companies in the seventies, by which time his enthusiasm for football had earned him the second nickname of "Brian Clough".

However, he largely cut himself off from the Regiment on leaving the army. Working in London in 1992, he almost became Secretary of the London Branch of the Regimental Association, but a change of job prevented him from continuing as planned. He

returned to the Branch at the Regimental Plot at Westminster Abbey on Remembrance Sunday 2011, (ID No 272). He told us then that he had been away in the Far East for five years and that he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

His first wife, Rose, with their five children and several grandchildren accompanied his widow, Ester, and a number of friends and work colleagues at a moving Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on 22 June 2012. John Greenway, with Judith, represented the Regiment and the London Branch of the Regimental Association.

Charlie (Cuth) Battersby

Cuth Battersby was born at Crossley Place Skipton in 1919, one of four children. He attended St Stephen's Catholic School until he left aged 16. He worked in an ironmonger's shop and then in the local foundry. He obtained a job in the stone quarry and started work on the railway.

He joined the Territorials in 1938 and was called up in 1939 and joined 1/6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (1/6 DWR). He was billeted first in Skipton, then Catterick and then Malton. The Regiment was moved north to Scotland and embarked for Norway but never got there as the allies were pushed out of Narvik by the Germans. On a new ship they sailed for Iceland in May 1940 and stayed there for two years. (Editor's note; the later exploits of this Battalion are described earlier in this Journal by Lt Col Wilsey and Sergeant Downs.) He volunteered as a glider pilot and rear gunner through boredom, but all lists were full.

1/6 DWR came back to England in late 1942, first to Pontypool in South Wales where he transferred to the Royal Engineers, and trained at Longmore in Hampshire in a specialist railway construction unit. In 1944 he was given invasion money at Petersfield in Hampshire to use in France. Shortly after D Day the unit embarked at Newhaven for France, landing at Bordeaux.

His unit moved rapidly up to St Lo in Northern France, not far from Caen, where they worked repairing railways. The next moves were to Lisieux and Bernay (where Rommel was treated in the local hospital after being strafed by Typhoons whilst in his car). Cuth went on to Lille and Antwerp before crossing the Scheldt, which he described as a momentous occasion. His service took him to Krefeld, then Bochum, Duisberg and Dusseldorf, then down the Rhine to Mannheim repairing supply lines as they went. He worked his way back up the Rhine to Munster, staying at the Leea Monastery and the U boat pens at Emsden.

While repairing the railway lines Cuth had to use a mine detector to discover booby traps left by the Germans. It was not an easy job as the areas were covered in scrap metal. After one such job the next day a mine exploded where he had been working; no soldiers were lost but the first wagon which had been pushed by the engine for safety was blown up.

After VE Day he was moved to Brussels and spent time in the Albert Hotel near the famous Mannekin Pis (peeing boy) statue. As he was one of the longest

serving soldiers he was one of those allowed to leave first. He was shipped from Hamburg to Dover and demobbed in York.

Cuth died on 25 July 2012.

Lt Col AWR (Bill) Brook



**AWR
Brook**

Bill Brook served in the Territorial Army from 1939 to 1980. He was gazetted on 4 January 1939 as 2Lt in 43rd AA battalion (5 DWR). His Company (370) was initially deployed in various locations around Yorkshire. As well as their search lights each detachment was equipped with a Lewis Gun. In July 1940 his lights illuminated one enemy plane which dropped HE and incendiary bombs, and later he found an unexploded bomb, which was duly reported to the police and a constable was sent to watch over the hole. It exploded five hours later, although happily the policeman was uninjured.

1942 found him promoted Captain in 372 Battery

protecting Hull docks, then he crossed the Humber into Lincolnshire, was later deployed to the Kent coast around Folkestone, finally returning to Lincolnshire in September. Bill Brook's service continued around the country, and in 1944 he was posted to 2nd Searchlight Regiment and had to exchange his DWR cap badge for a Royal Artillery one.

In November 1944 a convoy of the Battery's searchlight vehicles under his command embarked at Tilbury and after a few days at sea disembarked on the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches. From there, in convoy, they travelled through France, Belgium and Holland and deployed on the north side of the Scheldt, from where they could see the launches from North Beveland of the V2 rockets on their way to London.

On New Year's Day 1945 the Luftwaffe attacked Antwerp and one of the searchlight detachments took a shot down pilot as prisoner. After posting to 356 Independent Searchlight Battery he took part in the crossing of the Rhine, providing artificial moonlight for the assault and bridge building. His unit was engaged in a variety of tasks in Germany, including illuminating a large PoW camp on Luneberg Heath. When the war ended many officers were posted home and he became Battery Commander, and then was himself demobbed at Strensall in March 1946, and at once transferred to the TA. He was promoted Lt Col in September 1955. He regularly attended 5 DWR Officers' Dinners and Old Comrades' functions.

Bill Brooks was a Huddersfield man and worked in the textile industry, eventually forming his own company. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Association HQ has been notified of the following deaths

Lt Col W D (Dave) Camage

Dave was a short service officer in the Dukes in the 1950's, in Gibraltar, following time spent as a National Service officer in the Sussex Regiment. He retired in December 1957 and in 1958 became a member of the Northern Rhodesia Police, where he ended up in Special Branch. Dave died in April 2012.

Ernest Smith

Ernest Smith, from Northallerton, died on 20 December 2011, aged 87. Ernest joined the 6th Battalion of the Dukes in 1942 and served until 1944. His time with the Dukes was followed by 37 years service in the North Riding Ambulance Service.

Mrs Sheila Sargeant

Sheila, the wife of former WO1 John Edward Sargeant, died on the 27 July 2012, at the age of 81. Sheila and John married in 1951 and had 61 happy years together. Sheila followed John throughout his Army service and she will be remembered by many Dukes and families during that time. Sheila will also be remembered, as with John, as a very keen supporter of the Dukes Association, particularly in York. Sheila and John had two children, Susan and John, and three grandchildren.

Robert Kendall

Robert Kendall, who was a member of 3 Platoon, A Company, in Korea 1952/53, died from cancer in May 2012.

Brian Tomkinson

Brian Tomkinson, who was a member of 10 Platoon, D Company, in Korea, died in November 2011, at the age of 79.

Peter Fearnley

Peter, who was a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion in 1955/56 and served in Gibraltar and Chiseldon, died on 14 April 2012, at the age of 78.

Terrence John (Rocky) Rochelle

Rocky Rochelle enlisted as a junior bandsman at Strensall in 1960. He joined the 1st Battalion Band in Catterick in 1963 and went on to serve in Osnabruck, Gillingham and Hong Kong before being discharged in Catterick in 1972. Rocky died on the 30 March 2012, at the age of 66.

Mrs Gail Goddard

Gail, the wife of former WO1 Tony (Tosh) Goddard, died on 20 August 2012.

The Future of the Iron Duke

The President writes at the beginning this edition of the reduction on The Yorkshire Regiment from 3 to 2 battalions, and the loss of antecedent regimental titles from those battalions. This severs the current formal link between our Association and 3 YORKS: we have every reason to hope that in practice good relations will continue to exist and that for some time 3 YORKS will in essence and spirit be a West Riding battalion. Yet the Dukes' name and the linkage will be gone. We currently have around 500 individual subscribers.

There are many implications but the one I as Editor of this journal need to get your views on is - what are we going to do with the Iron Duke? I must stress that any views on what is happening that are expressed here are my own and certainly not "official" or "approved".

Around half of the content of our journal is made up of reports from the Battalion. As we will no longer be linked to a battalion, this, in its current form, may no longer be appropriate. Both The Yorkshire Regiment's regular battalions and one TA Battalion will no doubt continue to write their reports, and these will appear in the Yorkshire Regiment Journal. With a fair wind from The Yorkshire Regiment it might be possible to produce some sort of synopsis of these reports for a new look Iron Duke, although the news will be somewhat out of date.

The Association will of course continue, and whilst the number of active members is dwindling rapidly (those who regularly attend branch activities and other events and keep in touch) there are many who still care deeply for our old Regiment and would wish to receive some kind of regular communication. I am informed that there is no appetite amongst most of our members to embrace the necessary change that has been imposed upon us and become one with The Yorkshire Regiment Association.

We must face the reality of our situation though; if we

are to become no more than an old boys' club whose members will over time fade away, having little or no interest in those who, under new titles, carry the Colours with our former Regiment's Battle Honours on them, then we will be something very different to what we are now. I would guess that the Trustees would, for a while, continue to provide financial support for a journal or similar publication.

It seems to me that we have a number of options, and I invite your views.

1. Subject to successful negotiation with The Yorkshire Regiment on space and branding, fold the Iron Duke into the Yorkshire Regiment Journal. We should thus keep the battalion reports, and would have room to put some of our own historical articles and Association news. Whether The Yorkshire Regiment would entertain this we do not know, and perhaps it depends if PWO and Green Howards will consider the same solution, but it is surely an option. A strong feeling of "belonging to" a Regiment in the order of battle would continue, and some think that important. The cost to the individual subscriber at present rates would be the same.
2. Continue the Iron Duke as close to the way it is now as is possible, with reduced Yorkshire Regiment input. Whilst our history sources are extensive it is already hard to find content for the "Association News" section and this won't get any easier, and finding people to write articles is never simple. The ID will continue, but fade with the Association.
3. Encourage our Association Members to get the YR Journal for 1,2 and 4 Yorks input and produce a reduced ID, probably in a more economical format, with historical and association content only.

Let me know what you think to t.nicholson@btinternet.com.

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**The 3 YORKS and Warminster Garrison Military Wives' Choir, in performance
at the Houses of Parliament on 23 September 2012**



Warrior on Op DAAS 2wc