

THE IRON DUKE

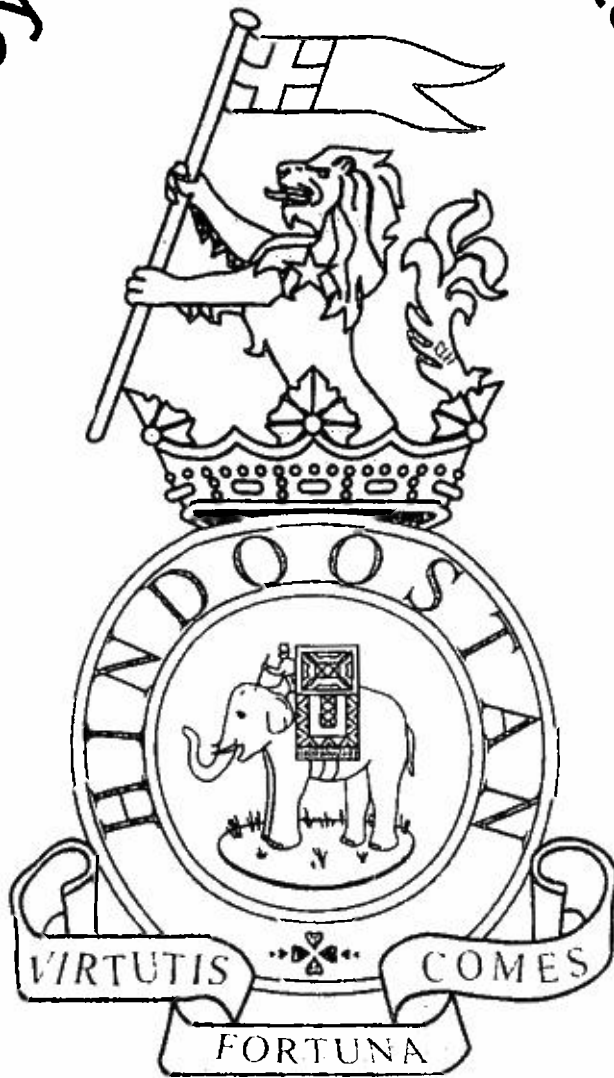
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- Association News, letters and obituaries



Colour Party Royal Salute for the arrival of HRH The Duke of York 25 July 2013

Digitised by The Regimental Archives





The Dukes London Group Golf Day at Bearwood Lakes GC

Left to right in the photograph (ranks for those serving) – Capt Luke Mason CGC, Rob Douglas, Capt Chris Ibbotson LANCS, Tim Nicholson, Capt Ian Martin, Rob Taylor, Mark Crawford, Maj Dan Holloway (organiser), Gary Knight, Stewart Dickson, Toby Smart, WO2 Jason Hopkinson, Liam McCormick, Maj Nick Wilson and CSgt Mark Lambert.

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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Editorial

Our Regiment no longer has a regular battalion to call its own, which is matter of great regret to many of our veterans, but is something we will have to learn to live with. Having been fortunate enough to spend an evening recently with the officers of 1 YORKS (3 YORKS (DWR) as was until July last) I can report that, apart from the green waistcoats that go with mess kit these days, not much seemed to be different. The young officers were cheerful and friendly, the few soldiers that we came across (drivers, regimental policemen/sentries on the gate and so on) were extremely smart and courteous, and a jolly evening was had by all. As ever was.

There was no singing though, at least not before the (comparatively) early leavers had gone: certainly no “coming up the hill”, nor “My girl’s a Yorkshire girl” nor “Ilkla’ Moor”. There was no band either, of course, although two side drummers and a bass drummer under the watchful eye of the Drum Major, gave an excellent show, rousingly loud.

As an aside, it was one of the delightful things about our former Depot at Strensall that not only was there a junior musicians’ school there permanently, but fairly frequently drum and even North Irish pipe cadres took place, making mess nights real musical extravaganzas. We sang a medley of Yorkshire and Lancashire songs; it has always seemed to me that singing in the Messes is a good thing. Us oldies, who served in a bigger and usually less stressed Army, were very lucky in many ways.

I learned from the responses to my mini survey on the future of the Iron Duke that there are many opinions on

how we should now take our Association forward, in these new and, let’s face it, somewhat unwelcome circumstances. The loss of names and the recent mergers are done and dusted now, and we need to move on, with fresh ideas and plans for the Association’s future. We will get little help from outside our own membership and resources; if we are to maintain our events, branches, communications, archives, museum, and anything else we have become accustomed to and wish to keep, then we must see to it ourselves. The President and his Trustees will need some help; don’t hang back if a call comes your way.

We have a new President, who introduces himself and his thoughts on the way forward for our Association below. The outgoing President, Colonel Nick Borwell, has had the unenviable task of leading us through a period when everything was stacked against any kind of acceptable outcome; the Dukes name was going to be dropped, our link to a regular battalion removed, resources to manage our affairs became tighter and tighter, and there was nothing substantive that we could do about it. We are grateful for his efforts on our behalf at this impossible time.

The changes to the front cover will have shocked some and the Editor has prepared a secret bunker where he can hide until the flak dies down. Traditionalists can be assured that if there is a loud enough outcry of protest we can revert! But things have changed, and I feel we should mark that in some clearly visible way. Other than as noted below, the Journal will continue as now for a while.

NEW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Brigadier Andrew Meek has taken over as President of the Duke of Wellington’s Regimental Association. He writes:

In October I was asked to take over the role of President of the Regimental Association from Colonel Nick Bowell, a request which I accepted without a moment’s hesitation. The future of the Association (and specifically how it is run and managed) faces considerable change due to two significant factors. The first of these is that Major Bob Heron retires in December having worked at RHQ for the better part of 20 years. The second is that the Director of Infantry has initiated a review of all Regimental HQs. Inevitably the latter is likely to have manpower implications (fewer staff) as well as some change to the present real estate occupied by the Yorkshire Regiment.

The effect of all this for us is twofold. First it is highly unlikely that Bob Heron will be replaced before his retirement and even if the recruiting process is successful it is probable that the successful candidate will have different responsibilities which will mean that the Association will not have the same support as has been the case until now. Second, having had lengthy discussion with the Regimental Secretary of the Yorkshire Regiment, it is clear that in the longer term the Yorkshire Regiment will be unable to keep Wellesley Park open.



Consequently as an Association we have to make plans for the future, one that will look very different to that we have been used to for well over a century. The immediate need is to determine how we will manage and run our affairs. The good news here is that Bob Heron has agreed to hold the fort until the middle of next year: he will continue to manage the accounts and to organise the Association dinner in March as well as the Officers Dinner in June. This generous offer means that we have time to plan our longer term future properly. Of equal concern is exactly what to do with the contents of Wellesley Park: our archives are now the property of Bankfield Museum in Halifax and space will have to be found there for this significant regimental collection. But there is more in RHQ than our archives and in the New Year a small team will look at this in detail and make recommendations which will be published in the next edition of the ID.

Beyond this it is clear that as an Association we shall have to do much more for ourselves than has been the case in the past. Up until now we have been

extraordinarily fortunate because the management of the Association has effectively been free (unlike many other regiments). Thus over the next 6 months or so I intend to undertake a full review of the Association. But our future is not one that should (or will) be determined simply by me. I am keen to hear your views on what the Association should be in existence for and from this how we might be best organised along with what activities we should be organising. I also want to have your ideas on how we might be better able to communicate in the future. In all of this the good news is that we have sufficient finances to enable us to look after ourselves effectively.

The reality we face is that the Association has to change due to factors beyond our control yet as is so often the case this presents us with an opportunity to change in such a way as to ensure that the Association remains in existence and relevant to all for many, many years to come. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible and to seeing you at the Association dinner in Bradford on 15th March 2014.



Colonel Andy Pullan

The tragic death of Colonel Andy Pullan, who commanded 3 YORKS (DWR) 2007/2008 and only recently retired from the Army, as a result of an accident whilst he was canoeing on the River Tees on 27 October will come as a severe shock to many in the regimental family. An obituary will appear in a subsequent issue of the Journal, but our thoughts and sympathies go to his family and friends

NEWS ROUND UP

Colours are transferred

On 25 July a parade was held in Warminster (an illustrated report will be found later in the Journal),

attended by many serving soldiers and some veterans of the antecedent battalions, at which, the Colours of the 1st



March on behind the band of the Brigade of Gurkhas on 25 July 2013

Bn The Yorkshire Regiment were handed over to the 3rd Battalion, along with that numerical precedence and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment's Honorary Colours were adopted by the Yorkshire Regiment, and placed into the care of the new 2nd Battalion.

The Colours of the 3rd Battalion were laid up in Halifax Minster on Saturday 20 July 2013 and the former Bishop of Southwark, The Right Reverend Thomas Frederick Butler PhD Msc, gave an inspiring address which is reproduced later in this edition of the Iron Duke. In Cyprus the merged former 1st and 2nd Battalions adopted the Colours of the latter.

Thus the Regiment now comprises the 1st Battalion, based in Warminster, and the 2nd Battalion, based in Cyprus, and of course the 4th Battalion (TA) spread throughout Yorkshire, about which more shortly. Men have been flying all over the place, some from all YORKS battalions to other units in the Army, some from the merged battalions in Cyprus and Germany to Warminster, and some have been nominated for redundancy, with a majority taking it voluntarily.

One has to wonder at the cost and expenditure of effort to achieve all this in proportion to the savings made by the reductions, but as many who have been Whitehall Warriors know only too well, MoD bean counters are marvellously skilled and experienced in creative accounting and polishing the numbers. The main thing is that it is over and done with, at least until next time, and we have to hope that the dust will be allowed to settle, men will be allowed to get used to their new titles and numbers, and, in many cases, comrades and roles, and everyone can just get on with a bit of "proper soldiering".

Which of course leaves the PWO, Green Howards and DWR Associations now bereft of their links to a single battalion of the Regiment carrying their name. The legacy of hundreds of years of good service in peace and war has been placed into the hands of The Yorkshire

Regiment, whose good intentions in this area have been clearly stated, although not everything has been quite as it should to date. For example, selling off, without consultation or in some cases reference to the descendants of those who donated, and even actual donors of, several of the items. £40,000 worth of Dukes' silver does not breed confidence that our heritage is in good hands. For more information see extract of letter from the Colonel of the Regiment to the President in Association News. There has been a lot to do in quite a short time, and mistakes do happen; everything takes time to bed down.

The Iron Duke

Revised Schedule – we no longer get reports from 3, now 1, YORKS, and our link is severed. A substantial majority of correspondents wanted to hear something of the doings of the regular and TA battalions of The Yorkshire Regiment. By delaying the publication of the ID a few weeks a summary of the reports in the YR Journal, with input from any other available sources, can be produced. The first is in this edition. The target is to produce the ID with these inputs in mid November and mid May each year.

Northern reporter - We need a "reporter" in the North. Someone who will attend most – all that they are able anyway - Dukes/YORKS and related formal and informal events in the West Riding, take (or acquire from contacts) some photos, and compile a simple report for the ID. This does not require experience or high skill levels, and the chief requirement is for someone who is interested, enthusiastic and pro-active who can plug into whatever future arrangements there may be for the management of Association affairs, our Museum, and the archive team.

And please get writing – news, letters (email preferred), articles, and photographs. When Duke meets Duke, that's news. Tell us about it.

Major David Harrap and Major Bob Heron

On 3 October 2013, at Warminster, the 1 YORKS Officers' Mess held a dinner to record the retirements of David Harrap and Bob Heron. They have contributed hugely to the Regiment, both when serving and after retirement. General Sir Charles Huxtable, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, Brigadier Dick Mundell – all three former Colonels of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment – Colonel Nick Borwell, Association President, and Lt Col Tim Nicholson, Iron Duke Editor, were also invited, as former colleagues of the guests of honour, and working with them on regimental affairs subsequently.

In "the old days" (how current serving soldiers

must dislike that phrase!) the Regimental Secretary and his Assistant were well known, long established regimental figures, greatly valued for their knowledge and experience and willingness to provide guidance and assistance on anything at all that was needed, large or small, and whether by the Colonel, a commanding officer, a new subaltern, a warrant officer or NCO.

The excellent service of David Harrap and Bob Heron stands comparison with that of any of their forebears, and as well as our wishes for a long and fulfilling retirement they carry with them our heartfelt thanks. An outline of their service will be found in Association News, at the back of this Journal.

Changes to 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

The letter below was sent out by the Colonel of the Regiment on 3 July 2013. It is self-explanatory

From: Major General GJ Binns CBE DSO MC

Colonel of the Regiment



Regimental Headquarters
The Yorkshire Regiment
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YORK
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Telephone: 01904 461019
Army Network: 94777 8119
Email: rhqyorks@btconnect.com

3 July 2013

Madia and Gantowan,

Earlier in the year I wrote outlining how the Yorkshire Regiment would approach the merger required by the Army 2020 reorganisation. The letter was largely orientated towards the Regular battalions but I also referred to 'anticipated changes to the structure of our Reserve battalion.' I now have more information on the changes that are going to affect the 4th Battalion in particular, but which of course will have an impact on the wider regiment and its place in the region.

The details as they affect the structure of the battalion are as follows:

- A Company, to become Alma Company, will retain Hull and Beverley and assume Scarborough.
- B Company is being withdrawn from the Army's Order of Battle; Middlesbrough and Northallerton TA Centres are to be vacated and Scarborough will come under command Alma Company.
- C Company, to become Corunna Company, will stay in Huddersfield but the TA Centre in Keighley is to be vacated. Leeds TA Centre will be retained.
- D Company, to become Burma Company, will stay in Barnsley; Endcliffe Hall is to be retained.
- HQ Company, to become Helmand Company, remains in York.

A detailed Implementation Order will follow but all of this is to happen by no later than December 2016.

As with our Regular restructuring I am determined that we will all lean into this change, manage its negative implications, and grow the strength of the Reserve battalion not simply in terms of numbers but also in terms of capability and reputation. The Reserve battalion is an integral part of the Regiment and we all have a part to play in ensuring that it is set up to succeed.

It is very important, especially for the Reserve, that we work hard to foster the close relationships we have with the communities from which we recruit. We must strive to maintain our current levels of engagement with all our friends within the region and ensure that we continue to enjoy the tremendous support that we have generated since we formed in 2006.

The Regiment has thus far implemented difficult change with zeal and energy and I wish this to be maintained until The Yorkshire Regiment is fully merged and restructured.

Carahan Binns

COLOURS PARADE AT WARMINSTER

On 25 July 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) paraded in four Guards to receive the Colours of the 1st Battalion, and to consign the Honorary Colours into the care of The Yorkshire Regiment as a whole. The parade took place in the presence of HRH the Duke of York, the Regiment's Colonel in Chief, and The Duke of Wellington, the Deputy Colonel. The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Graham Binns CBE DSO MC, was present. From that time the Battalion adopted its new number and title and the antecedent designation was dropped. It was a sad day for many, as it marked the final removal of the name of the great Duke himself from the Army's order of battle.

Also on the parade WO2 (RQMS) EJ Whitehouse received the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service, and Private LF Murphy received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery from HRH the Duke of York.

The photographs which follow tell the story of the parade. Afterwards lunch was available in a large marquee, and en route to it guests were able to see the impressive new memorial to the soldiers of the Regiment who have lost their lives in Afghanistan.

The parade received good media coverage, with especially good photographs appearing in the Warminster Journal.

**Inspection
by the
Colonel
in Chief**



Colour Party advances and kneels for the Colours to be transferred



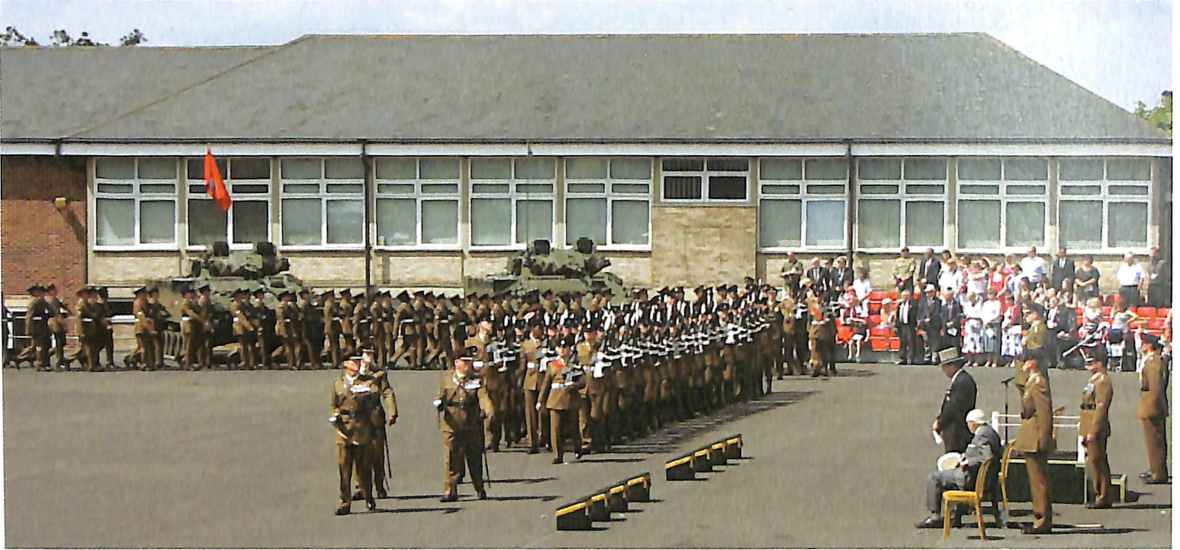
Troop! The Battalion's new Colours are presented to the ranks



WO2 Whitehouse and Private Murphy receive their awards



The Colonel in Chief addresses the parade. The Duke of Wellington is seated in panama hat



Eyes Left
and
March off,
led by the
Commanding Officer,
Lt Col Z Stenning OBE

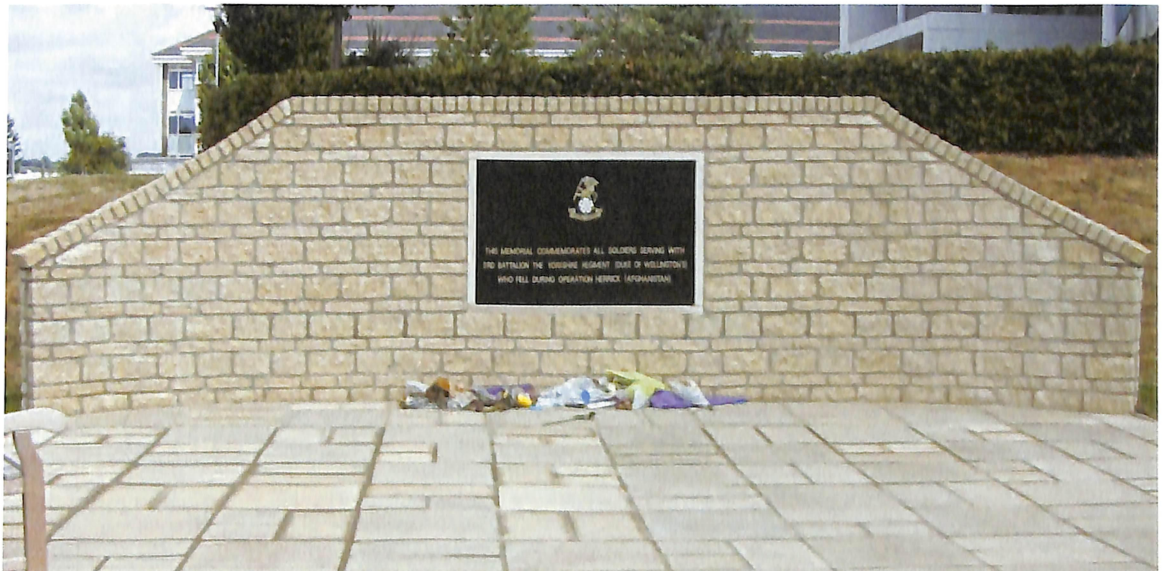




(Left)

The Colonel in Chief and the Colonel, Maj Gen GJ Binns CBE DSO MC, leave the parade.

(Below)
Air cover!

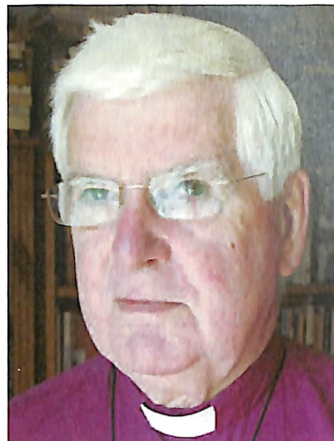


The Afghanistan Memorial funded by the people of Warminster. The plaque reads This Memorial commemorates all soldiers serving with 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) who fell during Operation Herrick (Afghanistan)

LAYING UP OF COLOURS SERVICE at HALIFAX MINSTER 20 JULY 2013

Address by The Right Reverend Thomas Frederick Butler PhD Msc, former Bishop of Southwark. Bishop Butler is now retired but was the Bishop of Southwark until 5 March 2010. He is a frequent guest on Radio 4 'Pause for Thought'.

This is the address he gave.



“May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer.

First let me say what a privilege it is to preach at this service of the Laying up of Colours of the 3rd Battalion, the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington’s). In thinking about what I might say to you an incident from a novel by James Clavel called *The Shogun*, came to mind. The novel is set in the world of eighteenth century Japan, at the time when your regiment was being formed here in Britain.

One incident tells of the people of a certain village hearing of a shipwreck a few miles away up the coast. They sent a part of soldiers to investigate. The soldiers reached the spot and stood on top of the cliff surrounding the bay where the shipwreck had occurred. At least one sailor could be seen lying at the water’s edge but from the cliff top it was impossible to see whether he was dead or alive and the cliff seemed too steep for anyone to scale.

One of the soldiers came to his captain and said, “I come from a mountainous part of our land where we climb for work and pleasure. Give me permission and I’m sure that I can scale the cliff and perhaps rescue the sailor. The captain gave his permission. The soldier had almost reached the bottom of the cliff when he slipped and fell heavily twisting his ankle. Ignoring the pain he hobbled across to the unconscious sailor, and discovering him to be alive turned to shout the good news to his comrades.

But they were shouting at him pointing out that the tide was rapidly coming in, so rapidly that the bay was already cut off and the only escape was back up the cliff, an impossible task for a man with a twisted ankle carrying an unconscious body. The soldier thought himself doomed; he turned sat down, and faced the incoming waves with resignation.

Meanwhile his comrades on the cliff top were frantically looking for a way to save their friend but there

seemed to be no chance of rescue. Finally, triumph, they noticed a ledge on the cliff below, invisible from the beach but safe and accessible even to the wounded man and his precious burden. They began to shout the good news but their comrade was in a trance of despair and heard nothing. They threw rocks to attract his attention but to no avail. The situation was now desperate with the waves lapping at his feet.

Finally the captain stood and bowed solemnly to his platoon, then he turned and with a loud cry flung himself over the cliff, landing with a crash at the very feet of the entranced subordinate. The hideous cry, together with the shock of the captain’s fall jerked the soldier out of his trance. He turned, caught the shouted message from his comrades, saw the ledge and scrambled there for safety with the still unconscious sailor. And so two lives were saved, but at a terrible cost, the cost of the life of the brave captain.

Our world can easily become entranced by oppression and greed, injustice and terror. We give thanks at this service that for over three hundred years, with courage and honour the soldiers of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment have sacrificed themselves for the good of others in war and peace.

It’s impossible for a visitor to the Museum of the Regiment at Bankfield Museum, just down the road from this Minster, not to be inspired and astonished at the range and depth of the Regiment’s service. During those centuries the Regiment has formed and reformed several times, but what has been constant has been the presence of the Dukes wherever there have been wars or rumours of wars, or peace-making or peace-keeping to be done.

Through the centuries the regiment has served with courage and honour in Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Austria, Holland, Germany, America, the Caribbean, Canada, Crimea, and India; the Northwest Provinces (now Pakistan) Gibraltar, Minorca and South Africa.

It was for distinguished service in India that in 1803

the 76th regiment was presented with Honorary Colours by the Honourable East India Company. In 1881 the 76th was formally amalgamated with the 33rd Regiment to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

These Honorary Colours continue to have an honoured place in the Regiment and are with us today. They are not being laid up but will remain part of the wider Yorkshire regiment and in the future will be paraded with pride by all three battalions of the regiment. During the First World War the regiment raised 24 Battalions, fourteen of which were engaged in active service on the Western Front and in Italy and Gallipoli earning a total of 72 battle honours.

In the Second World War battalions of the regiment took part in the campaigns of Dunkirk, North West Europe, North Africa, Italy and Burma. Since then the regiment has fought in Korea, has seen two UN Peacekeeping tours in Cyprus, been involved in police actions in Kenya, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland. It has served in the Falkland Islands, in Kosovo and Bosnia and was part of the invasion force during the Gulf War in Iraq, subsequently helping to train members of the new Iraqi security forces, and as the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), it has recently been deployed on operations in Afghanistan, losing six men in one incident.

This is a remarkable record of duty and service, marked by the fact that nine members of the Regiment have been awarded the Victoria Cross and another the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. Those who have served in the Dukes and those who serve it today are rightly proud of the Regiment's service and reputation, and the people of West Yorkshire from which many of the troops have been recruited are equally proud of their regiment. But in this service as the Colours are laid up we prepare ourselves for the latest reorganisation when at the end of the month the Battalion, in becoming the 1st Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, will lose the designation "Duke of Wellington's" completely. Although the long affiliation with the Duke of Wellington himself and with the Regimental Association will, of course, continue.

Nevertheless I realize that losing the designation Duke of Wellington's raises mixed emotions and no doubt some will share the feelings of the mother in our Old Testament reading today. It's a powerful story. The people of Israel had been engaged in a fierce battle with the Philistines. To give extra courage to their troops their colours, the ark of the Lord, had been taken onto the battlefield but then, disaster, the ark had been captured and was in the hands of the enemy. When the news was given to Eli, the former leader of Israel, he collapsed and died, whilst his daughter in law, just giving birth to his grandson, called the baby "Ichabod", meaning the glory has departed.

Her despair was understandable but premature, for the glory had not departed from Israel. Within a generation it was being led to victory by King David, whilst his son Solomon built the great temple in Jerusalem where the Ark of the Covenant, having been regained, was placed in the Holy of Holies, the most sacred spot in the temple.

No longer would the ark travel with the armies around the battlefields, but it would inspire them and the whole people from its place in the national shrine. The glory had not departed from Israel, it would continue to shine in good times and bad.

It is in that spirit that we lay up the Queens Colour and the Regimental Colour of the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). These colours will no longer travel with the battalion around the hot and cold spots of the globe, but they have an honoured place in this holy minster, the home church of the battalion – here they will remain a focus for thanksgiving and dedication to the Regiment and to the people of West Yorkshire, whilst the Regiment goes on under its new name to serve with honour, courage and valour.

The Duke's remain the only regiment to have been honoured by been given the keys of a French town and there's a French war memorial which might have a message for us today. It reads, "They do not want our thanks, they want to live on through our courage". This, rightly, is a service of pride, thanksgiving and perhaps even nostalgia, but above all it is a service of rededication, for the country, the county and the Yorkshire Regiment need the whole hearted commitment of the 1st Battalion in the challenges which lie ahead.

Our gospel reading today records the story of Jesus's astonishment at the words of the Roman officer who was asking him to heal his servant. "Of course, I'll come" said Jesus. "Lord, that will not be necessary, just say the word and my servant will be cured, because if my words carry authority with my men, and they do, then how much more authority must your words carry." And the unemotional centurion was right, for his servant was healed that very moment, and no doubt he, the centurion and Jesus himself then got on with their other duties.

The Greek poet and writer Nikos Kazantakis suggests that we should pray in a similar fashion, he writes; "Your prayer is not the whimpering of a beggar ...nor is it the trivial reckoning of a small tradesman, "give me & I will give you". Your prayer is the report of a soldier to his general. 'This is what I did today. This is how I fought to save the entire battle in my own sector. These are the obstacles I found. This is how I plan to proceed tomorrow'.

But let the last word come from the world of our Old Testament reading. Following the death of Eli, his successor, the prophet Samuel, responding to the dangerous times, set about a process of reorganization. He called all the people together and after a time of prayer nominated Saul to be the first King of Israel.

Then Samuel sent all the people back to their homes, and the bible then says this, "Saul also went to his home and with him went a band of brothers whose hearts God had touched." After this service may the members of the Battalion march to their duties as a band of brothers and sisters whose hearts God has touched and may that sense of comradeship stay with them and sustain them long into the future.

May it be so in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen



YORKSHIRE REGIMENT NEWS

For full news of the Yorkshire Regiment readers should subscribe to the Yorkshire Regiment Journal, and/or look at the Regimental website.

Honours and Awards

The following received awards for service whilst attached to 3 YORKS (DWR) in Afghanistan last year:

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS) – Major E Launders, OC Prince of Wales Company WELSH GUARDS

Mentioned in Despatches (MID) – Sergeant J Watson RIFLES

Queen's Commendation for Bravery (QCB) – Lance Corporal S Dent GRENADIER GUARDS

Joint Commanders' Commendation (JCCC) – Flight Lieutenant H Dawson, Royal Air Force; Sergeant D Long RIFLES; Rifleman J York RIFLES; Corporal M Halliwell REME.

Renumbering the Battalions.

Quoted from the Yorkshire Regiment Journal. "The battalions have renumbered because having been told to withdraw 2 YORKS from the Orbat, the Colonel of the Regiment issued orders for the Regiment to merge. For the merger to work fairly and equally for all, it required all component parts of the Regiment to be involved; 2 YORKS were being withdrawn and 3 YORKS would have to renumber (so as not to be left with a 1 and 3 YORKS). Initially this would have led to 3 YORKS changing to 2 YORKS and 1 YORKS carrying on arms-plotting to Cyprus unaffected by the change. It is this last point that needed to be addressed; it was important for Regimental coherence that 1 YORKS was an integral part of the merger. The only way that could happen was to change their numeric title and exchange their Colours. Thus 3 YORKS assumed the numeric title of 1 YORKS."

Antecedent titles were lost at the same time.

Company Titles.

It was agreed to review the Battle Honour Company Titles already held by the 3rd Battalion, and to spread this practice throughout the Regiment. The review concluded that rifle companies (in all battalions) should use the titles Alma (Green Howards and Dukes), Burma (West and East Yorks, Green Howards and Dukes), Corunna (East Yorks and Dukes); former Somme Company would be renamed Quebec (West Yorks), and Hook would be replaced with Helmand (all).

New Lanyard

A new lanyard, incorporating all three old colours from the former three battalions (red, black and green) will be worn by officers and SNCOs on the right shoulder in No 2 Dress and Barrack Dress (Shirt Sleeve Order).

The Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Trust

Readers will know that as part of the changes back in 2006 which formed the Yorkshire Regiment from the three old – or antecedent as we have learned to call them

– regiments, the Trustees of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment gave £1million to the new Regiment's trust, and with it the responsibility for benevolence and welfare funds. Calls on those funds continue, and it is good to hear that Councillor David Ridgeway, Mayor of Kirklees, chose the YRBT as his charity for his year 2012/13, and presented a cheque to the Regimental Secretary for £61,000, a most generous contribution.

Competitions/Awards.

The following competitions will be common to all battalions:

The Duke of York Competition – Inter Company Military Skills.

The Duke of Wellington Trophy – Inter Company Sports.

The Tandey VC Award – best soldier on a potential NCO cadre.

The Sanders VC Award – best contribution from a JNCO.

The Hollis VC Award – best contribution from a SNCO.

1st Battalion. (Formerly 3 YORKS).

1 YORKS is again in the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup role, which has required a great deal of re-training and preparation. Under command is A Sqn 1 RTR and an Armoured Engineer Troop. The principal role is to work with the various schools within the Land Warfare Centre. The battalion's armoured warfare skills and experience are highly valued within the Army; it is one of the six Armoured Infantry battalions in the new Army 2020 (A2020) plan for three Reaction Force Brigades based around Salisbury Plain, and it will rejoin 12 Armoured Infantry Brigade in 2015.

On return from Helmand at the end of last year, the battalion enjoyed a wide variety of activities in OP RESET, designed to allow the men to recuperate from the exertions of the past 12 months. These included a rugby tour to Australia, a football tour to the USA, bull-running in Pamplona, swimming round Majorca, cycling in France and motor cycling in UK.

2nd Battalion. (Formerly 1 YORKS).

2 YORKS closed Munster Station and moved to Cyprus to merge with the old 1 YORKS and become a light role infantry battalion at high readiness to move anywhere in the region. The battalion's training for its Theatre Reserve role built on foundations laid in Kenya is progressing well, including specialist weapon cadres for fire support group elements (GPMG, HMG, Grenade MG and Mortars.)

4th Battalion. (No name change; TA).

Readers have already seen the Colonel of the

Regiment's letter regarding the closure of drill halls, earlier in this edition. 4 YORKS is an Army Reserve light role battalion which prepares soldiers for mobilised service when required to support their Regular Army counterparts. In the past it has mobilised soldiers to serve in Afghanistan and provided volunteers for the London Olympics, but in 2013, for the first time in many years,

it has not been engaged in operations, but has concentrated on individual skills, recruiting and engagement with the community.

The Battalion has organised two overseas adventurous training exercises – mountain biking in the Chamonix (France) area and diving off Gibraltar, and is participating in 11 external exercises and courses.

THE DUKES IN THE GREAT WAR

As readers would expect, articles about the Dukes in WWI will appear as the events they describe are commemorated between 2014 and 2018. The Editor would gratefully receive relevant articles, with illustrations if possible. The small details of life in the line, and the experiences of individuals and small parties of men are of equal, often greater, interest to events on a larger scale. A number of Dukes veterans visit the battlefields every year, and a few notes about where you have been and what you have seen could be part of our WWI presentation. As a backdrop to future articles Scott Flaving has kindly produced a summary of the Dukes' battalions.

In August 1914, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment consisted of two Regular, one Special Reserve and four Territorial Force (TF) battalions. By the end of the war it had raised a further 8 TF battalions, by doubling, then tripling the original units, four Service (Kitchener's Army) battalions, 2 Garrison battalions, a Labour battalion and one Young Soldiers' battalion. Of these, 14 saw active service on various Fronts:

Home station	Formed	Theatres
Regular Battalions		
1st Bn (33rd) India	1702	Lahore Cantonment – 3 (Lahore) Div
2nd Bn (76th) Dublin	1878	W Front – 4 Div
Militia Battalions		
3rd Bn Halifax	1908	UK, Earsdon (Training and drafting)
Territorial Force Battalions		
1/4th Bn Halifax	1908	W Front – 49 (West Riding) Div
2/4th Bn	1914	W Front – 62 (Pelican) Div
3/4th Bn	1914	UK, Clipstone (Training and drafting)
1/5th Bn Huddersfield	1908	W Front – 49 (West Riding) Div
2/5th Bn	1914	W Front – 62 (Pelican) Div
3/5th Bn	1914	UK, Clipstone (Training and drafting)
5th Bn	1918	W Front – from Jan 1918
1/6th Bn Skipton	1908	W Front – 49 (West Riding) Div
2/6th Bn	1914	W Front– 62 (Pelican) Div
3/6th Bn	1914	UK, Clipstone (Training and drafting)
1/7th Bn Milnsbridge	1908	W Front – 49 (West Riding) Div
2/7th Bn	1914	W Front – 62 (Pelican) Div
3/7th Bn	1914	UK, Clipstone (Training and drafting)
Service Battalions		
8th Bn Halifax/Otley	1914	Gallipoli & W Front – 11 Div
9th Bn Wimborne	1914	W Front – 17 (Northern) Div
10th Bn Halifax/Frencham	1914	W Front & Italy – 23 Div
11th Bn Halifax		1914 UK, Lichfield
Labour Battalion		
12th Bn Halifax/Lichfield	not known	W Front
Garrison Battalions		
13th Bn Halifax	1918	W Front
14th Bn Clacton	1918	UK, Clacton from 1918
Young Soldiers Battalion		
53 YS Bn	1917	UK – 1917-1919

DUKES IN WW2

2/6th and 2/7th Battalions the Duke of Wellington's Regiment at War in 1940.

By Lt Col TJ Nicholson

The actions described in this article are not well known. Two TA battalions behind the lines in western France at the start of the war, doing pioneer work, such as constructing ammunition depots, is hardly the stuff of legends. But very quickly the situation changed, and they were sent to the front line (which was rapidly coming back towards them) seriously under prepared and ill equipped. They had every excuse for failure; but not a bit of it! Read on.

Mobilisation and Deployment.

At the outbreak of the Second World War second line units of the TA were mobilised. 2/6th and 2/7th DWR were both raised in the West Riding, and became part of 137 Infantry Brigade. They trained hard and were given

a number of "home defence" type roles, although small parties were sent to reinforce the BEF in France. (See ID Autumn 2007, issue No. 263, for China Gill's first-hand account of 1DWR's fighting withdrawal to Dunkirk as part of the BEF).

In March 1940 the battalions were told that they were to deploy to France for pioneer duties in connection with transportation services and the building of camps – essentially doing whatever needed to be done in the Lines of Communication. They embarked at Southampton on 28 April, arriving at Cherbourg the next day, and then went by train to a camp at Blain, near St Nazaire, in Brittany. Here for the next six weeks they commenced their duties, mainly working on fuel and ammunition dumps in the surrounding forests.



All ranks Bn HQ and HQ Coy 2/6th Bn DWR, mobilised 1 Sep 1939

Moving up to the Front.

The war to the east of them was not going well and the allied forces were in retreat. Orders were given that 137 Brigade should drop its pickaxes and shovels and entrain and move up by rail to positions in the general area of the Somme. Orders, maps, machine guns, anti-tank weapons and additional transport would be provided later; just get there. At Rouen the scattered units of 137 Brigade linked up and were marshalled into trains: Brigade HQ and 2/5th West Yorks on the first train; 2/7th DWR on the second; 2/4th KOYLI on the third, and 2/6th DWR on the fourth.

Initially the "rail convoy" was heading for Bethune, via Amiens, but en route the destination was changed to Dieppe as Amiens was under bombardment. Very slow progress was made but eventually they arrived at Dieppe and went on another 20 or so miles to Eu, and then on again towards Abbeville. The roads and rail lines were crammed with refugees and French and Belgian military elements, all busy with their own affairs. Cutting a long and confusing story short, the Dukes battalions were by now right at the back of this rail convoy and discovered



Lt Col Taylor

that all those in the trains ahead had gone forward and left them behind and they were entirely unable to follow, the lines ahead being blocked. To make matters worse, their train was on the top of a steep embankment so the transport could not be unloaded, and indeed it was difficult for anyone to get anything off the trains.

The two COs (Lt Cols Llewellyn, 2/6th and Taylor, 2/7th) met and decided to hitch their trains together and move back a little to more suitable ground. This they did – Lt Col Taylor remembers the situation thus: “It was decided to take up positions for all round defence, 2/6th to the north west and 2/7th to the south east of the train. We were in touch with no other formation, had no supply line, not even a map of the area, until a batman from his kit produced Bradshaw’s Railway Guide of Central Europe, which was of the greatest assistance.”

Return to Dieppe and Redeployment

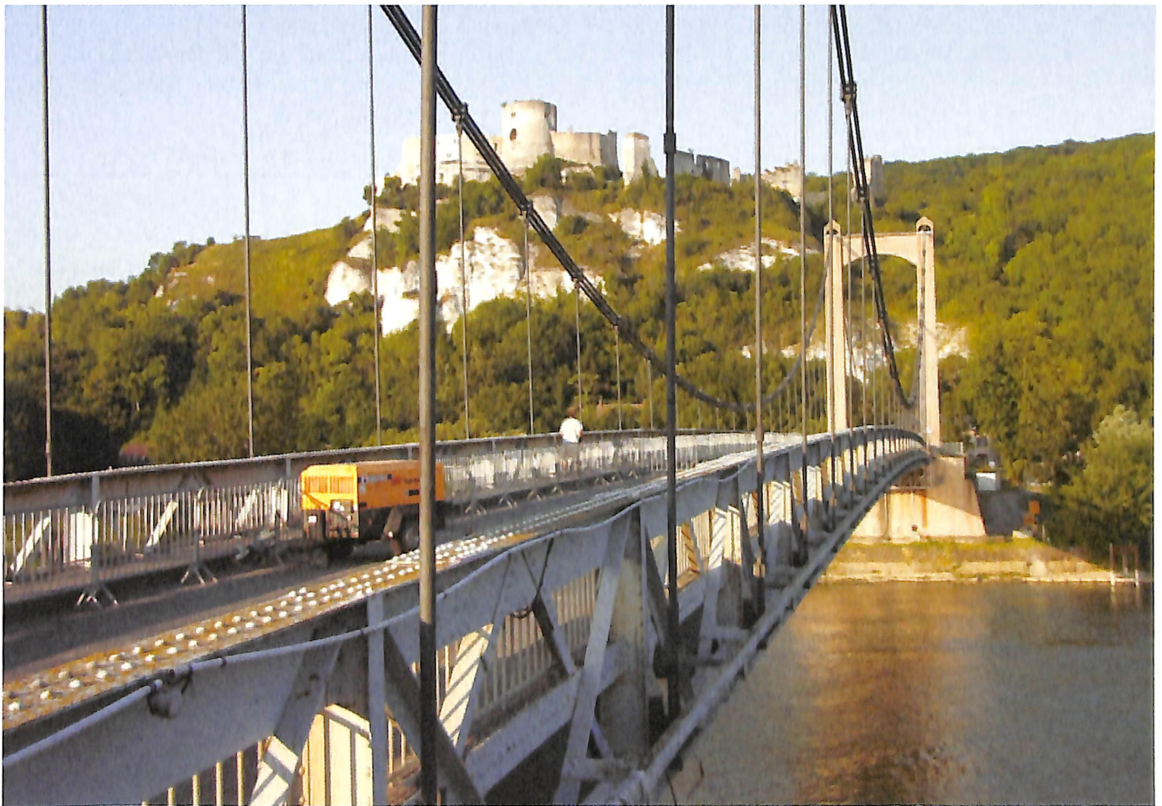
In due course, despite the attention of hostile enemy aircraft attacks, artillery bombardments and occasional brushes with forward elements of the enemy, during which the battalions took their first casualties, both arrived back in Dieppe by slightly different routes, and made contact with higher formation. 2/7th was given charge of the defences in Dieppe, and 2/6th moved up to

Rouen to work on the defences there, leaving nearly all their equipment, including their drums and transport, on their train: later the former were rescued and returned by the 2/6th, and the train itself was run to earth in Le Treport, and although some material had been pilfered, most remained intact and was recovered.

The 2/6th on the Seine

The 2/6th were deployed to a position on the Seine, about 10 miles SE of Rouen. Two important bridges, both prepared for demolition by French engineers, required to be defended, the first at Les Andelys (B Company) and the second at St Pierre du Vauvray (C Company), with a gap of some 12 miles between them, mostly within a huge curve in the river. Les Andelys is the site of Chateau Gaillard, Richard Coeur de Lion’s supposedly impregnable castle whose construction started in 1196 – and it was captured by the French 8 years later. It still stands, somewhat dilapidated, overlooking town and bridge.

Lt Col Llewellyn, a very active officer, having sited a company to guard each bridge, placed his HQ Company so that it could carry out its main functions and provide patrols along the river, keeping his two remaining rifle companies in reserve. By sheer physical exertion he



Chateau Gaillard overlooks the Les Andelys bridge.
The Seine either side is wide with many islands and shallow crossing points



A monument to a small group of French soldiers who fell in this battle, east of Venables” It reads ‘A la memoire des Soldats des 3e Regt d’Autos Mitrailleuses, 6e Regiment du Dragons et 36e Regt d’Infanterie Mort pour la France Venables 9 Juin 1940’.nb Autos Mitrailleuses are armoured cars and Dragon means dragoon, so presumably a tank unit.”

allied troops further west. By 8 June 2/6th was in position; from daylight on the 9th reports of enemy activity along the front were received almost hourly. B Company and the French in the area pulled back behind the Seine and the bridge was blown at 1100 hours. Contact with the enemy was almost continuous from now on; air attacks and probing assaults by armour, the first withstood as best they could be as there was no real defence against them, and the latter repulsed despite the

lack of anti-tank weapons (and the few machine guns had quickly been destroyed by enemy fire). The CO pulled his Battalion back to a more defensible line, based on Venables, on 10 June. There was considerable confusion and misunderstanding between 2/6th and the local French, largely overcome by Lt Col Llewellyn’s efforts at liaison and coordination.

Fighting along the battalion’s line was now continuous, with German infantry crawling up through



In the neck of the Seine forward of Venables. Enemy infantry crept up to the defenders through the standing corn

the standing corn to within 30 yards of the forward defensive positions. The Dukes stood fast, and at a moment when all seemed lost through sheer pressure of attacking numbers a force of some 30 to 40 British tanks, whose commander the CO had met earlier when tearing about looking for French forces, extracting a promise that they would help if they could, appeared out of the blue, causing great destruction amongst the enemy, who finally withdrew from contact.

The Battalion now found that it was almost surrounded by enemy who had penetrated the defences either side of his unit, and received orders to withdraw. After numerous difficulties the Battalion arrived at St Malo and embarked for Southampton. The Battalion suffered 85 casualties, of whom 21 were killed.

The 2/7th at Veules Les Roses.

Meantime the 2/7th were deployed in a defensive line between Dieppe and Arques la Bataille, a frontage of some 2 miles. They spent the next few days strengthening the defences, building road blocks and obstacles, often

under dive bombing enemy aircraft, and reports were received of enemy armour some 12 miles away. All the roads and tracks were full of refugees with nowhere to go, looking for safety. The Battalion was instructed to act as rear-guard and hold their position until midnight 10/11 June, which, with some difficulty, they did. Eventually they received instructions to the effect that they and all remaining troops were to be evacuated by sea. 2/7th pulled back to positions at Veules Les Roses, some 8 miles west of Dieppe.

This is now all tourist country; in season the streets of Veules are full of holiday makers although many are day-trippers and it is less hectic in the evening; road-signs warn motorists to give way to cyclists. The area is pretty and out of the way, with an impressive coastline of cliff and beach. There are many delightful walks, somewhat hilly near the coastline, but fairly flat further inland.

The Battalion's frontage from Veules to Blosseville, a small farming village, was about 2 miles and Lt Col Taylor put 3 companies forward, keeping one in reserve with Battalion HQ in Veules, on the high ground above

Although open and mainly flat, the ground ahead of the forward companies of 2/7 DWR was full of small undulations, and was criss-crossed by motorable field tracks offering dead ground and easy movement to an approaching enemy



The Monument on top of the cliffs at Veules Les Roses and the accompanying description of events

LA BATAILLE DE VEULES 19

Judi 6 juin 1940 : Début des opérations militaires qui vont frapper Veules les Roses. Un combat d'une heure environ s'engage entre avions allemands et navires qui croisent au large.

Vendredi 7 juin : De nombreux avions ennemis bombardent les villages environnants. Repoussés par l'offensive allemande vers le sud, les troupes françaises et britanniques se replient vers Veules et Saint Valery en Caux, où elles sont encerclées par des divisions blindées allemandes. La lutte donne lieu à quatre jours de combats acharnés, plusieurs maisons sont incendiées.

Lundi 10 juin : La pression allemande se fait de plus en plus serrée. La circulation s'intensifie dans les deux sens sur la route nationale entre Dieppe et Saint-Valery en Caux.

Mardi 11 juin : Dès l'aube, quinze mille hommes, moitié Français, moitié Britanniques, organisent une défense sans merci. De nombreuses bombes incendiaires et bombes à explosion sont lancées sur le village détruisant plus de trente maisons, faisant un grand nombre de victimes civiles et militaires.

Cette bataille acharnée dure 12 heures, de 17 heures à 5 heures du matin. Vers 6 heures, les troupes allemandes arrivent à l'entrée de Veules.

Mercredi 12 juin : Treize navires britanniques, défilés et Français croisent au large. Treize mille soldats embarquent à bord de chaloupes pour rejoindre les navires, certains sont descendus du bord des falaises de quarante mètres, à l'aide de filins pour échapper à la mer. Trois navires sont coulés devant Veules, parmi lesquels le *Carson*, qui s'est défoncé à marée basse, et n'a pas réussi à reprendre le large à marée montante. Cinq mille autres soldats sont faits prisonniers.

A Veules, huit jours après la chute de Dieppe, s'est probablement livrée la dernière réelle bataille de l'offensive allemande de 1940.

Le village a été meurtri par ce dur combat, mais il a su garder une attitude obéissante et digne malgré les victimes et le triste spectacle des ruines et destructions.

" Souvenons-nous du courage des habitants de Veules et du sacrifice de nos vaillants soldats face à l'ennemi "

Pour une France libre



The beach at Veules with the tide at mid-point; a long expanse of sand entirely visible from the cliffs above on both sides of the town



Lt Col Taylor on left and (it is thought) A/Capt Briggs behind his left shoulder

the village, making use of several sunken roads in the vicinity. Enemy infantry and armoured attacks, supported by aircraft, heavy machine guns and artillery became stronger. By 1630 hours on 11 June some 45 tanks were in front of the Battalion's position. The two 20 mm anti-tank guns that had been lent fired one round each and were instantly destroyed by the tanks. A heroic defence caused a lull and the enemy withdrew a short distance.

After a sudden and violent bombardment a force of 200 tanks attacked the positions and parts of it were over run, and a number of men were captured.

In all the noise and confusion orders were given for a withdrawal to the Veules beach under cover of darkness, where ships waited to evacuate the Battalion. Veules was under heavy shelling and most of the buildings along the narrow streets were on fire. At dawn the beach was raked with machine gun and small arms fire from the cliffs above, but covered by a thick mist and gunfire from the ships in the offing, boats came into to the shore and took off the troops on the beach. About three quarters of the Battalion survived; 65 were killed, 13 wounded and 97 taken prisoner. Amongst the last group was Lt Col Taylor, the CO, who was up supervising the withdrawal of his forward companies when his party was surrounded by a large enemy force and had no choice but to surrender, and, although the circumstances of his capture are not clear from currently available sources, Lt Tom Briggs, whose story has been serialised in recent IDs, with the final part in this one following this article was captured at the same time.

A Final Word

These two battalions fought with determination and spirit against impossible odds. They had been quickly raised in war, trained and equipped for a limited role in the lines of communication in France, then found themselves thrown in haphazardly and unexpectedly against a victorious army that had just swept the best troops Britain had to offer, the BEF, into the sea. Far from buckling, they got stuck into the enemy and delayed him, making a significant contribution which culminated in their successful evacuation along with many thousands of others. Everyone has heard of the "glorious defeat" of Dunkirk; few remember the men who were left further west facing the onrushing German formations once the Dunkirk beaches had been cleared. It is an inspirational story.

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 one-sided campaign on 12 July in Normandy, although the majority of the battalion did manage to get away by ship. For the next 3 years he was held in a number of camps, and in the course of his captivity he met a Dr Falkner, who maintained an interest in both his welfare and his connections back home in UK.

In July 1943 he was told that he, alone of the PoWs in his camp, was to be moved to Berlin. No explanation was given. He was escorted as a prisoner by train and on arrival in Berlin was taken directly from the station to again meet Dr Falkner. He realised that for some unknown reason he was some kind of special PoW, and was billeted in a camp within the city for "selected" prisoners. He was even able to do some sightseeing, on parole and under loose escort, and to ask successfully that his brother in law, Lt Col Taylor (CO 2/7 DWR), be brought from a camp elsewhere to join him.

Nearly a year passed, until in June 1944 he was again sent for by Dr Falkner. At last he was to learn something of the reason for his unusual treatment. He was to be sent to Britain to try to make a bargain with Churchill and the British Government about ending the war, although first a plot to assassinate Hitler had to succeed. Preparations were made for his escape through Switzerland, and German military identity papers were faked. Then all went quiet.

On 21st July the papers disclosed that an attempted assassination was made on Hitler, but he was quite fit and well and would speak on the radio that night. The issues for the next few days were full of the names of the 'traitors' who had been involved in the attempted assassination and the summary jurisdiction which had been meted out to them. The purge continued through August. At this stage I became most concerned whether I would be pulled out of the camp for interrogation, for I had the thought that my papers would exist somewhere in Berlin and I could readily be implicated in the plot. The days went by and nothing happened, except the news of the advance of the Allied Forces through France and the more frequent appearance of American bombers.

Sometime in February, 1945, we were confined to barracks for a general inspection and the General's party went round the camp and eventually came to the block where I was housed. The party consisted of the Camp Kommandant, his interpreter, the General and Dr Falkner, dressed with the trappings of an Aide de Camp. Dr Falkner would know from the register in the office where I was to be found but he put on a strange act and, leaving the General, came up to me and said, "We have met before, Lieutenant Briggs, and I remember teaching you German. I hope your German has improved and I should be pleased if you would walk round the camp with me and we can discuss your progress."

He went to the German Kommandant and said, "Can I take this prisoner outside?" and, receiving his consent, he and I left the block to the catcalls of all my fellow officers and proceeded round the perimeter of the camp. The first thing I said was, "You appear to have made a balls of it." "That is an idiom which I do not know," he replied. "Then, simply, you have made a complete mess of the whole plan." He said at once, "Yes, we have, but very fortunately I was able to destroy all the records at Steinburg for I appreciate you may have been concerned." I said, "I certainly was concerned." and he said "Well you can now assume that there will be no further enquiry into that attempted assassination because the war is too advanced.

"I want you now to arrange for 40 officers to be especially trained and if you will give me their names I will have them all brought to Steinburg where, after further preparation and a change of uniform, they will take over the guard duties of this camp, for it is now certain that you are all to be sent to the area round Berchtesgarden to act as hostages and we are anxious to stop this because of the repercussions which such an activity would have on the future of Germany." I said at once that I had no influence and he must see Major Higgon, who was the Senior British Officer, and discuss it with him and, if he could stay after the General inspection, I would introduce him to Major Higgon. He said he would stay because it was important.

Immediately the General had left the compound and normality was restored, I went to see the Senior British Officer, told him that he could now meet Dr Falkner and question him about Berlin, Steinburg, or anything else, but it was most important, Dr Falkner was concerned for the safety of the whole camp and had such an extraordinary proposals to make that I had suggested he made them direct to the Senior British Officer. They would be in confidence for the Gestapo were more vigilant than ever. Major Higgon said, "I will, at your request, see this man." I picked up Dr Falkner and took him to the Senior British Officer.

The story Dr Falkner disclosed was, first, the true position of the Allied Armies and his conviction that Germany was already beaten but the most heinous reprisals could still take place unless the Führer and his satellites were given safe conduct to some South American State from where they could not be extradited, and he then went on to say that he would take 40 officers into Steinburg so that they could be trained to handle German weapons and who could be used to take over the guard of the camp, the guard that we now had was merely of wounded personnel which should be retired but there was a keen shortage of manpower and they had to do the guard work. He would have no difficulty in finding officers who would be able to take over from the Kommandant. The Senior British Officer said he could

not countenance such a hair-brained proposal, this would be an overt act and any retreating army would be within their rights if they shot all the perpetrators. Dr Falkner asked him to look at the alternative of all his officers being annihilated and said that he thought the British would rather die fighting than in a gas chamber. It was decided to put the camp into military fitness and to reorganise it as a Brigade down to Company strength. He would keep an open mind on replacing the guard because it was possible that a German guard could divert any retreating army from taking over the camp but, from a practical point of view, it would be foolish for any retreating army to come though Eichstatt unless they wanted hostages or food, both of which were possible.

The following day, Major Higgon, realising the implications of all that he had been told, called his senior officers together and the whole camp was put into Brigade organisation. The Germans were persuaded to increase the rations from the Red Cross reserves and we had an issue of another half parcel a week. This restored the morale of the camp and everyone had to walk at a fast pace and generally keep fit by any exercise they chose to take.

Early one morning in April we received the customary short notice that we were to move the camp that day and that a special guard was coming in to accompany us. Well before mid-day the whole camp was ready to leave but everybody who was in hospital was to be left there as no transport was available to move them, so the Doctors, Padres and all the sick people were left behind and this long column started its march to what was then an unknown destination. We had marched for about two miles along the main road leading for Eichstatt, travelling, as far as we knew, due south, when, suddenly, six Mustangs of the American Air Force flew low over us. We raised our arms and cheered and thought they recognised us but they must have noticed the German guards with us with their rifles and assumed we were all Germans, so they merely took a large circle and came back in line and twice straffed the whole column of Prisoners of War and guards. We threw ourselves down on both sides of the road at the first sound of gunfire, but eight were killed, including one of my friends who lived in Sheffield, and 47 were wounded. The Mustangs then went to the other side of the valley where an army column was retreating with wagons, etc, and they made several passes over them, dropping the light bombs which they were carrying and generally straffed the column, setting several of the wagons on fire. The German Officer in Charge said the column would return to Eichstatt.

Major Higgon then said it was too dangerous to leave the camp, QED, and he proposed to stay put. However, we were there for one day and then we were told we would have to move at night to avoid the air raids and the guard would be doubled. We moved out at 6.0 o'clock that night. It was always difficult to find daytime accommodation under cover and, for our own sakes, we knew we had to keep out of sight so we were usually

housed in barns and ordered not to smoke because of the fire risk. Almost every day, an American recon plane would come over.

Eventually we got to Moosburg, the bridges being blown almost immediately the last of the column had passed over and invariably the charges were in situ as we crossed the bridges, with the German Engineers in control of the detonation. The biggest bridge, of course, was across the Danube and the whole of the centre span was taken out by explosions, literally within two minutes of us crossing, so that we knew the American forces were not far behind.

Moosburg consisted of an unknown number of prisoners, eg 30,000, Canadian, American, Russian, French and some Italian and, of course, the British. Although there were several Russian Generals, an Englishman was appointed as Senior Officer. Within a few days the Americans were near to us, whereupon the Germans asked if the Senior Officer could arrange that Moosburg should be an 'open town'. It was decided to send a white car, flying a white sheet, with Group Captain Willetts in it, straight through to General Patton at the Headquarters of the Third US Army to ask for this concession. General Patton would not agree, saying that it would be too much of a restriction on his Army's advance but he would give the town until 8 o'clock the following morning to clear out all the people that wished to clear out and he would attack at that time. The Group Captain came back and imparted this information to everybody and he said he had marked very clearly on the General's map the location of the camp and he had been assured that no shell would fall in the camp from the American lines.

The battle did not last long and Moosburg was captured and three American tanks came to the camp gates. The American in the first tank shouted at the German guard to open the gates or he would knock them down and the guard dutifully sprang to attention and opened the gates. Sitting on the turret of the second tank was General Patton himself with two pearl-handled revolvers on his thighs. From the third tank came a voice, "Do you have an American Lieutenant here?" Within three minutes the American Lieutenant was produced and the man jumped out of the tank to embrace him – it was his brother. He gave him a case of oranges and a case of whisky, said he would come back for him and jumped back in his tank. General Patton spent a few moments with the Group Captain and the tank turned round and made off.

Eventually, we were on the first hop home on an American Dakota with a maximum load so that we could only just lift off. Then we transferred to a Lancaster and came down at Chalfont St Giles. Before we were taken to a splendid country house, we were debriefed by Naval Officers and Wrens, but first we were deloused with DDT powder, although by this time we were quite clean. Colonel Taylor went first and disclosed the story that you have just read and asked for the telephone number of the Wren, which she gave him. I was next in line, told

roughly the same story and asked for her telephone number. She replied that the last officer had tried that and she would arrange for me to report to Intelligence in Whitehall.

We were sent home from Chalfont and, after five days, we received a call to go to Whitehall where we had to tell the story again. We believe our information was transmitted to the American Forces who sought out Dr Falkner and the story we learnt afterwards was that he had been ordered to take all the prisoners at Steinburg to Berchtesgarden but he refused, saying that he was under the control of the Foreign Office and not the Army and,

unless the order was confirmed from the Foreign Office in Berlin, they would stay where they were. He was then informed that troops would be sent from Munich to carry out the order. Eventually all the German guards ran away from the camp when the Americans were approaching but Dr Falkner stayed, handing over the Kommandatur to Colonel Needham, that camp being relieved somewhere around the 25th April.

That concludes the Memoirs of Lieutenant Tom Briggs MC. It is an extraordinary story and one or two eyebrows have been raised as to the truth of the matter; and readers must make up their own minds about it.

MY ACCOUNT OF 1/7th BATTALION IN NORMANDY 1944

By 4613505 Sgt Walter Downs

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 7 DWR, as a boy soldier.

In this third and final part of this memoir 6 and 7 DWR had embarked in HMS Cheshire on 10 June 1944 and arrived off the Normandy coast on 11 June. 7 DWR had been engaged in a number of actions and had moved several miles inland from their beachhead. Walter Downs was in D Company, and his OC was Major Kavanagh.

It is possible that readers will be confused by the battalion numbers, having just read about 2/7 DWR. Until 1939 battalions of all types were numbered in sequence, in our case from 1 to 7. Then, with a need to rapidly expand the Army, second battalions were spun out of the existing ones, so that 7 DWR became 1/7 DWR, and the new unit became 2/7 DWR. The original battalions, the 1s, appear to have frequently dropped that pre-number.

The following morning Major Kavanagh, making his usual rounds, told me an artillery barrage was expected from the Germans and our own artillery would require sightings of the German gun positions. He delegated me to take these compass bearings. To do this I had to sit in a tree just behind my slit trench with a compass and when I saw a gun-flash I had to take a bearing on its position and then relay it back to the Artillery Observation Officer, who then marked it on his map, along with several more bearings from the front, and our guns fired on the map reference he produced. That morning we had received some heartening news; at lunchtime, with our meal, we were to receive some fresh bread, the first for six weeks, as today was 18th July and we had been on hard tack biscuits all the time we had been in Normandy.

My observations had been on for nearly two hours and it was nearing midday and the thought of fresh bread was foremost in my mind when, suddenly, in the distance I saw a gun-flash and, without taking a bearing I dropped from the tree and shouted to the lads to get down. Four of them standing by my trench immediately dropped into it and I turned to do the same when the shell burst. I was lifted into the air and dropped on top of the four lads. I had been badly hit in my left shoulder and hot blood was pouring over the lads under me and more shells were exploding all around us. When the shelling stopped, the

other lads called for the stretcher bearers and the lads underneath me rose gently and rolled me onto the top of the trench, where the stretcher bearers took over. I was in a terrible state, covered in blood which was attracting bluebottles, and the smell was nauseating and I wanted to close my eyes and go to sleep, but I was afraid that if I did go to sleep I may never wake up. I was injected with morphine and the pain eased. I was placed on the top of a Bren Gun Carrier and told that there were two more casualties to go back to the Regimental Aid Post with me. One was Major Kavanagh, who had a piece of shrapnel in his upper arm, the other was Webber, the sniper, whose arm had been shattered and it was amputated at the RAP.

On arrival at the RAP our doctor, Doctor Somerville, and our Padre, Stephen Chase, both came to assist with my removal from the Bren Carrier and were terribly upset with the condition I was in. Whilst he was attending to my wound he quietly said that my boxing days were over. I told him if my arm was not removed I would box again. Seeing him shake his head, I said, "I'll bet you half a crown that I'll box again if my arm is left on." "You are on," he said, and there were tears in his eyes.

The surgeon who attended me at the 30th General Hospital at Caen remarked that I was in a bit of a mess

but he would do his best. I was placed on the operating table and, as the surgeon approached, I asked him if at all possible not to amputate my arm as I did not want to be called a 'Wingy', the current name for soldiers who lost an arm. The Hospital was a large marquee and when I came out of the anaesthetic I was violently sick on the grass alongside my bed and felt really groggy. After a few minutes, as my senses were coming into focus and I remembered where I was, I felt my injured shoulder and was horrified when I could feel no arm. I could feel the sensation of my fingers but knew that when you lost any of your limbs you could still feel the sensation of your fingers and toes, so I became panicky and called out for a nurse. When a male orderly appeared I said they had taken my arm off. He stood by my bed with a big smile on his face and told me that the arm had not been removed but was inside the plaster that extended from my neck down to my hips. Thus being reassured, I lay back and slept for twelve hours.

I stayed in the marquee for another twelve hours and then I was moved by ambulance to the docks, where I was placed on an amphibious vehicle which went out to sea where a destroyer was waiting and I was taken on board, along with some more casualties. We landed at Southampton and were moved by ambulance to a Canadian staffed hospital in Camberley (Surrey), where everything was perfectly organised and was so different to the experience travelling from the battle front.

Travelling from the front to the hospital in Camberley we had been attended by male orderlies, but here we were surrounded by nurses who could all have been film stars. I had a call of nature and asked my bed companion what was the procedure when you wanted to 'spend a penny', never having been in hospital. I was puzzled when he said, "Ask for a bottle." I said, "A bottle of what?" "Never mind," he said, "just ask for a bottle." I was embarrassed and could not bring myself to ask any of these lovely nurses for a bottle of whatever but, after a while, a more elderly nurse in a dark blue uniform came along smiling at each patient so, when she drew level, I asked, "Could I have a bottle, please?" "Certainly." She said and vanished. Then one of the film-star nurses appeared, holding a white napkin over a bottle which she slipped under my sheets and was leaving. "Excuse me," I said, "could you please help me as I have only one arm?" She put her hand under the sheet and I quickly said, "No, no, will you hold the bottle, please?"

My bed companion was a German Army Captain who had been severely burnt in a tank action and could speak very good English. We spoke together in a friendly atmosphere and it was obvious that he knew they had lost the war and when I left the hospital we shook hands and wished each other a speedy recovery.

After the war, Walter became a successful West Riding businessman, and continued to organise the 7th Battalion OCA annual reunions right up until the mid-1990s.

THE ROAD TO WATERLOO

The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo will occur on 18 June 2015. What is often forgotten is that the Battle was not an isolated event but the culmination of a fierce 20 year war with France. The war was fought from America and Canada to India and Egypt, although most of the main land action took place in Europe. In this issue of the Journal we have

two articles that take the 33rd into Europe in 1814 for the final months of the war. The first tells Major General Webb-Carter's story of Sgt Gibson; the second relates the action at Bergen Op Zoom.

The next issue will take the story forward, with a description of Quatre Bras today; then the Winter 14 edition will deal with Waterloo.

COLOUR SERJEANT JOHN GIBSON - 33rd Regiment of Foot

By Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter

The Waterloo Medal of Colour Serjeant John Gibson has recently come into my possession and it has been illuminating to research his life and times. The papers at hand were his record of service, his marriage certificate and the obituary in the Kendal paper. He was born in Kendal on May 25th 1788 and was trained as an engineer but in 1809 at the age of 21 he joined the Militia as a substitute for a man by the name of James Mason who "had been drawn by the ballot". A reader may be able to explain this phrase which appeared in the obituary. In 1810 during the Burdett riots he was sent to Ireland. Rioting took place throughout the land following the announcement that the House of Commons had ordered the arrest, and imprisonment in the Tower, of Sir Francis Burdett MP. He was MP for Boroughbridge and a great campaigner for common suffrage who was not popular

with the Government of the day. He was arrested and taken to the Tower.

In December 1812 John Gibson attested in Galway into the 33rd, stating his age as 22, so already there is a two year discrepancy on his age. The 33rd had been in India for several years and only returned to Gravesend in July 1812 and were probably stationed in Hull at the time of Gibson's arrival in the regiment. However after a mere 3 months he was promoted to Corporal and exactly a year after that he was promoted to Serjeant possibly as a result of his service at the Battle of Bergen Op Zoom.

In July 1813 a force under Sir Thomas Graham to fight the French embarked from Harwich for the Netherlands where after a good deal of to-ing and fro-ing the 33rd found themselves amongst 4000 British troops ordered to assault by night the strong fortress of Bergen op Zoom

on 9th March 1814. It was not a success. The force was forced to withdraw sustaining heavy casualties including the death of a Brigade Commander and 12 officers including the Commanding Officer of the 33rd being wounded. The 33rd's losses were considerable; 2 serjeants and 26 rank and file were killed, 58 wounded and 56 taken prisoner. John Gibson was one of those wounded but was promoted to Serjeant no doubt filling one of the vacancies: he later had a great deal to say about the privations of this campaign.

In June of 1815 events caused the 33rd to be in action once more and this time at the battle of Quatre Bras where it was a decidedly tricky time for the battalion. They lost some 100 men and officers and it was here that John Gibson was badly wounded in the head and fell "helplessly wounded by the roadside". The obituary goes on "here he lay for hours under the feet of the horses of the French Cavalry who were charging around him". He was however rescued and sent with other wounded to Antwerp. Subsequently he took part in the march of 21 days to Paris where he received further promotion to Colour Serjeant. He returned with the regiment to Canterbury where it was apparent that there were few survivors of the campaign. In 1822 he embarked with the 33rd from Cork to Jamaica, where he served for four years according to his record of service although the regiment remained until 1832 and returned in March of that year. John Gibson took this opportunity to leave the King's service and he was discharged on 11th April that year with a pension of 1 shilling and 8 pence per day. It

is interesting to note on his discharge papers that he gained an extra two years for being at Waterloo which for pensionable service was worth a great deal. It is likely that Gibson returned to Ireland in 1826 to be employed outside the regiment as he married Ann Cochrane of Glasgow on 13th July 1826 in Boyle which is in County Roscommon. The certificate of marriage, the original of which I have is signed by the John Macrea the "Chaplain to the Troops at Boyle". Interestingly his discharge papers are signed by John Cochrane "the Pay Serjeant of his Company". One wonders if he married a friend's sister. At the time of discharge he was 42 years of age, 5 feet 5 ¾ inches.

His later life he returned to Kendal where he became a warder in the Kendal House of Correction which he did for 18 years. He died on 13th July 1878 which makes him 90, a remarkable age at that time. I am grateful to the Regimental Museum of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment for the image of John Gibson which shows the Waterloo medal being proudly worn and it is interesting to see that the buckle by which he attached it to his coat has survived. The issue ring did not survive but on the picture you can see that it is the same bar that is with the medal to day. His grave is in the Old Cemetery, Kendal and I am indebted to David and Janet Bromley for the image of John Gibson's gravestone. The inscription reads "IN MEMORY OF JOHN GIBSON LATE COLOUR SERGEANT 33rd REGT. BORN May 25th 1788. DIED July 13th 1878. HIS END WAS PEACE"

**Colour Serjeant Gibson
and
The Waterloo Medal**



In the Footsteps of the Regiment in Flanders – Bergen Op Zoom

Lt Col Tim Nicholson

The purpose of these articles is to record visits to places where the Regiment has served – thus far all in Northern Europe and mostly in Flanders, as being easily accessible from my home – to see what is there now, and what signs if any, remain from the times of past conflicts. Some regimental history is given to provide some context.

After a seventeen year spell of service in India, much of it under the direct or indirect command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, in July 1812 the 33rd returned to their depot in Hull via Gravesend, sailing from Madras. A well-earned rest was definitely in order after their successful exertions in India. This came to an end with firstly a brief tour of Public Duties at Windsor, and then embarkation at Harwich as part of a contingent to push Napoleonic forces back from Northern Europe to France. After a long voyage round Denmark the Regiment disembarked there on 14 August, did little as the French had already evacuated the area, and sailed back to England on 2nd November, a voyage that took three weeks.

Here the heavy baggage was unloaded with the families that had accompanied the original expedition but the troops remained on board, at anchor off Yarmouth for another fortnight, before sailing again on 13 December to disembark four days later at Willemstad in Holland, which had just been abandoned by the French although they had heavily fortified it some years earlier. After their six months or so of meanderings on land and sea, most of it no doubt extremely uncomfortable, the 33rd might have found Willemstad a pleasant spot. It certainly is now, with a handsome town hall, a few old streets and buildings and a substantial, for the most part quite new, marina, fully supported by the sort of shops and services that you would expect.

The entire coast line between Antwerp and Rotterdam, sixty or so kilometres to the north, is a landscape of islands and huge sea and river inlets. Willemstad lies on Hollands Diep, up and down which enormous barges ply their trade but do not call in, heading instead for the waterways networks of the Maas/Meuse and the Waal/Rhine. One can only hope that guides were available to help the 33rd find their way over the streams, dykes and canals that lie across the line of their march south towards Antwerp.

One month later the 33rd took part in an attempt to take Antwerp, still held in some strength by the French. Together with the 95th (Rifle Brigade) and the 2/78th (Seaforths), the 33rd assaulted the village of Merxem (Merksem), on the outskirts of Antwerp. The initial attack went well, driving the defenders back behind the walls of the city. Merxem now is no village; it is part of the vast, sprawling industrial complex that surrounds the landward side of Antwerp, lying east of the Schelde (the major water highway) and North of the Albert Canal. In those days it would have been a flat, agricultural area, broken up by small streams and canals, with a single road running through from Antwerp to Breda (more than once the winter quarters of the Regiment during the War of Spanish Succession, some 110 years earlier.) Our Regiment took no casualties in this, their baptism of fire, and the attack was not prosecuted further, but plaudits from commanders were well earned.

Today Antwerp is the second largest port (by tonnage) in Europe (to Rotterdam), and a city of half a million people. The citadel and the fortifications (many built on the orders of the Duke of Wellington between 1815 and 1818) have all gone, the lines of defences replaced by broad avenues, and the city has expanded in all directions, obviously excluding seaward. The modest force that attempted the assault through Merksem would simply not know where to start these days.

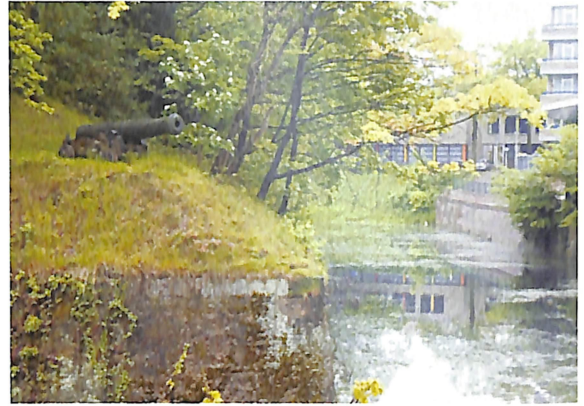
Attention turned now to Bergen Op Zoom, whose name alone deserves attention. Bergen had comprehensive fortifications, being entirely surrounded by high stone walls and moats, all enfiladed by cannon fire. Little remains; a single massive gate, and a section of crumbling, overgrown wall and moat. The defences faced by our men were formidable; the town's nickname for centuries was "La Pucelle", the virgin, meaning one who had never been conquered. To overcome the



The Marina area and the Town Hall at Willemstadt



Merxem



Old moated defences in Bergen Op Zoom, which once surrounded the whole town, covered by cannon fire

imbalance between attackers and defenders, Sir Thomas Graham, commander of the forces engaged, decided on a surprise night attack. Even with modern communications down to almost every individual soldier, night operations are always fraught with hazard; suffice it to say that things did not go well. Orders were ignored, feints and main assaults were off time, surprise was lost and generally it was a shambles.

The 33rd, was grouped now with the 55th (Border Regiment) and 2/69th (Welch), the CO of the last being given local command of this combined force which was given the objective of carrying the Breda Gate, surely similar to that in the photograph, the only one still standing. The force, in column, came under heavy grape and musketry fire, and the COs of the Welch and of the 33rd were both seriously wounded. Lacking orders the force withdrew. Redeployed, the troops took part in the assault in another sector of the defences, but again were beaten back, this time with those alongside them deciding to surrender. The 33rd declined to join them and fought their way out. The acting CO later indignantly denied any lack of zeal or courage on the Regiment's behalf. In the dark without leaders, orders, support, seeing neighbouring units surrendering and un-scalable

defences ahead of him, one can sympathise with his predicament and support his decision to take his battalion out of a hopeless and one-sided conflict.

Bergen Op Zoom, even in the pouring rain, is worth a visit. It has a splendid town hall, and an interesting small museum, and a good selection of shops, old streets and sights and places to eat and drink. A short distance outside the town is a Commonwealth War Graves site, which contains the graves of 1284 men, mostly from the battle for Walcheren in November 1944. Walcheren is a large island which commands the entrances to the Scheldt, and the 76th were part of a force in 1809 to try to capture the island to deny the French use of the port at Flushing, in the south of the island.

The coastline north and south from Bergen is studded with major marine installations; the area is flat and huge cranes are visible for miles. The strategic importance of this area remains as high now as it has been for centuries. From Edward III protecting the English wool trade, through at various times conflict with Spain, the Dutch Republic, France, and finally Germany, it has been found necessary to deploy British troops to secure national interests in the region.

After defeat at Bergen the British forces regrouped and



The last remaining gate at Bergen, from the outside...and from the inside



The
Town
Hall

prepared to assault Antwerp, but fortunately Napoleon, hemmed in on all sides and with allied armies advancing on France from several directions, abdicated and was exiled to Elba, and so on 5 May 1814 Antwerp was occupied without a fight. The 33rd remained in Belgium and would next come into action at Quatre Bras on 16 June 1815.

Trials and Tribulations.

Usually my little jaunts to research these “Footsteps” articles on the ground are excellent fun and trouble free. The Bergen op Zoom trip proved an exception.

Firstly I inadvertently fused the combined cigarette lighter and car radio circuit by pushing the satnav recharger into the socket at the wrong angle and breaking something whilst driving along, so although I did not realise it at the time the satnav battery was steadily getting flat. It died at Dover, and despite changing the circuit fuse I was unable to get power back into it. No satnav and no radio.

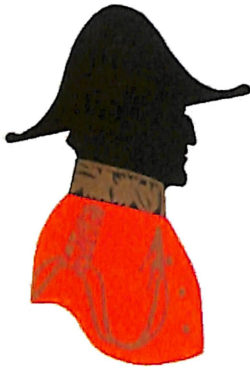
I then found that the cheap watch I wear for travel and gardening had also run out of battery some 30 minutes after I left home. No satnav and no radio and no watch.

Traffic all along the northern auto routes past Brugge, Gent and Antwerp was the worst I have ever experienced, mainly it seemed because the weather was dreadful, with driving rain and high wind. My old Mazda Bongo camper – a “grey import” small Japanese van converted to an extremely basic but perfectly adequate if you like that sort of thing condition for sleeping and eating in for

a few days – has always proved reliable in the past, but the radiator developed a major leak on the Antwerp ring road, in pouring rain and horrendous traffic. No satnav and no radio and no watch and no vehicle.

On calling my breakdown insurer he cheerfully told me that as I had not said I would be abroad on that date my policy was invalid. Words were exchanged but no dice. No satnav and no radio and no watch, no vehicle and no breakdown insurance. Buffeted and sprayed by monster trucks I tramped along the motorway hard shoulder in the rain to a telephone and eventually sorted things out, but was forced to spend a night in Antwerp. A modest hotel room and a large steak in an Argentinean restaurant, preceded by viewing the enormous Peter Paul Rubens (a local man whose name and statue appear all over the City) paintings in the Cathedral of our Lady, restored my morale, and the Cathedral is a must for anyone in the area to visit, both for its architecture and its many works of art. The titles of all the paintings are given in French, English and German. I do think it rather unfortunate that the painting “L’Ascension de la Vierge”, also “The Ascension of the Virgin Mary”, should be “Maria Himmelfahrt” in German.

Next morning an excellent radiator man called Peeters Van Tongel sourced and fitted a new radiator whilst I took to my bike to check out Merksem and order was restored. He also did a temporary fix on the cigarette lighter and radio circuit, so other than never knowing the time (Bongos don’t do a clock) and the continuing horrible weather all was again well.



DUKES' DIARY

the command of 1st Royal Tank Regiment (CO Lt Col Tony Walker, who was 1 DWR's brigade commander in Minden a few years later, and rose to be a Lt Gen). The balance of the battalion, perhaps less fortunate, carried out duties in the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area (SBA) under command of Lt Col John Greenway.

Number 7 covered the activities of both the UN and the SBA elements of 1 DWR in Cyprus.

Numbers 8 and 9 originated from 1 DWR back in Belfast at the end of 1979, deployed from the battalion's base in Minden, Nordrheinwestphalen. Lt Col Mundell was the CO.

Some brief extracts and photographs from issues 1 – 3 are below, and more will be in future editions of the Iron Duke.

- OC Recce to sunray – There is a band approaching, but I cannot recognise them. Sunray – are they the girls' band? OC Recce – Wait, yes, Sgt Stansfield recognises them as girls.
- It became common knowledge that whenever the CO tried to relax, something would happen. A verse of a ballad composed by BEM read "It is whispered behind each closed door, That the



Ptes. Walker, Birks, Winstanley Evans (Anti-tank Platoon) and Nelson the dog on duty outside St. Matthew's Church, Ballymacarrett.

Nine issues of the Dukes Diary were produced over a number of years in the seventies. They were busy and purposeful years for the battalion.

Numbers 1 – 3 were dated July (probably, it is in fact undated), August and September 1971 respectively, written whilst 1 DWR was in Belfast, on the first Northern Ireland Tour which included the notorious internment operation. Lt Col Huxtable commanded.

Numbers 4 and 5 covered the Dukes tour of 1972, when they were scattered around the border (Crossmaglen, Newry, Bessbrook,) with a rotating company in Ballymurphy, West Belfast. (I am grateful to our ex Medical Officer and enthusiastic adopted Duke Roger Jago for these editions). Lt Col Bray commanded.

Number 6, again undated, was written for Alma and Corunna Companies on UN duty in Cyprus in 1975, a tour which included the removal of the Turks from the villages of the south of the island to the north, literally thousands of them, and the corresponding move south by the Greeks in the North. The two Dukes' Companies were under



Salamander in action, fire fighting, with Pte. Suddaby and Cpl. Atkinson of Comd. Coy.

Colonel's not raising a snore, It's for fear of the whangs, And the clangs and the bangs, That he daren't go to bed anymore!"

- The Ops Room has become a sort of Father Confessor to all and sundry. At all times of day and night people with problems roll up at the door and burble out their troubles to the duty staff. To stem the tide a sign was made by the Assault Pioneers which, in letters of sparkling white on a blood red background, says "RESTRICTED AREA – NO UNAUTHORISED ENTRY". The effect was immediate and gratifying. Now, when the idiots turn up, they tell us what a nice sign we've got before wasting our time.

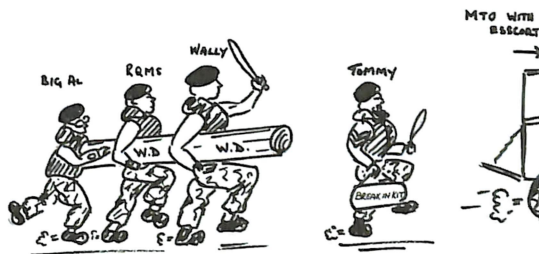


Ptes. Jacko Jackson and Bob Bareham, Burma Company, outside the main gates of the Crumlin Jail shortly after a bomb had been thrown from a passing car—22nd August, 1971.

- The Alma was pleased to welcome a very high powered search team from the Maidstone to assist with a dawn search. It consisted of, amongst others, the MTO, QM, RQMS, SQMS, a CSM and a SNCO, altogether some 300 years of military experience. The search report read "...the occupant opened the door, saw Sgt Jackson and said "Be Jaysus, its Christmas" after which the search commenced.
- From the Belfast Telegraph – A husband told today how two soldiers saved his wife and daughter from bleeding to death at their home in Sleaforde Street, Belfast. Mrs Bell's wife Mary and his daughter Eileen (22) were standing outside their home when they were frightened by a dog and in a panic fell through the glass door. It was then the two soldiers, Cpl Dayson and LCpl Hayes, arrived on the scene. Both women were bleeding badly but the two soldiers managed to stop it.
- ...the Lodge has not been all quiet. 4 Pl held two streets, Dawson and Churchill, and while tearing down a barricade on Dawson St a gunman opened up and got Pte MacDonald in the foot.... Pte Pemberton has excelled himself recently. He got a shot off at a gunman in Churchill St and succeeded

in breaking his wrist again making a spectacular one man arrest.

- A lot has happened since the last notes were written. First and foremost were the riots ... 5 Platoon were out on the street ...the sky was literally raining bottles and the next morning the platoon commander had to retire to his bed with a headache after unsuccessfully trying to head a brick. However, the part that really upset him was the loss of his dinky beret.
- A fast mobilisation of the Company saw 6 Platoon doing an assault into the side of the crown from 5 Platoon's right. Rumour has it that Pte Ramshaw was so eager that Cpl Whittaker's first rubber bullet caught him up the backside as he was about to grab a member of the crowd. Another report says that the bullet missed everyone, burned up the middle of the road and went straight through a shop window.
- From the Sunday Mirror, 23 August 1971. ...In Belfast a woman shouted to Mr Sharma, who is a Hindu, to declare his (religious) affiliations. When he yelled back that he was British, born in India, she demanded to know whether he was a protestant or not. It seems it is not enough to be a Hindu in Ulster these days. You must either be a protestant Hindu or a catholic Hindu.



"THE HEAVIES"
Admin. Company Search Team.

- The morning started with internment and the local peoples' reaction to it all was to express their anger by throwing bottles, in fact throwing anything throwable at our position....bottles appeared from an unquenchable source of a bottling factory down the road. We advanced to break them up ...the crowd retaliated by driving lorries towards us and soon managed to jam a number of vehicles together and hurled abuse and bottles from behind the barricade. So the battle continued with us trying to advance to the barricade and the crowd beating us back with extremely accurate volleys of bottles. ... help came at last from the other direction in the form of the Vigilant and Mortar Platoons...

Extracts from Dukes Diaries 4 and 5 next time.

Association News

President: Brigadier Andrew Meek.

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 12 Jan 2014; Saturday 26 April (joint with PWO and GH Associations), Sunday 22 June and Sunday 14 Sept (AGM). *A/Secretary:* John Greenway, 35 Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7AT. Tel: 01252 514786. E.mail: jbk gandjpg@aol.com

Loss of RHQ Personnel

It was reported above that Majors David Harrap and Bob Heron were leaving. A short summary of their careers with the Dukes follows.

Major Bob Heron



Bob Heron was born in Thornaby on Tees and joined the Army on impulse in 1963, doing his basic training at the Depot at Strensall. He joined the Dukes in March 1964 in Osnabruck. He worked his way up in the battalion; corporal in the Recce Platoon in Gillingham and Hong Kong, and in Burma Company for the first Northern Ireland tour.

He was promoted to sergeant following the

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.

tour and posted as an instructor at IJLB Shorncliffe 73-74 Aldershot and Cyprus with UNFICYP. He was posted as Colour Sergeant with 3rd Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers 76-77 (promoted WO2 in post), before returning to Minden as CSM Burma Company 1979 - 82. Promoted to WO1 in 1982 and posted as RSM of 3rd Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers in Huddersfield, then RSM of the Dukes 1984 -85 in Gibraltar and Belize.

He was commissioned as Captain in 1985 first appointed MTO then moving with the Battalion to Belfast in 1986 before moving to Armagh as QM of HQ 3 Brigade (awarded GOC NI Commendation) He returned to the Battalion in 1998 (Tern Hill) as QM Tech moving to Bulford in the AMFL role in 1990 and promoted to Major (QM) in 1991, resigning his commission in 1994 to take over as Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ DWR in Halifax.

Bob is married to Linda and they have four children, two sons and two daughters. He was a tremendous sportsman throughout his Dukes/Army career including football (captain/manager for many years), athletics, cross country skiing, shooting (Bisley team, Cox Medal winner and UN Falling Plates Championship, Cyprus). Latterly he became a keen golfer.

Major David Harrap



David Harrap was brought up in East Africa then Fiji where his father was a colonial civil servant. Went to school in New Zealand before university at Bristol to read law. After university travelled overland from London to Nairobi crossing the Sahara to Ghana then through Nigeria to Chad and the Congo, up the Congo river and finally across the Ruwenzori mountains to Uganda and

Kenya. Returned to the UK to join the Army. Joined in 1972, completed the first RMAS course for graduates and commissioned into the Dukes. Platoon commander 5 Platoon, Burma company Mar 73 to 74 - Ballykelly, NI, operating in the Brandywell and County Derry.

Mortar platoon commander '74 - '76 (Aldershott, NI (Spearhead Bn to South Armagh -the 'railway children') Cyprus, Germany (Minden)). 'Long Armour Infantry Course at Bovington '77. Ops Offr in Minden - '78 to '79 (Ex Snow Boot which will be remembered by many (see Simon Morgan's tale in the ID). OC Somme Coy mid '79 to mid '81 (Minden, Belfast Mcrory Park - Ballymurphy Gun Team, lost Errol Price - Minden, Catterick - presentation of Colours and public duties, OC Alma '81 to early '82 -Catterick and South Armagh (Forkhill), Staff College - long technical course Shrivenham '82 Camberley '83. MOD procurement executive London - infantry weapons '84 to '85, OC Corunna '86 to '87 Bulford and Belfast (Holywood), Bn 21c '87 to '88, MOD London '88 to '89. Left Army '89.

BMARC/Astra Defence Systems (Donald Isles's was Deputy Managing Director) manufacturers of Oerlikon and Rarden cannons and ammunition 89 to 92 when company went into administration in the Thatcher recession. Self-employed consultancy in Harrogate 92 to 95. Regtl Sec DWR 95 to 2006 with WRM and EWC as Cols and Bob Heron. Highlights team of officers we built up, Tercentenary, best recruited Regt for both officers and soldiers in the Infantry by time of amalgamations in 2006.

Officer recruiting for the Yorkshire Regt 2006 to date while continuing as DWR Museum Trustee and DWR Trustee.

Sale of Regimental Silver

Most members of the Association will have heard that a large number of Dukes' silver items, to a value of around £40,000 and mostly coming from the former 3 YORKS Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, were sold out of hand without reference to the Association or the donors (or families of the donors). It must be made clear that the Yorkshire Regiment was the owner of this silver; although it was all bought and paid for over many years by members of the Regiment. Only a few specified "iconic" items remained DWR property, the ownership of everything else, valuable or not, was transferred. With three battalions merging into two, there were bound to be some surplus items.

It should be noted, though, that many of these items were much loved and cherished, and should first, in accordance with an agreed protocol, have been offered for sale to members of the Regiment before being placed on the open market.

On the Association's behalf the President, Colonel

Nick Borwell, protested to Major General Binns, Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment, in a letter dated 5 August 2013. Whilst it was apparently too late to halt the sale, Colonel Borwell insisted on a full explanation.

He has now received a letter dated 22 October from Major General Binns, extracts (the majority of it) of which appear below:

"You are right to point out the failings in the process of disposal of the silver and for that I, once again, apologise. The failure to communicate adequately went much further than merely with the DWR community but seriously exposed the fault-lines that existed in our own internal communications.

Mistakes were made throughout the process..... What we will do, indeed are doing, is to ensure that we learn from this and do not allow ourselves to get caught up in a similar maelstrom of activity which resulted in too few people making too many important decisions at too fast a pace. Battalion, Regimental Headquarters and Trustees

all had a part to play in this and I am determined that it must not happen again.

..... The disposal of the DWR silver raised £39,860.34. The Yorkshire Regiment Trustees have yet to determine the detailed distribution of this money, but there is a proposal to return a percentage of it to the 1st Battalion Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and use

the remainder to contribute towards the cost of creating new silver centrepieces for each Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Regiment.

I know that you personally are handing over as President and I am grateful for your understanding, if not acceptance, of our failings. I am sorry we did not get this right."

Founder's Day 2013

Brigadier John Greenway attended the Founder's Day parade at the Royal Hospital this year, and discovered that In Pensioner Fred Richardson was also enjoying the day.



In Pensioners on Parade



Brigadier John Greenway with In Pensioner Fred Richardson and Sharon the manager of the Watford Abbeyfield home where Fred used to live



Fred Richardson and a Pearly Queen



The Annual Dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch in 1954. At the head of the table, nearest to us, is Major RA Scott, Brig Greenway's great uncle. To his right sits Major John "Foxy" Davis. On the far side of the room, to the right of the pillar, stands Major Graham Tedd, both stalwarts in their day of Regimental HQ

Freedom Parades

In 2013 3 YORKS, as they were, carried out a number of Freedom Parades in West and South Yorkshire. Paul Taylor of our archive team has found photographs of earlier Freedom Parades held, appropriately enough, on 18 June, in 1945, as the nation celebrated victory.



Photo

VE. DAY. 3 June 18th 1945

Halifax Courier

The "Dukes" Marching through the Town after the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony



Photo
Pte. R. BURTON, V.C.

VE. DAY. 3 June 18th 1945
A Birds Eye View at the
Freedom of the Borough Ceremony, at Bull Green

Halifax Courier
The Duke of Wellington



Photo

VE. DAY. 3. June 18th, 1945
The Scene at Bull Green when the Freedom of the Borough
was granted to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment
Ald. L. Chambers, J.P., handing over the Deed of Grant to Col. C. J. Pickering

Halifax Courier

Dukes London Group (DLG) Golf Day

15 gentlemen assembled at Bearwood Lakes GC in Berkshire on 1 August 2013 to contest what was once called the Hindoostan Open. Bearwood Lakes is a very fine venue indeed, and we were favoured with only

modest cost with thanks to Major Dan Holloway's Father, who owns the course. Grateful thanks also to Dan for his excellent organisation. This really is a fun event and it deserved stronger support.



Grimly determined and ready for the off!

Scene from the Clubhouse, overlooking the 1st, 10th and 18th holes



A well-deserved cold one



Organiser Dan Holloway presents the cup to Mark Crawford

Buttons

An alert reader of the Iron Duke spotted a photograph of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge wearing an extremely smart coat. What made the photograph special is that the coat buttons were those of 1 DWR. How her dressmaker came to choose those particular buttons we shall probably never know. A letter was sent by the Editor to Her Royal Highness congratulating her on her excellent selection, telling her that, alas, the Regiment that once wore those buttons no longer existed, but that those who had served in it were very happy indeed that a good use had been found for them. When that coat is worn again she will perhaps, as she buttons it up, remember the Dukes. We also sent her our readers' very best wishes.

Miss Rebecca Deacon, Private Secretary to the Duchess replied, thanking us for our letter concluding "It was extremely kind of you to take the trouble to write as you did, and the Duchess would have me send you her warmest thanks and best wishes".



Dukes Officers' London Lunch 2014

The next lunch in London for officers of the Dukes, their wives, partners and adult children will be held on Saturday 29 March 2014 at the East India Club in St James's Square. If you would like to attend, or receive the details next January, and you are not already on Michael Bray's list of previous attendees, please email, him at mrbbray@hotmail.com.

In the interests of keeping the Dukes family together, it should be noted that three of Donald Isles' grandsons, David's sons, with their parents attended this year's enjoyable occasion; as did Tim and Liz Isles. This sets a good precedent and hopefully will encourage the younger generation to attend.

The Korean War

General Sir Charles Huxtable sent in a letter from Maurice French of Heytesbury Wiltshire to the Editor of the Times, published on 1st June 2013.

Sir; This week we remember the Coronation and the ascent of Everest. We should also remember that 60 years ago this week the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, reinforced by the Royal Fusiliers, fought the Battle of the Hook in Korea. After 10,000 shells had landed on their position the Chinese hordes came screaming into their trenches but those fine Yorkshire soldiers held their ground. The Battle of the Hook was arguably a major factor in contributing to the ceasefire which followed two months later. Let us not forget "The Forgotten War".

Artefacts Appeal

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

The Archives is fortunate to hold a great deal of information on the 1st World War to enable the Bankfield Museum and the Iron Duke to display and publish interesting items on events of 100 years ago.

Our successors will not be so fortunate in the future if this generation does not collect and submit diaries, accounts, anecdotes, maps and artefacts to the Archives and Museum before memory fades and items are thrown away as worthless by people who do not know better.

Please give generously to support the historians of the future and keep the good name of the 'Dukes' alive in the history books. Initially make contact with Scot Flaving at rhqyorksa0@btconnect.com

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.

LETTERS

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

From ex WO2 Lee Greenwood. A DUKES SWAGGER STICK

I was a Pte under Jonno Wood in B Coy in 1978 when you were the OC. You once awarded (strange phrase that) me 14 days RPs for being AWOL, did me no harm, I went on to become WO2 myself. I hope this email finds you well. I was passed your email in the capacity of Iron Duke Editor from RHQ.

I recently purchased a silver and ebony swagger stick from the sale of Regt mess silver due to the amalgamation of messes and army restructuring. It is hallmarked silver and has 17 names inscribed on it over 2 x silver scrolls. We think we may have identified one of the names, Pte G France, who was a WO2 in the early 60s, his name is the first on the scrolls. I am trying to put a little history to the stick what was it used for, why the names, who presented it and when etc. I was wondering if you might find time to place an item in the Iron Duke.

The engraved names on the first scroll are as follows;

9451 PTE FRANCE G	B COY
7442 PTE HALLIDAY P	C COY
4707 PTE STOKES J	B COY
7373 PTE LONGBOTTOM R	D COY
7618 PTE STOYLE W	B COY
4743 PTE TURTON J C	C COY
1572 PTE WOODWARD C	D COY
6827 PTE HESSELDON N	C COY

On the second scroll:

1567 PTE NICHOLS A	D COY
6700 PTE AMBLER S R	C COY
6711 PTE DOOLAN P	D COY
8751 PTE CLIFFORD R	D COY
2857 PTE FLETCHER R Y	C COY
7469 PTE HAWKSHAW W H	D COY
0186 PTE FAIRBANKS W	C COY
0187 PTE LIDDEMORE	AC COY

My questions are these:

1. Who presented the Swagger stick, for what reason and when. Do we have any regimental stories behind the person who presented the stick?
2. Who are the soldiers named on the stick?
3. Why are they all Ptes? Is there a special reason, such as an annual presentation to smartest soldier competition or best boots on parade!!!
4. Did any of the soldiers named on the stick go on to become RSM or take commissions are be awarded GALLANTRY MEDALS ETC?
5. Why is there not a soldier from A Coy? Should you find that you are interested in placing such information in the Iron Duke I would be most grateful, I can provide photographs of myself when serving as a young lad and the stick if required.

From ex Band Sergeant Andrew (Billy) Beaumont 1 DWR BAND REUNION

I am Sgt Andrew (Billy) Beaumont from The Band of The King's Division and I am part of a team organising a reunion for ex members of 1DWR Band. Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the disbandment of the Band which occurred under Options for Change. We are trying to contact as many ex members and this has found its way to you via RHQ. If you know any ex members that are not in contact with RHQ can you please spread the word and pass on my contact details which you can find at the end of this letter. We have organised a reunion to be held on Saturday 21st June 2014 from 1400hrs. It will be held at The Duke of Wellington Pub in Halifax. <http://www.thedukeofwellingtonhalifax.co.uk/>. We have a Facebook group if you would like to visit and join us there that would be great. I can be contacted in the following ways, E: 1dwrbandreunion@gmail.com W: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/35284994493>





M: 07837895347 I hope to see as many of you as possible in Halifax next year.

Billy Beaumont later provided some additional information and two photographs.

I joined the Bn in Sep 1993 while we were at Kiwi Barracks, Bulford and left after Bosnia approximately 12 months later when The Dukes lost its Band. My

collection of pictures from this time is very limited but I have attached two from our time in Kenya (Jan - Feb 1994). I hope these help. In the picture of five Dukes, LCpl Jason Alcorn is sat down and from left to right there is BdsM Billy Beaumont, LCpl Simon Brooks, BdsM Dan Cooper and Cpl Jim Davis. The other photo shows members of the band with friends.

From Brigadier MRN Bray BACK TO SHANGHAI

Conscientious readers of the Iron Duke, of which I am sure you are one, will have noted our Editor's imaginative idea for recreating the Dukes as a regiment in the Chinese Army, following in the footsteps of Wellington College, which has set up a school there. See page 19 of the last issue. This prompts me to write about my Grandfather's early experience in China, but first an earlier event which has just had a topical echo.

R.N.Bray was commissioned into the Dukes in 1894 and went with the 1st Battalion to Malta in 1895. There he sailed on the yacht Maid of Erin which won the fine thistle shaped cup, presented by the Malta Yacht Club, which has been displayed in our Mess for the last 118 years until it was sold at auction by the Yorkshire Regiment this summer. It now sits under his portrait in my study.

Whether the original Maid of Erin was a real person or a fiction, I have not discovered. She seems to have fought the Danes 1000 years ago and entered the annals of romantic Irish history, usually as a symbol of rebellion.

In 1867 three Fenians were hanged in Manchester, reputedly unjustly, for the murder of a police sergeant. In 1881 a statue of the Maid of Erin was erected in their memory in Ennis, County Clare, where it stands to this day. There is another in Skibbereen in County Cork commemorating four rebellions against the British. So it does appear that the Dukes in Malta were sailing under an inappropriate title. Perhaps it could be said that the Maid got her man; my grandfather died of WW1 wounds while commanding the Battalion in Dublin in 1920 on anti-rebel operations.

Before WW1, he did two tours in China, first as a company commander in a battalion of Chinamen with British officers, raised to protect our trading ports, and secondly as Commandant of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps (SVC), a body raised for the same purpose and financed and manned by the trading nations, which included Germany.

When WW1 started Robert Bray was appointed to command the Dukes 2nd Battalion in France. He had accumulated several months of leave, which he did not get, but he remained on the payroll of the SVC, until the theoretical end of his leave period, thus fighting the

Germans for a period in France with a proportion of his pay coming from the Germans in Shanghai. A twist of history worthy of an Irishman, which his great great grandfather was.

Back to our Editor's suggestion: I note that he proposes that the Dukes London Group should appoint

the Commanders of our new Dukes Battalion in the Chinese Army. As the founder of the London Group and the grandson of the SVC Commander, I hereby stake a claim to be honorary colonel, in absentia, but since the Chinese Army runs all sorts of lucrative business ventures, I should like to be a shareholder!



R.N.Bray as Commandant of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps in 1913, with the Maid of Erin cup below the portrait

From former National Service officer John Lobanov Rostovsky A SHOOTING IN MINDEN

Some time ago you asked me if I could recall any anecdotes from my service which might be of interest to readers of the Iron Duke. In December 1951 I DWR entrained at Chiseldon for a spell at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Minden in West Germany. The barracks were of late 1930s construction, for crack SS troops, some distance from the town centre. The Officers' Mess was situated in a large white house much nearer the town centre. It had a smallish garden beyond which were a number of solid 19th century houses of red brick construction, and doubtless occupied by respectable, non-political burgesses. All was not dissimilar to the geography of many West Riding towns.

Apart from a razzmatazz over Christmas in Minden (the soldiers had three weeks' pay issued on 19 December and as yet no experience of German beer) the battalion achieved good relations with the locals. Colonel Ramsey Bunbury made a point of inviting the Burgomeister (and probably other civic dignitaries) to certain events, and the Dukes came to be well regarded there (or so I thought).

One day, following an event in the Officers' Mess (of which I recall nothing), the Mess Corporal (whose name

I cannot and would not recall) repaired to the top floor of the house and started to shoot from a window towards the brick houses with a .22 rifle.

The following morning I was deputed to investigate whom, if anyone, had been a target. I was chosen, not due to any qualities of detection, but simply because I had some rudimentary German acquired at school 18 months previously. Having identified one house as being within range, I knocked on the front door and was admitted to a drawing room and introduced to an elderly lady sitting in a large armchair, behind which stood a grandfather clock. Its glass cover was shattered and a small hole was apparent in its face. It seemed that the corporal's bullet had missed the lady's face by inches. This was explained to me without emotion, anger or excitement as if it were, so to speak, "just one of those things".

In reply to my apology on the Dukes' behalf, anticipating reference to generals, BAOR compensation funds, courts and the like, I was astonished to be told only that: "Das wahr ein grosse Ungehörigkeit" which I believe may be translated as "It was a great impertinence".

So far as I was aware no complaint was made, no proceedings followed, nor any compensation beyond perhaps the cost of repairs to the clock. And I believe the Mess Corporal remained in his post, albeit minus his rifle.

Anecdotes like this from any era of service with the Dukes will be warmly welcomed by the Editor.

Obituaries

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

Roger Southerst

Brigadier Dick Mundell writes - Roger Southerst was born in London in May 1935, but soon moved to Halifax. He was commissioned into the Regiment in 1954. After three years in the Dukes, he opted for a tour with the Parachute Regiment. He returned to the Dukes for the Kenya tours in 1959/61. In 1962 he transferred permanently to the Paras, but remained a faithful and popular Duke.

His later service included command of the Parachute

Depot in Aldershot, when the Dukes were stationed there. He was the Military Secretary in Germany; the Military Attache in Paris; and finally the Defence Advisor in Nairobi; before retiring and settling in Fleet, Hampshire.

Roger met Anne in Halifax and married there in 1958; they had three lovely daughters. Roger died in Fleet on 30 April 2013. Roger had a wonderful way with everyone; his love for life, sports cars, golf, friends and family was always apparent.

He was a true Duke – and Para.

Association HQ has been notified of the following deaths

Major Victor Stuart King

Victor King was commissioned into the Dukes in August 1940, serving in the UK as a platoon commander with both the 2/6th and 2/7th Battalions, before he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion in India in July 1942. He was attached to 6 Independent Brigade in Burma November 1942 – April 1943, where he was wounded and spent the following four months recovering in various military hospitals in India. Victor spent the

remainder of the War in India doing various Staff appointments, before returning to the UK to end his wartime service in May 1946.

Victor died on 13th June 2013, at the age of 93.

Kenneth Snowdon

Kenneth Snowden, who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea and was a member of 7 Platoon, C Company, died on 14th April 2013, at the age of 80.



The top table at the Duke of Wellington's Regiment's Officers' Dinner at the Naval and Military Club (In and Out), St James's Square London on Thursday 20 June 2013, clockwise from directly in front of the Honorary Queen's Colour: His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Col Nick Borwell, Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, Brig Andrew Meek, Brig John Greenway, Brig Michael Bray, Brig John Hall (part visible), Brig David Santa-Olalla (out of shot), Brig Dick Mundell, Lt Col Zac Stenning.



The Gurkha Band prepares to wheel into position at the head of the Colours Parade March On at Battlesbury Barracks on 13 July 2013