

Autumn 2014  
No. 277

# THE IRON DUKE

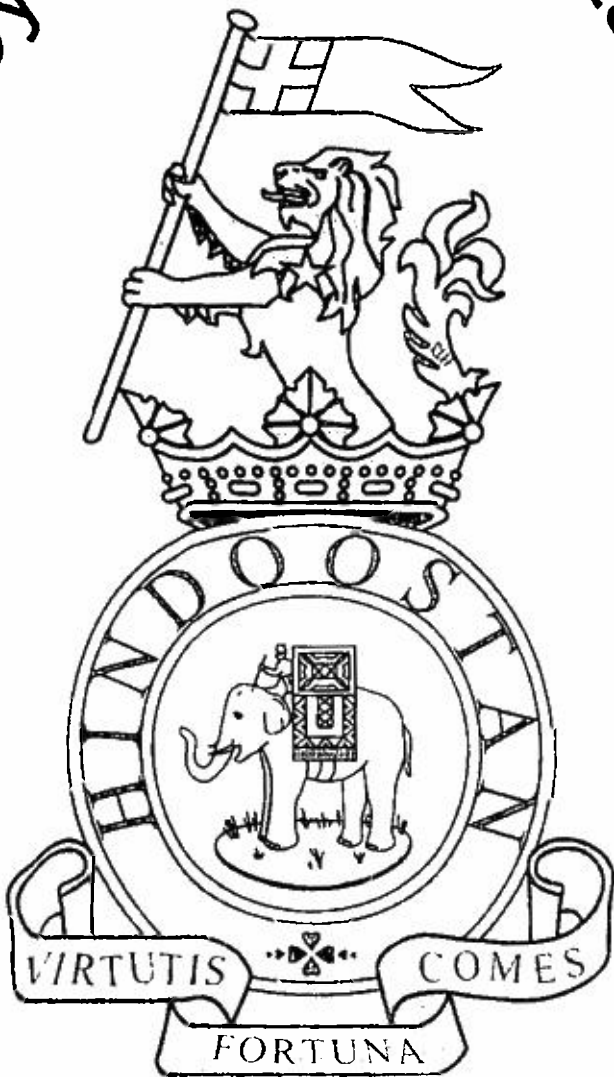
## In This Issue

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- Dukes Diary 1975
- Association News
- Obituaries
- Letters



Tyne Cot War Graves Cemetery, near Ypres, in August 2014

Digitised by The Regimental Archives







**From L - Colonel Wilf Charlesworth, Brigadier Andrew Meek (President of the Association), and Brigadier Nigel Hall at the Officers' Annual Dinner at the Naval and Military Club ("The In and Out"), St James's Square London, on 19 June 2014.**

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**Front cover – The Tyne Cot WGC carries some 35000 names of soldiers who died and have no known grave, and nearly 12,000 graves, of which over 8000 are unidentified. The Cross of Sacrifice at the top of the picture was placed on one of the German pill boxes that stood on the ridge. The Australian infantry who took the pill boxes had to assault straight up the line to the cross. There are another 54,000 names of men with no known grave on the walls and surrounds at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.**

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

*Dettingen  
Mysore  
Serlingapatam  
Ally Ghur  
Delhi 1803  
Leswarree*

*Deig  
Corunna  
Nive*

*Peninsula  
Waterloo  
Alma*

*Inkerman  
Sebastopol  
Abyssinia*

*Relief of Kimberley  
Paardeberg  
South Africa 1900-02  
Mons 1914  
Marne 1914, '18  
Ypres 1914, '15, '17*



*Hill 60  
Somme 1916, '18  
Arras 1917, '18  
Cambrai 1917, '18  
Lys*

*Piave 1918  
Landing at Suvla  
Afghanistan 1919  
North-West Europe  
1940, 1944-45  
Dunkirk 1940*

*St Valery-en-Caux  
Fontenay-le-Pesnil  
Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943*

*Anzio  
Monte Ceco  
Burma 1942, '43, '44  
Sittang 1942  
Chindits 1944  
The Hook 1953  
Korea 1952-53*

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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## Editorial

### Keeping in Step with our Anniversaries.

In this edition we take forward the story of our Second Battalion 100 years ago in 1914 and 1915, during which time it faced intense challenges which required every man to show great courage and endurance, and caused shocking casualties; and of our predecessors the 33rd (1st Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment, whose campaign against Napoleonic forces was scarcely less intense, with an outcome that was far from a sure thing at the time, 200 years ago, as the men tucked themselves away in winter quarters and wondered when they might be allowed to go home, now that Boney had been put out of the way.

I have been to Mons three times in the last year: once to write the article that appeared in the last edition of this Journal; once to play golf on some of the excellent courses that surround the town, several of which are on heavily wooded and gently undulating ground that the advancing German forces crossed on their approach to the Mons-Condé canal, along which the BEF took its initial defensive positions in August 1914; and once with a group of cyclists who wished to make a personal act of remembrance based on the anniversary of the "First Shots" between British and German forces (21 August at 0630, there is monument by the roadside at Casteau, just up the road from SHAPE) and raise some funds at the

same time. An article about the last appears in this edition. And, of course, if you are near Mons it is but a short hop to Waterloo, (which also has excellent golf courses. Can you guess what the Editor does in his spare time?).

I have been going to the old Flanders region, in the footsteps of the Dukes, for some years now. Time and again our men were sent there to protect our trade and our allies from encroachment, impedance and conquest, firstly by the Spanish, then the French, then the Germans, and lastly, at least potentially, the Russians, over 300 years. Ours was a much travelled Regiment, gaining success in many parts of the world, yet no single country or area demonstrates the character and military contribution of the Dukes as do our actions in this largely featureless, certainly unglamorous, patch of northern Europe.

Our battle honours include such as Seringapatam, Corunna, Abyssinia and Paardeburg; Afghanistan 1919, the landing at Suvla, Djebel Bou Aoukaz, Sittang and the Hook. Undeniably tough campaigns, all of them. But it was at Liege, Fontenoy, Bergen Op Zoom, Waterloo, Mons, Marne, Ypres, Arras and Cambrai – all of them now scarcely a day's journey from our homes – that we really showed what we were made of. Readers are welcome to disagree!

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Brigadier Andrew Meek writes...

In my previous column I said that, given the need for us to vacate Wellesley Park in the near future, the single biggest challenge facing the Association is how we are to administer ourselves once the move out has been completed. I am glad to report that progress has been made and plans are now being drawn up to move the archives and the office into Bankfield Museum. This has only been made possible thanks to the significant support we have received from Calderdale Council and in particular Councillor Geraldine Carter who, as many will know, has been a staunch ally and supporter of the Regiment for many years.

She has been particularly anxious to ensure that the close links that have been established between the Dukes and Halifax are not lost not least because it is such a key element to the history of the town and borough. Thus if all goes well (and there is no reason to doubt that it will) we should be moving out of Wellesley Park in January 2015: there is still much work to be done because the space we shall occupy in Bankfield is considerably less than we have become used to over the years and thus there is much weeding required and in this respect I am indebted to the huge amount of work being done by Bob Heron and his team of volunteers as without them the task would be significantly more challenging.

I realise that it has taken some time to get to this conclusion and there are a number of reasons for this in particular the continuing uncertainty over the future of



**Brigadier  
Andrew  
Meek CBE**

the Yorkshire Regiment's area office for South & West Yorkshire as there may have been a possibility of sharing office space but in the end this was not to be. I am in no doubt that the decision to move to Bankfield is the right one: our archives will be housed in absolutely the right place and our office will remain in Halifax.

The move will come at a timely moment in that 2015 sees the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and we shall be marking this significant date with two events. Just before the actual anniversary there is to be a battlefield tour which is being organised by Tim Nicholson. Such is the enthusiasm for this venture that all places were very quickly snapped up. Closer to home the Regiment will mark this milestone in Halifax on Saturday 20th June.



Although planning is still at a somewhat embryonic stage the intention is for the Yorkshire Regiment to exercise the Freedom of Calderdale (inherited of course from The Dukes) after which it is intended to hold a musical re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo followed by a party for all Dukes. Full details will be published as soon as they are confirmed but at this stage I would ask that everyone keeps this date free as it will be a major reunion and one that the Trustees have already agreed to support with a major grant from Regimental funds.

Whilst much of my time of late has been taken up with all the changes to our organisation and the consequent reductions in what we can do, it is something of a relief to report a distinctly different story. On 1st October Brig Michael Bray and I visited Wellington College in Berkshire which was established by Queen Victoria to commemorate the 1st Duke. Of course the Dukes have had a lengthy and formal connection with the College through the CCF which continues to wear the cap badge and other Dukes accoutrements. I have to say it was wonderful to see our cap badge so prominent when visiting the CCF. The purpose of our visit was to see what opportunities there might be to further the ties between the College and the Regiment and although nothing formal was agreed immediately I am quietly confident, given the warm reception we received, that there are a number of initiatives that could well bear fruit in the future. Thus more to follow in due course.

Returning to the subject of change, once the move to Bankfield has been completed attention will then turn to securing our archives for the future. This will mean digitising our records, a major undertaking which will take some time to achieve and will need considerable financial support and this in turn will require us to seek a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant. As regards all other aspects of the Association I said before that I am keen to understand what people want of the Association and therefore welcome views in particular on what needs to be done to make the Association better for all members.

Key decisions are made by the Regimental Trustees who are drawn from across the Regimental family in order to ensure that as much as possible all elements are represented but nevertheless we are conscious that our deliberations are made somewhat in isolation. Thus what information do you want that is not already available and in what format should it be? What type of events are required and with what frequency? But having had not one single response to my previous plea I can only assume that everyone is entirely happy with the present state of affairs!

### Association Trustees.

The Association is directed by a small group of Trustees, under the guidance of the President. Trustees have a formal role, ensuring that the Association's charitable funds are properly administered and disbursed. Since the changes in the regimental structure and the formation of the Yorkshire Regiment beginning in 2006, there was no longer a Regimental Council, and the Trustees took on responsibility for all aspects of the Association's activities. Readers may wish to know who they are and something about their background in the Dukes. Three short biographies follow, and the remainder will appear in a future edition.

### Brigadier AD Meek CBE

Brigadier Andrew Meek was commissioned into The Dukes in 1971 and, needing time to understand the requirements of service life, was a platoon commander in Alma Company for 3 years! Thereafter he held a variety of Regimental appointments in UK and BAOR including command of Alma Company in 1986/1987 and was Commanding Officer from 1989 to 1992.

After command he was Deputy Commander of the Berlin Infantry Brigade with the specific task of closing that Garrison following the fall of the Wall. Subsequent appointments included command of the Infantry Training Centre in Brecon and command of 143 West Midlands Brigade in Shrewsbury during which time he co-ordinated military support for the fuel crisis, floods, foot and mouth disease, and the fireman's strike, all leading edge military tasks!

On retiring from the Army Andrew Meek worked for The Royal British Legion for 8 years and in 2011 retired fully, although volunteer roles in various guises ensures that the diary is kept full.

### Colonel Simon Newton

Colonel Simon Newton was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) in 1975 and served in most Battalion appointments, commanding the 1st Battalion from 1997 – 1999 in Weeton and then Hounslow. He has been a Trustee of the Dukes since 1999 and was also a Trustee of the York and Lancaster Regiment from 2000 - 2005. He went on to be a Deputy Colonel of the Regiment of the Yorkshire Regiment from their formation in 2006 – 2011 representing Dukes' interests on their Regimental Board.

After his Regimental service he commanded New College at Sandhurst, was the Chief of Operations for the UN in Sierra Leone, was a military diplomat in the Czech Republic and then Afghanistan and finally was the Army Board secretary. He retired from the Army in 2010 and moved to North Devon where he and his wife Lucie run a smallholding and B&B business. He also holds a number of part-time appointments including being the Services adviser for Method Publishing, a defence consultant with Oakas Ltd and a walk leader for The Wayfarers.

### Major David Harrap



Commissioned into the Regiment 1972 joining the 1st Battalion in Ballykelly. He was OC Mortars in Aldershot, South Armagh and Minden, Ops Officer Minden, OC Somme Company Minden and Belfast 1979/80. OC Corunna Company Bulford and Palace Barracks, Bn 2IC Palace Barracks 1986/87. Regimental Secretary 1994 - 2006. Regimental Trustee since 1994.

## Regimental News Round Up

### Halifax Reunion

This is scheduled for 4 October at 1200 hours at Wetherspoons, Halifax. Anyone reading this who attended, a report for the next Iron Duke will be welcome. Keep an eye on our website to stay up to date with the Association schedule of events

### 33/LXXVI Club.

The next 33/LXXVI Club gathering will be held at the

WOs and Sgts Mess, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall on Saturday 1st November 2014. The evening will begin at 1900 hours and a buffet will be served at 2000 hours. The cost will be £10 per head, including buffet and staff costs. This event is open to all Dukes everywhere, and those wishing to attend must register, and pay, before 17 October (which means that if you are hearing about this for the first time you are probably too late!) As above, check our website for further details.

### Officers' Dinner

The annual officers' dinner was held at the In and Out Club, St James's Square London, on 19 June 2014 (see photo inside front cover and below)

The 2015 dinner will be held at the Maison des Brasseurs, Grande Place, Brussels, on 15 June 2015,

followed the next day with a tour of the Quatre-Bras and Waterloo battlefields. This is already fully subscribed, but a waiting list will operate and the Editor, who is organising the event, will do everything he can to accommodate late comers.



From Left, Brig David Santa-Ollala, Maj Bob Heron, Major Stephen Acaster, Lt Col Andrew Drake.



The Maison des Brasseurs (The Brewers' House), Grande Place, Brussels.



## Dukes London Group Golf Day

The annual Dukes' London Group golf day was again held at the magnificent Bearwood Lakes Golf Course in Berkshire. It was a gloriously hot day, and the Editor of this Journal at least was extremely happy as he won the Hindoostan Open Cup. Mostly it was "the usual suspects" but there were some new players, and an excellent day was enjoyed by all.



The Club House from the 18th fairway.



Col Charles Cumberlege, who took third place, drives.



From Left Rob Palfrey, Tim Nicholson (1st), Richard Trounson, Mark Crawford (2nd), Gary Knight, Andy Brewer, Rob Douglas, Dan Brennan, Dan Holloway, Charles Cumberlege (3rd), James Young, Rob Taylor, Rob Harford, Jason Hopkinson.



## 2Lt PBL Hoppe

The last issue carried on page 26 a photograph of Peter Hoppe and Colin Aukett, former battalion boxers, who were reunited at the Union Jack Club on 26 April this year. Thanks to a regimental booklet in the archives of In Pensioner Fred Richardson – undated but General Sir Philip Christison wrote the foreword, and he was Colonel 1947 – 1957 - we can now show a photo of Peter in his formidable prime, in 1952, when he was light heavyweight Champion of 6th Armoured Division BAOR, Army Officers, and the Army.



2Lt Peter Hoppe DWR in 1952.

## Private James Henry Banks



James Banks served in 2 DWR and was killed in action at Mons on 23 August 1914, in the action described in issue number 276. Like nearly half the battalion he was



Private Bank's grave at Hautrage WGC





**A line of Dukes' and others' headstones at Hautrage WGC. Many Dukes killed on 23 and 24 August 1914 are buried here.**



**Margaret Holden lays her wreath in memory of her great uncle**

recalled to the colours on the declaration of war on 4 August, and posted to C Company. He was killed, one of six, on the first day of action along the Mons-Condé Canal. See article in the last edition for a description of 2 DWR at Mons in August 1914.

Private Banks was born in Bradford in 1895. On the 1911 census he is recorded as living at 53 Birk Street, Bradford, working as a "Tile Cutter Assistant". His great niece, Mrs Margaret Holden of Bradford, was one of a battlefield tour party that held a short service of remembrance for Private Banks, exactly 100 years to the day after his death, at Hautrage Commonwealth War Graves site. She writes ". He was the youngest brother of my grandmother Annie Banks who I lived with as a child.

My mother recalled that Annie and her sisters used to talk a lot about their younger brother who was killed as soon as the war started. His family were poor mill workers from Bradford, West Yorkshire and as such never had the money to travel to see his grave or to pay for a personal dedication putting on his headstone. When I saw that (someone) was organising a visit to Mons that also included a visit to Hautrage, on the 100th anniversary of James death, I just knew that I had to go to pay my respects on this special day (even though I had visited his grave before on a number of occasions). From beginning to end my visit with the group was such a wonderful experience and I know that my Nan and her sisters would have been so proud to see the love and respect given to the memory of James by all those that accompanied us."



# 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.

The Regiment publishes a newsletter from time to time, and most of what follows is derived from that. If you wish to receive your own copy email [rhqyorksao@btconnect.com](mailto:rhqyorksao@btconnect.com) and ask for one to be sent to you. You can also access information on [www.yorkshireregiment.com](http://www.yorkshireregiment.com).

## RHQ

Colonel George Kilburn (late DWR) took over as Honorary Colonel from Colonel Julian Fox on 30 May at the annual Officers' Dinner. The dinner was followed the next day by a service in York Minster, attended by a sizeable congregation including cadets and veterans. That afternoon the Regiment's Maiden Stakes took place at York racecourse.

RHQ staff have attended many events in addition to the Regimental Weekend in York. These include cricket at Lord's and Headingley, Armed Forces Day in Scarborough, Yorkshire's "Le Départ" of the Tour de France, and the Great Yorkshire Show. Private Matthew Gilmartin won the Yorkshire Agricultural Society Award for the best soldier at the GYS.

Recruiting initiatives are reported to be beginning to increase men in the pipeline for the Regiment, both officers and other ranks. Financial incentives are now available for ex regulars to join the reserves.

## 1 YORKS

The Battalion is the Collective Training Group Battlegroup (formerly Land Warfare Centre BG). Much training has concentrated on recovering armoured infantry skills, and the Battalion has recently been at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) in Canada.

## 2 YORKS

The Battalion is Theatre Reserve Battalion, based in Cyprus. The role requires 2 YORKS to be aviation capable reserve, capable of planning, training and ready to deploy rapidly using aviation assets.

## 4 YORKS

In May 4 YORKS deployed with its paired battalion, 1 LANCS for exercises, including combined arms staff training and a number of support weapon cadres. A Field Training Exercise, involving the full battalion, was conducted in June. In August a Short Term Training Task involved providing assurance to the Ugandan Battle group that was then about to deploy to Somalia.

## SPORT

1 YORKS soccer team reached the semi-finals of the Infantry Cup, and were beaten finalist in the Army Cup. The rugby team were beaten in the semi-final of the Army Cup, but won the Army 10s and the Rugby League Cup.

2 YORKS boxing team competed in the Army Boxing Individual Championships and finished 3rd out of 16 teams, with 4 fighters reaching the semi-finals. The Battalion won the Akrotiri (Cyprus) rugby 10s Plate.

4 YORKS football team won its annual match against 15 (North East) Brigade, and were the minor unit champions at the Race to the Sun competition held across Yorkshire in June.

## "FIRST SHOTS" – CASTEAU (MONS) 21 AUGUST 1914 LLOYDS AND CITY OF LONDON BRANCH RBL CHARITY BIKE RIDE

By Lt Col (ret'd) Tim Nicholson

*"We Will Remember Them"*

The start of World War 1 has been marked and commemorated in many ways, all extensively covered by the media. For example their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge attended a moving service at St Symphorien War Graves site, just east of Mons, recently, and the BBC has presented a full range of fact and fiction on the topic. There have been many services, parades, and events of all kinds, in the UK and in France and Belgium, at which those present remembered the courage and steadfastness of the men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), and thought of those, some 850,000 British

and Commonwealth men, who lost their lives in the conflict.

A somewhat different approach was taken by members of the Lloyds and City of London Branch of the Royal British Legion and their friends, under the leadership of Chris Holt MBE, formerly RE (EOD). Eleven cyclists backed by a support team of four decided to cycle from Haig House, 111 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA, to Mons, in time to be present, exactly 100 years later, at the monument which marks the spot where the first shots were exchanged between British and German troops at Casteau, a few miles north of Mons.





**The First Shots Memorial at Casteau.** We were not then only people to be there; a motorbike tour party had also done their research and turned up at 0630, and indeed were encountered at a number of other battlefield sites and monuments later in the day

### A Remarkable Team

The majority of the party were retired servicemen, many RE, but there was also a Green Howard, a Duke of Wellington's (the author), a REME, an ex ATO, and an Intelligence Corps, a senior met police officer, two serving officers and three with no military experience. Together they made a remarkable and cheerful team, bringing together high levels of experience and expertise and an abundance of good humour.

This was no light undertaking. Whilst several riders were experienced cyclists, others were by no means used to pedalling for long distances, being, put kindly, more labrador than greyhound. All had taken their commitment seriously, training hard and acquiring some excellent machinery. Everyone that started, finished: no-one had any need to hitch a lift for any part of the route in the always available minibus, nor indeed, such was the level of determination on show, was there any desire for it. It was a great achievement.



**Ready for the off at the RBL HQ car park in Borough High Street**





First stop, Downing Street at 0830

### Fund Raising and Publicity

In addition at least £10,000 was raised for the RBL, as well as attracting a mass of publicity and interest. Technologically savvy team members ensured that Facebook, Twitter and a number of web sites were kept up to date throughout.

### The Route and Places Visited

As well as simply covering the ground from London to Mons, the routes chosen each day ensured that many large and small monuments and war grave sites were visited, from just two WW1 graves at Quevaucamps Communal cemetery (one of them fittingly of Private Mitchell of the Army Cyclist Corps) to the Menen Gate

Memorial in Ypres to the 54,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave and died in the Ypres Salient, and, at Tyne Cot, a further 35,000 with no known grave, and well as 12,000 headstones.

In London the group posed outside the front door of No 10 Downing Street (the occupant did not appear), looked at the poppies in the Moat of the Tower of London, had coffee at Lloyds, and visited Canada Square in Docklands, before setting off for the first night stopover in the splendid Officers' Mess at RSME Chatham. It would be fair to say that subsequent nights were spent in slightly less salubrious (but perfectly adequate) hotel accommodation.

**Dinner at the RSME mess; the tie worn copies the medal ribbon of the WW1 British War Medal. Round the table from left front:**  
**Nigel Basham Met Police;**  
**Caz Albery ex RAMC,**  
**Gareth Lloyd ex RE,**  
**Phil Lloyd ex REME,**  
**Bob Williams ex Green**  
**Howards, Iain Church RE,**  
**Damo Walker ex RE,**  
**Pete Bull, John Harris,**  
**Marc Finch ex RE, Andy**  
**Green ex RAOC (ATO),**  
**Forbes McKenzie ex Int**  
**Corps, Chris Holt ex RE,**  
**Sam Stuthridge RE,**  
**Tim Nicholson ex DWR**







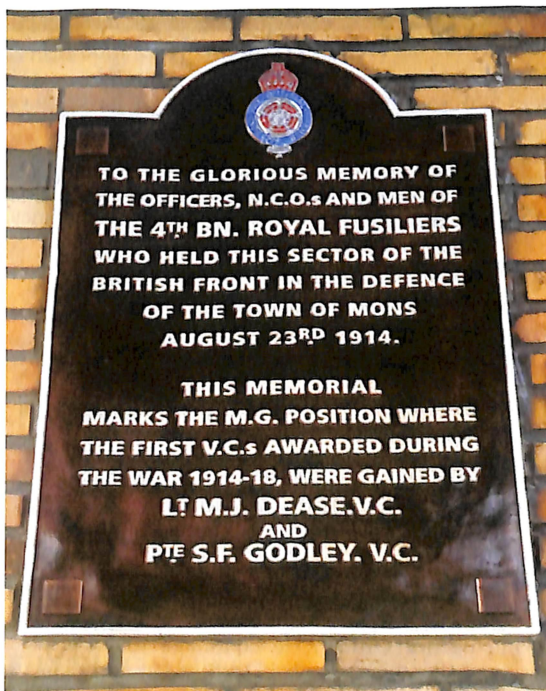
The “peloton”  
on the road

### Historical Context

It was the author’s job to provide the historical context: background to the war; military activity before the BEF got onto the ground; an overview of the whole conflict to have some grasp of the significance of the dates on the

headstones, which range from 1914 to 1919; and a more detailed presentation of the events of 23 and 24 August 1914, in and around Mons.

On the final day (21 August), after a short service at Casteau at 0630 to mark the “first shots”, the group took part in some battlefield visits and explanations of actions that took place two days later, on 23 August, the date of the first major battles – Lt Dease VC and Private Godley VC, of 4th Bn The Royal Fusiliers, at Nimy railway bridge; Lcpl Jarvis VC and Captain Wright VC, both of 57 Field Company RE and Private Heron DCM, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers at No 2 Lock bridge at Jemappes; 1st Bn The Queens Own Royal West Kents (in particular A Company at Tertre, where there is a new monument) and elements of 2nd Bn The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, who were right on the front line and withstood, at great cost, the early assaults of enemy in overwhelmingly superior numbers. St Symphorien and Hautrage Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries were also visited, the former under the guidance of a member of the CWGC staff.



The memorial plaque to Lt Dease VC, Pte Godley VC, under the Nimy Railway Bridge, on the south bank

### Personnel

The support group was led with great skill and dedication by Andy Green, a former ATO, assisted by Phil Lloyd (ex REME, all things mechanical), John Harris (insurance market practitioner, media), and the author (Dukes and “The Historian”). In the peloton were Gareth Lloyd (ex RE - lead on all things cycling), Caz Albrey (ex RAMC and chief navigator and lead on medical matters), Chris Holt (ex RE, project leader), Lt Colonels Sam Stutheridge and Iain Church (both RE), Nigel Basham (Met Police and safety lead), Forbes McKenzie (ex Int Corps), Marc Finch and Damo Walker, (both ex RE), Peter Bull, Bob Williams (ex Green Howards and Facebook feed).





**The Memorial at Menin Gate, as a crowd gathers for the evening ceremony**

### **In Conclusion**

Was it worth the effort? Of course it was! It raised substantial funds for the RBL and made a lot of people sit up and take notice of this important anniversary. Due homage was paid to our brave men who lost their lives in that dreadful conflict 100 years ago; they were not, and surely will never be, forgotten. And, for the fifteen

who took part, it provided memories that will always remain.

**The cemeteries and monuments we visited:** Oye Plage, Dunkirk Town, Rexpoede, Poperinge (old), Ypres Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, Menem Communal, Esquelmès, Quevaucamps, First Shots monument Casteau, St Symphorien, Hautrage.

### **T F Firth & Sons Ltd, Bailiffe Bridge: employees who died with 4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) Territorial Force**

**By former Firth Carpets Commercial Manager, Ivor Davies**

**(An article on 1/4th DWR's experiences in WW1 was published in Iron Duke Spring 2012, No. 272)**

The Territorial Force later to be renamed the Territorial Army and more recently designated the Army Reserve, was originally created for Home Defence in 1908. C Company based at the Wakefield Road Drill Hall in Brighouse attracted many employees of T F Firth and Sons Ltd, later better known as Firth Carpets, to become volunteer part time soldiers prior to WW1.

One employee who served with 1/4 DWR was

Hammond H Aykroyd, (to become Colonel HH Aykroyd, OBE MC TD) who won his MC with the battalion for daring and skilful patrolling in the Ancre Valley in 1916 as Intelligence Officer. He continued to serve as a territorial after the war with 4 DWR, eventually rising to become the CO in 1928 succeeding another T F Firth employee, RH Goldthorpe DSO. Colonel Harold, as he was known to his employees, was the Chairmen of T F

Firth & Sons at the time the Aykroyd family lost control of Firth Carpets in 1968, due to a hostile bid from the Guthrie Corporation, which forced them to look for a "friendly" takeover from Readicut International. The author remembers him to have been a firm leader, a good listener and a perfect gentleman.

On the 15th September 1914 at Riby Camp the 4th DWR TF Battalion divided into a first line battalion, 1/4th whilst a second line battalion, 2/4th was formed at Halifax of those who did not volunteer for and were found unfit for overseas service. 1/4th DWR TF served with the BEF in France and the Ypres Salient (Belgium) from 14 April 1915 to the armistice and through to 8 June 1919. They took part in the battle of the Somme, July / September 1916, where on just one day, Monday 3rd July 1916, the unit's casualties totalled 101 dead, 463 wounded and 155 missing.

### 1/4th DWR TF (West Riding Regiment), T F Firth Employees who died

#### **ASPINALL Herbert**

200506 L/Cpl, A Company. Died 3 September 1916, age 27

Buried at MILL ROAD CEMETERY THIEPVAL, Grave 1.C.21

Son of Arthur & Elizabeth ASPINALL 55 East Street Lightcliffe

#### **ATAK Frank**

200509 Pte Died 3 September 1916 age 29 (1901 census born Keighley c1887)

No known grave he is commemorated on the THIEPVAL MEMORIAL Pier & Face 6A 6B

#### **HITCHEN Austin Arthur**

200214 Sgt Died, 3 September 1916 age 26

Buried at MILL ROAD CEMETERY THIEPVAL Grave 1.F.7

Son of Edmund and Dinah HITCHEN of 9 Ashfield Terrace Wilson Road Wyke Dinah was not his mother as in the 1901 census his father's wife was Mary. They lived at Junction House Norwood Green. His father was a Railway Station Master

#### **SHAW Horace S**

200569 Sergeant Died 3 September 1916 age 24

Buried at MILL ROAD CEMETERY THIEPVAL Grave reference 1 F 2

A native of Bailiffe Bridge Yorkshire, a carpet creeler at TF Firth and Sons living with his mother Ruth Ann SHAW at 86 Ripley Street Buildings Bailiffe Bridge.

#### **FIELDING Willie**

201135 L/Cpl 2nd/4th Died 3 May 1917, age 22

No known grave he is commemorated on the ARRAS MEMORIAL Bay 6

Four of those killed in action that day, were certainly original pre-war T F Firth & Sons volunteers, were Herbert ASPINALL, Frank ATAK, Austin Arthur HITCHEN and Horace S SHAW. Austin Arthur HITCHEN's Army number 1487 denotes he was the 1487th volunteer to join the 4th Bn DWR TF since its formation in 1908. In 1917 original TF numbers were replaced by "Regimental Numbers". AA HITCHEN then classed as missing was also renumbered.

Horace S SHAW, Army number 683 joined the 4th DWR TF aged 17 on the 22nd Feb 1909 however he did not extend his service in the Territorial Force beyond Feb 1913 the end of his four year commitment. There were at least three other original volunteer T F Firth employees serving with this unit in 1914 who died in WW1, Willie FIELDING, Norman HIRST and David Gray McKEAND.

Son of Gaythorn & Alice FIELDING, 55 Smithy Carr Lane Brighouse. 1901 Census a Cotton Spinner living at 15 Croft Place Brighouse.

#### **HIRST Norman**

4/1166 Cpl Died 14 August 1915, age 21

Buried COLNE VALLEY CEMETERY Grave C.9

Son of James Brearley HIRST & Fanny HIRST of 2 Forester's Terrace Clifton. Norman HIRST was a pupil of Rastrick Grammar School, his service records reveal he joined the Territorial Force, 4th DWR TF committing to 4 years UK service. He was 18 years old, 5' 7" a Colourist's Apprentice living at 2 Forrester's Terrace, Clifton

#### **McKEAND David Gray**

Capt 11th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) Died 23 March 1919 age 34

Buried at ELLAND CEMETERY, Grave U. A. 545 (Born 8th Jan 1885)

He is buried in what may be a shared family grave. FARNELLS and TURNERS

Son of William & Jane Gray McKEAND of Burnbank Mauchline Ayrshire

1901 Census Living at 111 Elizabeth Street Elland a Commercial Clerk

Five other Firth's employees served with the Battalion and survived. A memorial to the fallen is now in the Brighouse Library, having been saved from the Firth Carpets factory. Unfortunately there is so little space in front of it that a meaningful photograph cannot be taken. In 1920 Sir Algernon and Lady Firth built a Memorial Garden and Cenotaph in Bailiff Bridge to commemorate the 300 men Firth's men who died in WW1, which still exists. Firth Carpets has existed for over 200 years and is still very much in business.



## INTO YPRES 1914/15

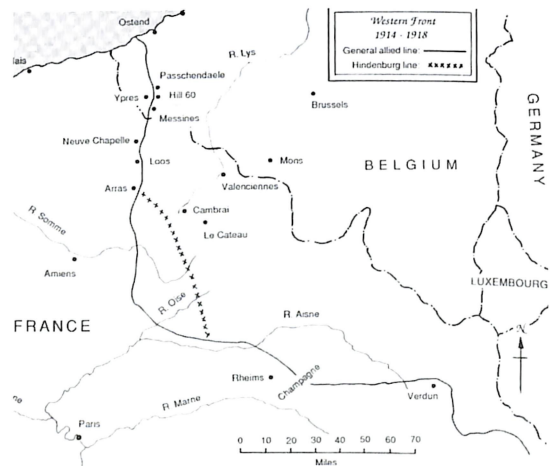
Recalled reservists march out of the Halifax Depot to join 2 DWR in Dublin on 8 August 1914. They would fight through Mons and Le Cateau, and survivors would take part in the events described below



### Retreat to the Marne

The ID's attempt to keep in step 100 years on, with the WW1 timetable, brings us to some tough fighting for 2 DWR, and the arrival in theatre, in April 1915, of four more Dukes' Battalions formed as 147 Brigade, which, with two others, made up the West Riding Division – all Territorial Force units. In the last issue we went from Mons in August 1914, via Le Cateau in early September and back to the Marne, by which time the advancing Germans had run out of steam and the British and French allies – the former having 20,000 men less than when they stood on the Mons-Condé Canal a month or so earlier (although some 5000 “missing” managed to re-join over the next few weeks) - found time to reorganise, take in reinforcements, and think what should be done. The allied L of C, especially for the French, had shrunk: the Germans were a long way from home and exhausted.

On 6 September – due to a muddle the French had set off the day before – the BEF began its advance north, roughly back the way it had come, with a view to getting across the Marne. The Dukes, still 13 Brigade and 5 Division in II Corps, were not at the front of the advance, and met little or no opposition. However, the German unwillingness to stand on the Marne was in contrast to their strong defence of their next position on the Aisne, on and after 14 September. The terrain lent itself to defence – a winding, wide river, running through steep sided valleys, mostly closely wooded but with little cover at valley floor level to assist any crossing.

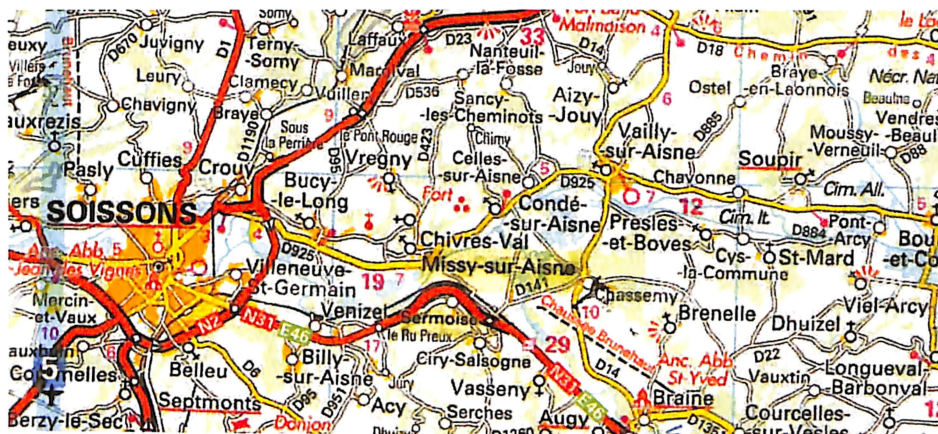


Map showing the regions of France and Belgium in which 2 DWR fought in 1914/15

### Missy and the Aisne

At 0600 on the 13th the lead elements of 13 Brigade were repulsed from the bridge at Missy, but that night crossed the Aisne on rafts bound together with barbed wire for want of rope (2 Sappers, Captain Johnson and Lt Flint, were awarded the VC and DSO respectively for their gallantry during the rafting). 1 RWK and 2 KOSB crossed, but the remaining battalions, 2 DWR and





The River Aisne region east of Soissons

2 KOYLI, stayed on the south bank, the Dukes around Sermoise. The position was precarious and attempts to advance further met furious opposition. Eventually the Dukes crossed at Missy (east of Soissons) on rafts, reinforcing new assaults by other brigades on the German positions. There they stayed until the 24th, digging in under heavy shell-fire, both HE and shrapnel bursting above their heads. Many villagers remained in their houses, deep in their cellars, and such things as fresh bread and meat were available throughout. "We were always well fed in Missy" wrote an RE officer with the battalion.



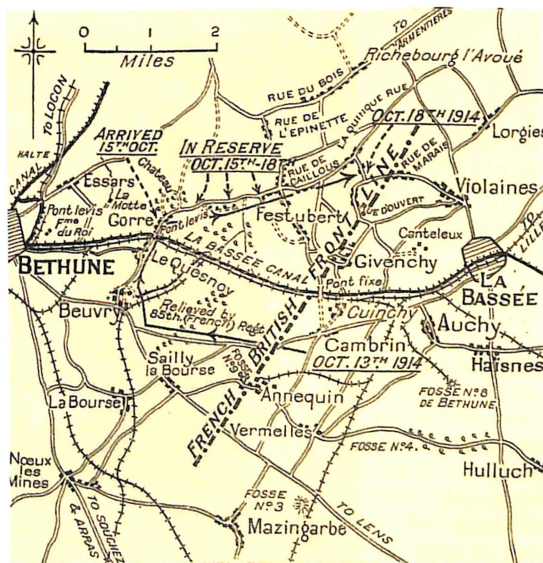
Captain Johnson RE winning his VC on the Aisne at Missy.

On 25 September 2 DWR was taken out of the front line, re-crossed the Aisne and went into reserve back near Sermoise. During this time more than 400 officers and men arrived to reinforce the battalion. Whilst these articles have necessarily taken a narrow view of the actions to date, the bigger picture, of not only the movements of the BEF but also of the French formations, must be held in mind. A French attempt to outflank the German right (1st Battle of Arras, 1-4 October 1914) failed, but the allies inexorably pushed their defensive line north. By mid October the battle line was extended from the Aisne west and north to a line some 30 kilometres from Dunkirk and the sea. The war of movement was over; from here on it was trench warfare.

## East of Bethune

13 Brigade were taken north, by a series of marches and some lorried sections, to a position west of Bethune where it went into Corps Reserve. By 19 October 2 DWR was on the extreme right of the British position, with French troops on its right, who had been trying to take the bridge on the La Bassée Canal. The situation was far from clear for the CO, Major EG Harrison CB DSO, from his position as a reserve battalion, but within a few hundred yards of the front line, so receiving plenty of incoming artillery fire. On the 23rd they made a three company unsuccessful attack on Violaines, and withdrew. Counter-attacks and heavy artillery, from which there was no respite, took their toll. Casualties were relatively few, but continuous, from just a handful in one day to 20 or more on the next. On October 24th heavy HE shells were used on the battalion position at a rate of 200 a day.

Harrison described one day, 31st October. "In trenches



FRONT NEAR LA BASSÉE, OCTOBER, 1914, SHOWING MOVEMENTS OF THE 2ND BATTALION.

East of Bethune the Battalion encountered heavy fighting



in support of the Sikhs. Unfortunately our rations could not get up last night, so everyone down on their luck. Lost Elrington and 8 men killed taking a trench in front of the Sikhs. Also Whittaker wounded by a sniper on returning in early morning. A very anxious day, although we were chiefly in support trenches, but I had a distinct feeling that everything was in a very critical state. At one point there was only about 15 yards between our trenches and the Germans. They could be seen and heard continually sapping, and at night I quite expected them to blow up a mine. This I heard afterwards was done some days afterwards when we had gone to Ypres”.

### Ypres – November 2014.

The Dukes were then again moved further north, from place to place then on again, until on November 5th the battalion entered Ypres. From October 19th to November 22nd is officially described as the first Battle of Ypres. It was as severe fighting, often hand to hand, as any in the whole course of the war. On the 8th two Dukes companies were sent to assist the (French) Zouave Regiment regain its trenches, it having been driven out. At a cost of 90 killed, wounded and missing, including all the officers, they succeeded. The battle line fluctuated a little from day to day, but the men kept finding themselves, in reduced numbers, back in their old positions.

November 11th was a terrible day: with both flanks exposed as French troops withdrew and communications to Brigade HQ impossible, the Dukes took over 300 casualties for no worthwhile gain. Reinforcements came from many sources; 100 cavalymen, pushed straight into the trenches; a platoon of Irish Guards; a mixed force of Royal Sussex and Royal Scots. The only remaining available officers were Lt Thackeray, pulled in as Adjutant, and 2Lt Edwards, a commissioned drill

sergeant from the Coldstream. The position was so criss-crossed by enemy machine gun fire that the CO was unable to deploy a new batch of one officer and 75 recruits, but sent them back 2 miles until they could safely be put into the line. In danger of being outflanked again, the battalion pulled back on the 13th, taking all night to withdraw, and moving just a few men at a time.

On 16 November, behind the front line, the battalion reorganised into two companies, total about 300. In 9 days it had lost 15 officers and 387 men, killed, wounded and missing. Most of the time it had been pouring with rain, and trenches were ankle deep in mud. Although no longer in the front line, daily casualties from shelling were the norm. They moved in and out of trenches, filling gaps in the line, but saw little action and managed a few days here and there of real rest in billets. On the 21st they were back in Ypres, the town now somewhat knocked about but still largely intact. Marching straight through it they went to positions four miles due east of the town.

2 DWR were now largely out of the action but often still in reach of the enemy's guns and snipers, for the next few weeks. Reinforcements brought it back to 14 officers and 850 men; “most of the new draft are special reserves, and it will be difficult keeping the Battalion up to something like Regimental form”, wrote Colonel Harrison. On 13 December the Dukes moved up to take over trenches from the West Kents, which were awful, up to the knees in mud and water and up to the waist in some places.

Over winter, fighting never actually ceased, though the British Army was in winter quarters and no significant initiatives were undertaken. This situation held until March 2015, which found 2 DWR in the area of Zillebeke, east of Ypres where they remained until going into reserve in Ypres itself. They remained there until April 17th, dug in and fairly comfortable.



Stretcher party bringing a wounded man through the mud





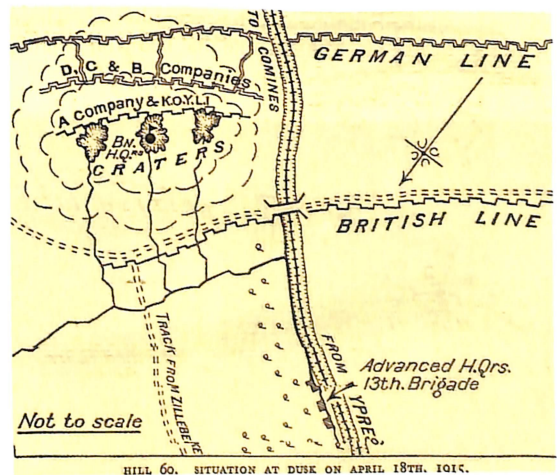
Hill 60

### Hill 60

Hill 60 is a small, man-made (from earth excavated from a nearby railway cutting) mound to the south east of Ypres, described as “a commanding hill which afforded the enemy excellent artillery observation towards the west and north-west”, and lay opposite the northern extremity of the line held by II Corps. The BEF commander, Sir John French, decided that it must be captured. At 7 pm on the 17th, after 3 sapped mines were exploded under it, 5th Brigade attacked the hill, 1 RWK and 2 KOSB leading. Overnight, in desperate hand to hand fighting, most of the position was occupied. On the 18th 2 DWR moved up to relieve both the forward battalions in their trenches, with A Company forward in an area called craters, and under severe counter-assault by all means, including hand grenades. B Company moved up to reinforce A Company, which by now was almost wiped out.

At 6.00 pm the rest of the battalion fixed bayonets and moved forward, to entirely dislodge the Germans from the feature, with the immediate objective of the mine craters. In heavy fighting, in which the CO was twice wounded and the second in command received wounds from which he subsequently died, the objectives were taken and held, despite bombardment of unprecedented severity. The brigade fought over a space only some 250 yards in length and 200 in depth for 5 days. On the 19th April the battalion was relieved and moved into dug-outs near Zillbeke. The casualty list was appalling: 79 killed or missing believed killed and 342 wounded.

The Battalion was back on Hill 60 on 4 May temporarily attached to another brigade, to relieve the Devonshire Regiment. The Germans had not given up



HILL 60. SITUATION AT DUSK ON APRIL 18TH. 1915.

### Battalion position in and around the Craters at dusk on 18 April 1915.

on the feature and had regained part of it, but not the crest. At 8.00 am on 5 May the Germans attacked again: Lt Ince, who had been with the Battalion since Mons, wrote “aided by a favourable wind, the Germans sent over asphyxiating gas (chlorine) with disastrous results ..... fully effective counter-measures had not yet been established..... On came this terrible stream of death, and before anything could be done, all those occupying the front line were overcome, the majority dying at their posts...” On 6 May the Battalion was relieved and withdrawn to billets south of Ypres. An acting CO (Captain Barton), an acting Adjutant (Lt Ince), three other



officers and about 150 men were all that remained. Hill 60 would trouble the allies again later in the war.

It is almost impossible to imagine the intensity and sheer awfulness of the fighting on Hill 60. A contemporary newspaper cutting in our archives, written by a correspondent who was there, cannot say enough about the courage, determination and endurance of the 13th Brigade; the Royal West Kent, Kings Own Scottish Borderers, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and Duke of Wellington's Battalions, and indeed others who a various times were sent up to capture, or re-capture, part of that terrible feature. Of the gas attack, he writes "It (the assaults on Hill 60) is a story illuminated by innumerable feats of deathless heroism, a story of splendid tenacity and grim determination, beginning with a fine feat of arms and ending with the asphyxiation of gallant men taken unawares, a crime so foul that no man who saw the railway cutting by Hill 60 after the Dorsets and the Dukes had been gassed will ever take the hand of a German again". Well, we have moved on from there, but the action showed savagery and disregard for any form of humanity at its worst: and, as is not uncommon, some men at their best.

The same correspondent, somewhat later in the year, wrote "The other morning I stood by the gate of a field of a country road in these parts and watched a brigade march past the saluting point under the eye of the General Officer Commanding the Second Army. There was a fine swing about the battalions as they went by..... These were the men of the 13th Brigade that had won Hill 60,

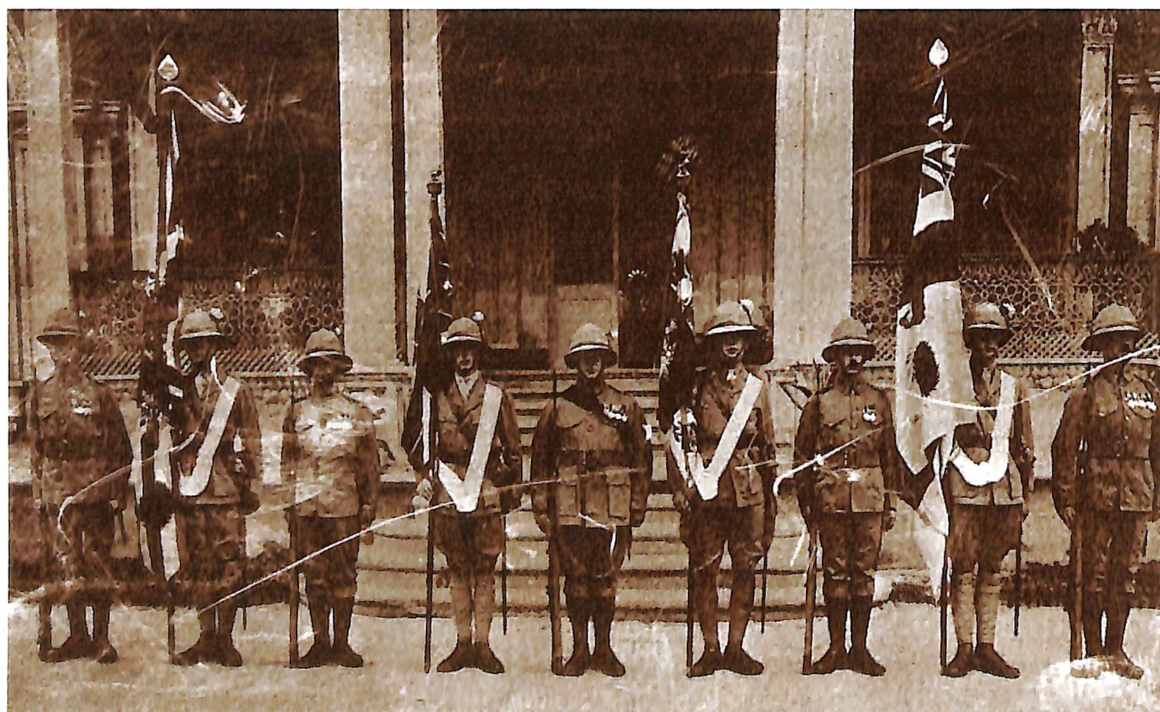
had then gone off and played a very gallant part in the second battle of Ypres, and had afterwards returned to the ill-omened hill to find that one of its bravest battalions had been overwhelmed by asphyxiating gas...."

We will catch up with the British attack the south west end of Aubers Ridge, and 1/4th, 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th DWR who were part of the attacking force, their first action in France, and with 2 DWR, in the next issue of the Iron Duke, in Spring 2015.

## 2 DWR Ten Years On

Only 8 years after the events described above, 2 DWR embarked at Southampton for Egypt. Arriving at Gibraltar on 5 December there was a unique meeting of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the former being stationed on the Rock at the time. After a year in a camp on the Suez Canal (with a detached company in Jerusalem), the Battalion moved to Cairo, to "a very pleasant camp on the banks of the Nile, splendidly equipped for recreation and sport."

The Battalion did well in "musketry", winning the Championship Shield and Cup; they won the Command cricket, football and rugby cups at various times. They were well regarded by higher command, and it was no doubt with mixed feelings that they completed their tour in February 1926 and embarked for Singapore. The photograph below shows the Colour Party on parade on St George's Day 1924, almost exactly ten years after the fighting on Hill 60. The Escort to the Colours can be seen to be wearing WW1 medals.



The 2 DWR Colour Party on St George's Day 1924



## The 33rd at Waterloo – Part 1: Quatre-Bras to the Mont St Jean Ridge

*18 June 2015 will be the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The last two Iron Dukes have been following our Regiment's part in the campaign.*

### The Story so Far

The 33rd (1st Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment landed in Holland in December 1814, and fought some hard battles at Merxem (Antwerp outskirts) and Bergen Op Zoom. Spared further engagement by Napoleon's abdication and exile on Elba, the Regiment went into winter quarters. Napoleon's escape from Elba in February 1815 and his return to France (which welcomed him with open arms, providing him with an army in a matter of weeks as he swept in triumph towards Paris, arriving one month later) stirred the allies back into action.

Russia, Austria, Prussia and the Anglo/Dutch/Belgian alliance under Wellington all engaged to raise armies of around 100,000 men each. Only the alliance and the Prussians were able to respond in time to face Napoleon; and his aim was to keep these two forces apart, defeating them before they could join and overwhelm him.

### 16 June 1815

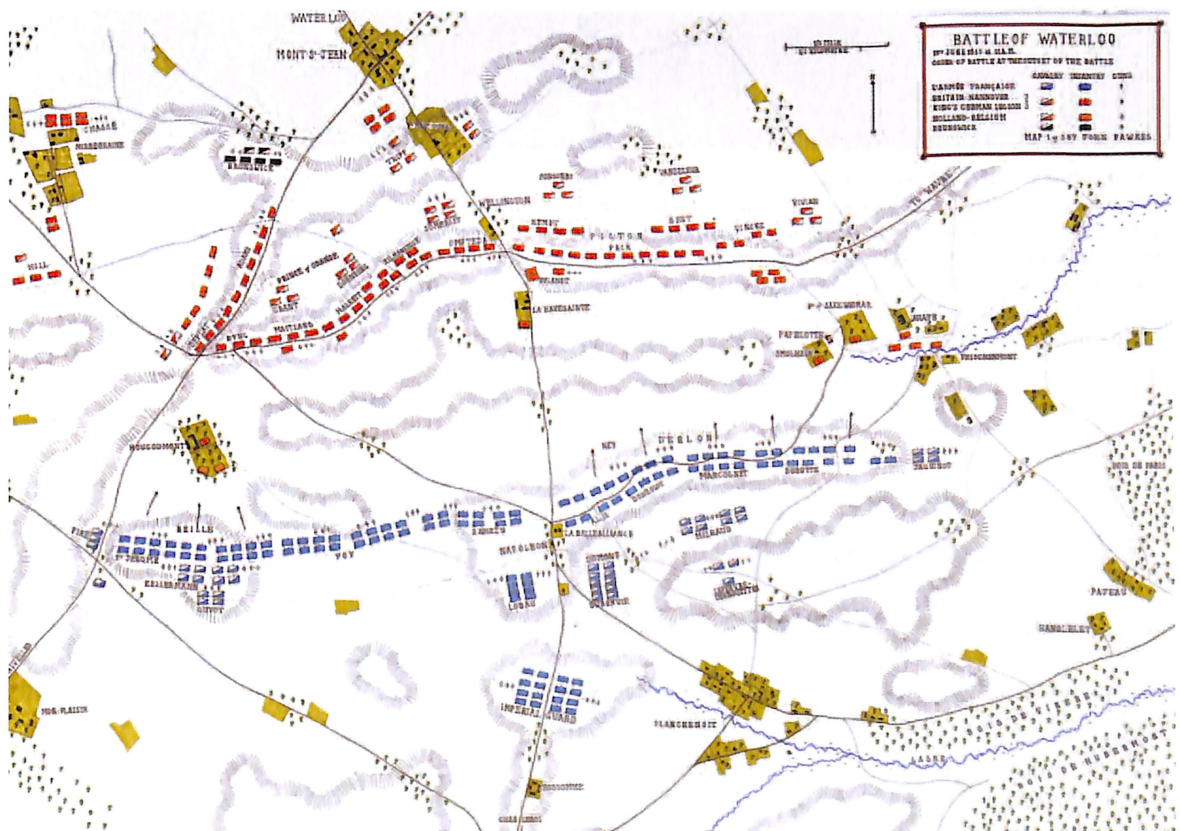
Napoleon decided that the Prussian threat was the greatest so he met and defeated the Prussian army under

Field Marshall Gebhardt von Blücher at Ligny in a prolonged engagement lasting most of 16 June, although the result was far from a rout. Marshal Ney was sent to seize Quatre-Bras, but failed to do so. Our last issue described the 33rd arriving somewhat late to take part in the Battle of Quatre-Bras, but nevertheless becoming heavily involved, losing some 90 officers and men killed, wounded or missing.

Thus it was a somewhat reduced regiment that received orders to withdraw to Wellington's preferred defensive line, along the Mont St Jean Ridge, some 13 miles to the north, in the direction of Waterloo and Brussels, whilst the Prussians managed to disengage from the action and withdrew north. Famously Blücher, despite urgings from his generals to leave the area to re-group, insisted in honouring his promise to Wellington to go to his aid.

### 17 June

Under the protective cover of cavalry and horse gunners, the infantry from Quatre-Bras was undisturbed



The 33rd were in Halkett's Brigade, centre right in the line facing downhill to the French. This map shows positions at the start of the battle. The 33rd moved very little throughout. The enemy came to them.

as it plodded up the final slope to the new position. The weather was awful, and everybody was soaked; on arrival the men lay in the open, were unable to light fires, and it was all thoroughly miserable. Halkett's 5th Brigade was formed up in the right centre of the line, with the 30th and 73rd in front, and the 33rd and 69th in rear, by 9.00 am, the men, enjoyed some welcome sunshine and an issue of rations, and waited for something to happen.

### 18 June

At 11.30 the French guns opened up, mainly directed at Hougoumont and the centre of the allied position,

which included the 33rd's location. Ordered to lie down on the reverse slope, the men suffered few casualties; most of the round-shot balls sank into the soft ground, rather than running on into the close packed ranks of prone men. French assaults swept onwards against Hougoumont, forward and to the right of the 33rd, and the farm of La Haye Sainte, forward left. The ebb and flow of the battle had only little effect on 1st Yorkshire West Riding Regiment, until mid-afternoon, about 3.30 pm, when the Regiment formed square to receive cavalry.

At which point we will leave them. Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue.



An infantry Square at Waterloo. Sources still argue about the precise formations used, but most agree that a "Wellington square" was formed four ranks deep, with the front rank, sometimes the front two ranks, kneeling and firing with bayonets pointing out to deter horses, the third rank firing, and the fourth loading. The initial volley into the enemy at close range was vital. Guns took position between the squares, whipping one wheel off the carriage and taking it into the nearest square when cavalry were almost upon them. They returned to their guns, re-shipped the wheel and carried on firing as soon as the immediate danger passed. When facing advancing infantry the square would straighten into a double (depending on the space available) line, for effective volley fire.

## 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.



## MEMOIRS OF LT COL H S LE MESSURIER

### WITH THE 1/7TH BATTALION THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

#### APRIL, 1945.

Having endured six months on 'The Island' (the Nijmegen Salient), mostly frozen and flooded, it was good to be on the move again. With Arnhem and Wageninigen behind us, the Battalion was halted along the Arnhem - Utrecht road, with Battalion HQ at Ede and the forward companies just short of the village of den Klomp.

The Regimental history (C N Barclay) claims the halt was to allow negotiations to send food for the Dutch population. We saw no sign of this. We were told that Queen Wilhelmina had forbidden further movement as the Germans had threatened to blow the dykes which were holding back the waters of the IJsselmeer.

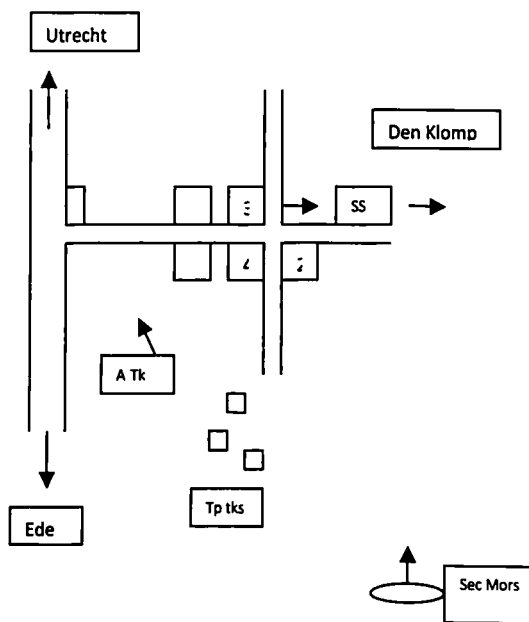
Two vaguely notable events occurred whilst my Company was astride the road. First, the arrival of journalists intent on covering peace negotiations, or so they claimed. I pointed out a small house down the road which we knew to be occupied by the enemy and where a road branched off to the right of the village of den Klomp. Despite this warning, they shot off and, just short of the road junction to den Klomp, the car hit a mine and exploded. The second was some time after this incident, when the German General in command of all German and Dutch SS forces drove past us on his way to sign the surrender agreement.

On the 20th April, 1945, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel C D Hamilton DSO, ordered a daylight fighting patrol to establish the strength of the Dutch SS in the village of den Klomp. Up till then it was thought to be lightly held. The patrol consisted of one of my platoons, commanded by Jack Cannon, a troop of Canadian Sherman tanks, a troop of Self Propelled Anti-Tank guns, and a section of our Battalion's 3in Mortars. Hamilton briefed me to take this on and directed me to travel in the Troop Leader's tank to take advantage of the better radio facilities. I sat next to the driver, in the hull machine-gunner's position.

The ground was very open. We bowled merrily along and took up positions as below: the Anti-Tank troop was on the left, covering the hut on the main road [1]. The troop of tanks moved up, with the lead tank about 90 yards from the house [4] with a good view of the ground between houses [4] and [2]. The mortars were far back, right.

At this point Jack's platoon moved into the house [2] where he found breakfast still on the table. My host reported a tank on the main street behind the area of house [4] and fired a round through one of the houses to discourage it from taking part in the proceedings, and was successful.

I wonder how many of us have been in a Sherman, or any other tank, closed down. Vision is minimal and of the tunnel variety. I spotted two enemy pop out and back



(house [4]) but was surprised when the Troop Commander asked, "what range has a Panzerfaust, Hugh?" Me, "about 100 yards." Him, "driver, back her down 10." Apparently they had fired on us and missed. [Panzerfaust - German shoulder fired anti-tank rocket projector].

The next excitement was a stream of SS running across the track from the area of house [3] and through the hedge to outflank us or take up positions opposite Jack's platoon. My Troop Comd asked why I was not firing the BESA hull machine gun. Never having seen one before, I was ill prepared to fire one of these and found that it sends a stream of sparks into one's eyes. I bet real tankies wear goggles. I swear not a single SS soldier was hit; they only ran faster.

It was time to withdraw. Whilst speaking to Jack through the open hatch to confirm he was clear, he asked why I was shooting at him. In fact the BESA was 'cooking off'!

I sent the SP Anti-Tank troop to cover the Mortars out. The troop of tanks leap-frogged back, covering the infantry until we were clear. Lt Col Hamilton called the Mortars back, Jack was given a Military Cross and I a beady look. It should have been an Iron Cross.

The moral of this story is that Infantrymen were designed to walk -- where they can communicate in peace.

## British Korean Veterans Association (BKVA)



**The Standard Party from R; Mr R Meadows DWR, Mr G Shannon A&SH, Mr DA Balmford RE, Mr K Keld DWR.**

There were two Korean War Veterans' Associations in the 1970s, the BKVA and the National Association of Korean War Veterans (NAKWV). In 1980 Mr. Ken Keld (DWR) of Scarborough with others decided to form a BKVA Area in the North East. He brokered an agreement with the NAKWV to amalgamate and the unification ceremonies took place in York in 1981 with the Dedication of both the BKVA National Standard and the NE Area Standard in the Minster.

Recruiting flourished. In the end seven branches formed under NE Area from Northumbria to South Yorkshire, each with their own organisation and Standards.

As time went by, branches struggled to find people to fill appointments; the years were beginning to tell. Discussion documents considered when and how the BKVA would cease as an Association. Branches if they wished would carry on as a Fellowship outside of the BKVA for as long as they were able. There was a service in Westminster Abbey on 11 July 2013 in the presence of HRH the Duke of Gloucester to commemorate the signing of the ceasefire in 1953.

At the BKVA AGM in Huddersfield on 21 October

2013 it was confirmed that the BKVA would wind up, after the unveiling of a statue on the London Embankment, the gift of the South Korean Government and later laying up of the National Standard in York Minster. (The statue event will now take place on Wednesday 3rd December 2014).

It was decided that instead of laying the Standards in a church, more people would see them if put in the Modern History War Museum, Eden Camp, near Malton, North Yorkshire where there is a section of the Museum devoted to the Korean War. This was done on 27 April 2014, under a grey sky, to the tune "The Hills of Korea" played by the White Star Standard Band. Removed from their poles, the Standards folded and placed into the charge of the Museum Executive Director, Nick Hill, and conveyed to Hut 13 where they were Hallowed and Sanctified and where they are now displayed.

The ceremony included the Exhortations, Last Post, Reveille, National Anthem and a blessing. The Museum Director received the Standards "as a reminder to those who pass by of man's duty to God, the Sovereign and his Country". The Padre said "Lord, bless, hallow and sanctify this place that it may contain therein these





Procession through the camp, led by General Sir Charles Huxtable (R) and Lt-Colonel Hugh Le Messurier



Hugh Le Messurier in Korea in 1952

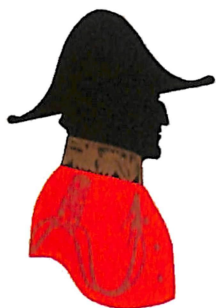
Standards..... We remember our comrades who gave their lives in the defence of freedom under the Charter of the United Nations during and since the Korean War 1950 to 1953. Not one of them is forgotten before God”.

Amongst notable Dukes ‘ members were: General Sir Charles Huxtable, President S&R Branch; Lt- Colonel Hugh Le Messurier, President NE Area; Mr Ken Keld Chairman S&R Branch; MR JH Rutherford, Secretary NE Area & S&R Branch, all Dukes.



From Left; Mr G Shannon, Museum Director Nick Hill with the folded standards, Ken Keld, Sir Charles Huxtable, Hedley Rutherford, Rev Alan Campbell-Wilson and Mr R Meadows





## DUKES' DIARY

### 1975, CYPRUS

#### Background

In Autumn 1974 the Battalion returned from a "residential" tour in Northern Ireland. Based at the old RAF Shackleton base at Ballykelly, roughly half way between Londonderry and Limavady, the companies rotated between Bridge Camp on the river Foyle in Londonderry for city patrolling and operations; Magherfelt, for country patrols through County Londonderry, with outposts at Kilrea and Dungiven; guard company in Ballykelly; and Brigade Reserve company. It was a tour full of incident during which two members of the Battalion died as a result of enemy action – 2Lt Howard Fawley was killed by a pressure plate mine in the countryside and Cpl Ryan was killed by a sniper in the City. Of course the IDs of the time gave full accounts of the tour, but it deserves a retrospective article in the ID in due course. There are many still around who took part in it.

1 DWR's new base was to be Aldershot, as part of 16 Parachute Brigade. This included being Spearhead battalion and generally being on call for demands ranging

from being home side troops for an exercise on Salisbury Plain where students from the Warminster Company Commanders' Course took the key roles, to a field medical demo for Staff College, and there was plenty of activity, and then, in early 1975, the news burst upon us that 1 DWR was to be posted to Cyprus, but split, with two companies (Alma and Corunna) into a UN role under command of 1st Royal Tank Regiment (becoming 1 RTR Group) in April, and the remainder, a month or so later, to Episkopi, as Sovereign Base Area (SBA) troops.

#### Alma and Corunna

These Dukes Diaries covered that tour. The first edition was for Alma and Corunna only, respectively deployed to Polymedia and Polis, the latter in the North West corner of the island, and the former just outside the major Cypriot port of Limassol, and ten or so miles east of the Episkopi SBA. Alma had one platoon deployed to Timi, under command of A Squadron RTR, with a section up the hill in the defended Turkish village of Stavrokono, one platoon in the Turkish sector of Limassol town, one standby/patrol force platoon in Polymedia Camp, and section sized OPs in the Turkish villages of Mallia, Armenokori and Moutiaka. The Assault Pioneer Platoon and a Royal Engineer detachment were under command, also based in Polymedia.

Corunna HQ was in Polis, with section outpost OPs at Yialia, Pelathousa, Androlikou, Melandra, Anadhiou, and Polis town OP. Readers should bear in mind that Turkish forces invaded Cyprus in July 1974, less than 12 months earlier, and quickly took possession of a large part of the north of the island. Subsequently large numbers of Turkish Cypriots fled north, and Greek Cypriots fled south, leaving small, vulnerable, but determined communities to hang on to their homes and their land, and the Island was extremely tense and fearful of the future. The job of 1 RTR Group was to protect the Turkish enclaves remaining in the south. Eventually, they evacuated them north.

From left Commander Australian Police, Mervyn Beck; Glafcos Clerides, Greek Cypriot leader; General Prem Chand, Commander UNFICYP; Rauf Denktask, Turkish Cypriot leader; Lt Col Tony Walker, CO 1 RTR Group; outside the UN Officers' Mess, Paphos.





## 1 DWR (-)

The remainder of the Battalion eventually got to Cyprus in July after several false starts, based in Episkopi, (a location of which a few had fond memories from the 1Y&L Battalion tour a decade earlier). As a result the next Diaries covered the exploits of the whole Battalion. (The major operation of the tour, Operation Mayflower, in which the 8000+ Turks in the south were moved north, was covered in ID No 262, Spring 2007). A third diary should have been written covering the last month or so of the tour, but I seems that no one ever got around to it! Maybe a reader knows better?



Sgt Goddard with the Training Wing's new worker.

## Extracts from the Diaries (at last!)

On arrival at Armenokhori OP we were met by Cpl Bailey and watched the dust rise as the Bedford disappeared into the distance...the local gun bearers picked up our kit ("hello Pongo") and proceeded to our humble abode. On approaching the three great entertainments of the village, i.e. coffee shop No 1, coffee shop No 2 and coffee shop No 3, we tried out the Keo (beer) and the nuts, after a few broken teeth and sore guts this was lesson No 1 out here (art of survival) after fighting off the lizards and snakes to get back to our accommodation, this was a fine ending to day one.



Major Alan Westcob, OC,  
and Captain John Thorn 2i/c, Corunna.

Pte Dobson 15 (at Stavrokono) has a way with the natives like "come here yer little rat and peel some tatties or I'll fill yer in".

On the recreation side we (the Assault Pioneers/REs) have our own local which has been lavished with such decorations as 20 pairs of underpants.

Cpl Johnson who was the standby section commander on the day of the England/Cyprus football match said to his section when he heard about the 20,000 crowd "no need to worry lads, we're being issued with pick-handles".

Sergeant Heron is being detached from the platoon to open up an underwater mountain centre.

We seem to be a cross between a village policeman, a midwife, a diplomat and a doctor all rolled into one, as most of the work involves dealing with welfare or humanitarian problems.

An evening out in Polis town is considered to be by the pundits a memorable occasion. One can actually walk round the entire town at a slow amble of 5½ minutes.

I would like to say thank you to LCpl Allan Sagar who

## EXTREME



Der "Kuerzeste" des Bataillons reizte den "Laengsten": "Nicht die Laenge macht die Groesse eines Menschen aus". Doch wie alle Langen ist auch unser Riese, Vzlt TRUMMER "Charly" aueserst gutmuetig und schliesst wieder Frieden mit unserem "Zwergel" Whm BOGDANY, der fast schon zum AUSCON — Maskottchen geworden ist

A curious photograph from the  
UNFICYP newspaper



From left  
Sgt Heron,  
Cpl Smith,  
LCpl Downs  
and  
Maj  
Nicholson

## INTER CONTINGENT FALLING PLATE COMPETITION - DHEKELIA



BRITCON's rifle team, represented by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, running towards victory in the final of the Rifle event in the competition.

has been our travelling referee and cheerfully accepted all our criticism with the words "I will send you off".

Hello all stations this is 6, I will be off the air for five, over. 65 roger, why, over? 6 None of your business, out.

Visit of CO 1 RTR to Androlikou OP: CO; how many birds have you noted out here so far? Oggie; I know for a fact there are 58 between the ages of 15 and 45. CO (looking astounded), really? I meant the feathered type. Oggie; I've seen a magpie.

The proposed menu for Anadhiou when we found the cupboard somewhat bare was, and still is;

*Cream of Spam Soup  
Spam Thermidor, or  
Spam, deep fried with tartare sauce, or  
Rump Spam, or  
Spam - fried or boiled.  
Knickerbocker Glory spam, or  
Span Sundae*

As an outsider with an independent and unbiased view,

Thought to be on the roof  
of the Limasoll Town OP,  
from left standing,  
Sgt John Wragg,  
WO2(CSM) Brian  
Stansfield,  
Capt Tim Isles,  
Cpl Les Brook; seated,  
Cpl Fred Lawrence,  
Cpl Mick Sullivan,  
LCpl George Devine,  
all of Alma Company







**Preparing an evacuation convoy**

let me dispel a few ugly rumours that could hurt the name of Corunna Company. The story that they drink a lot could not be further from the truth; they drink a helluva lot...it is just not true that they have a bad (volleyball) team; they have a terrible team..... (Troop Leader RTR, attached to Corunna).

Anon LCpl on patrol with his platoon commander, approaching a T junction. PI Comd – I think we go left. LCpl – yes, if we go right we go in the opposite direction.

The next edition of the Diary contained material from the whole of 1 DWR, now at least on the same island.

Conversation between 2i/c Alma and anon – 2i/c, yes of course you can use my land-rover. Anon – wait one sir, I'll just get an adjustable to open your hand for the keys.

Between 24 April and 25 July, Alma Company received visits from the following: General Prem Chand, Commander UNFICYP; General Sir Cecil Blacker, Adjutant General (AG); Lt Col Skaarup (Danish Army), Deputy Chief of Staff UNFICYP; Colonel Peter Chiswell, late PARA, Commander BRITCON; Lt Col P Johannsen (Swedish Army), Chief Operations Officer (designate) UNFICYP; Major General AJ Archer, Director of Army Staff Duties (DASD); Brigadier General D Beattie (Canadian Army); Lt Col PG Williams, CO 1 Welsh Guards (scheduled to take over from 1 RTR Group).



**OC Alma, possibly the last man in the Army to wear shorts, puttees and hosetops**

Quote from the visit of CO 1 WG – Are you a cook in the Duke of Wellington's? Private – no sir, I'm just a Duke who can cook.

Cpl H——— doesn't change as those who accompanied him on a morning recce to Akrotiri will testify – come November the recruits at Strensall will no doubt have the benefit of his expert weapon tuition but it is questionable whether their moral standards will improve.

We are looked on by the locals as more of a flying doctor than a peace-keeping force, as up to date we have had to deal with 1 miscarriage, 1 broken arm, 1 broken toe, 1 scalded foot, 2 gall bladder complaints, and umpteen minor cuts.

Overheard at Stavrokono (which was notoriously short of water) – don't pull that chain 'til I fetch my soap.

Well, 8 Platoon have moved from the delights of Paphos to a corner of the Island that nobody knows about, called Polis. We have been split up into three OPs and dispersed in to the outback where tilley lamps and thunderboxes exist and the only road leading to the village is an apology of a track.

Hello 6 this is 65. Request Turkish doctor as I have a boy in my location with internal cuts to his nose. Pause... Hello 65 this is 6. Doctor not available. I advise boy to breathe through his mouth and not pick his nose.

Pte Eddie Mrozik has just been nicknamed gravel nose because of his great diving techniques. He misses the sea but hits the gravel. He puts this down to miscalculation of the tide. (What tide?).

Overheard in the MT Yard – MTO, what's wrong with than vehicle? Driver, don't know sir, I just can't get it to start. MTO, I'm not surprised, look at the state of that windscreen.

From "BORNEWS" – visitors are invited to investigate fully all pigeon holes, filing trays etc, paying particular attention to any CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET files that may have been left out. Care should be taken, however, to ensure that files are not replaced where found, since this would deprive the clerks of considerable amusement should the file be urgently required.

From QM's Notes – Sgt Blenkinsop is now firmly in the chair as Rations NCO – the rations are the same but at least the excuses are new.

# Association News

President: Brigadier AD Meek CBE.

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:** Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 6 November 1100 (ticket required); Remembrance

Sunday, Cenotaph Service and March Past, 9 November; meetings 12 Noon at the Union Jack Club, 18 April 2015 (jointly with PWO and Green Howards Associations), and 13 September 2015 (AGM).

**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.

## Skipton Branch

The Skipton Branch has been as active as ever. The annual Waterloo Dinner had members from Halifax, Bradford, Huddersfield and Skipton Branches, and the speaker and guest of honour was Lieutenant Colonel Lehman.

A photograph has come to light of the freedom Parade in Barnoldswick in September 2013. A Regimental Association wreath was laid, and the Standard carried.

## A football match on the North West Frontier

In the Iron Duke of April 1969, Major General RK Exham described an operation in the Swat valley in 1935, involving 3 infantry brigades, including 2 DWR. In a moment of comparative inaction a football tournament was organised, and the trophy was the Mohmand Force Football Cup, made by 5th Field Company KGO Sappers and Miners, made out of kerosene tins and decorated with a wreath of barbed wire. This cup is now in Halifax.

The field for the tournament was well within the ring



From Left: Paul Taylor, Micky Doyle, Gordon Bell, David Normanshire, Raymond Butterworth, David Woolley and Derek Parkinson





**Skipton Branch  
Annual Waterloo  
Dinner**

of picquets (there had been a great deal of incoming sniper fire each night). Despite this, during one of the early rounds, the tribesmen managed to get within range and opened fire on the players who left the ground hurriedly – all except one keen sportsman. He remained behind and scored a goal. However, the referee having taken to his heels, this was disallowed.

### **Rugby in Japan 1968**

Peter Gardner came across two photographs of a Dukes' rugby team in Japan, during the 1DWR tour to Hong Kong 1968-70, one of which is below (the other did not scan well enough). The occasion was British Fairs Week in Tokyo, and the trip arose when Major Mike Campbell-Lammerton (Dukes, Combined Services,

Scotland and Lions) found himself sitting next to the Secretary of the Japanese RFU at the post Scotland/All Blacks game in 1966, and the battalion's rugby team's tour was the outcome. The team received some outstanding hospitality, and enjoyed excellent sightseeing. The Regimental Band was also in Japan for British Week. The leading Dukes players also represented Hong Kong in Japan at other times.

The team played 3 matches, against All Keio University, Japan Self Defence Forces, and All Waseda University. The first two were narrowly lost, but were excellent games for all that. In the third, against an opposition that contained many players close to national representative honours, the Duke went down heavily 11-80.



**Photo taken in front of HMS Fearless (team "taxi" to Japan), from L standing – Major Jim Newton, Lt John Thorn, Lt Adrian Stone (being strangled by Thorn), Lt Alistair Roberts, Lt Peter Gardner, G Robson, Capt Ian Reid, Capt Peter Andrews, Cfn Basu, SSgt Joe Cagilaba, Mick Cuss, Lt Nick Newell, Lt Tony Redwood-Davis, Capt Peter Pettigrew, Capt Hugh Cartright. From L crouched, - Cfn 'Mac' McDonald; Dave Barnes: Sgt Geoff Hunter: Bill Vuro, Bill Parrott, Sgt Dave Dickens, Sgt Peter Robinson, Capt Charles Bunbury. (With apologies for any wrong or incomplete names, ranks or other details).**

# Obituaries

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

From the Editor – As our resources at RHQ diminish we have considerable difficulty in compiling obituaries, other than as a short notice (assuming that we have been informed of the death at all). If a friend or colleague of yours dies, the Dukes’ community would like to know something about him, but they only will if his former friends and colleagues write him, as matter of friendship and respect, an obituary, ideally with a photograph. Please do not leave it to others – don’t hesitate; do it yourself. The Editor will bring submissions together if more than one obituary is received. If you feel that you cannot cover a whole career, then some memories and anecdotes to share will be much appreciated by his other friends and his family.

## George Hawkins



George Hawkins, formerly of Elland, passed away peacefully at home in Blackpool on 5 August aged 70, leaving his wife Pauline and son Mark. George joined the 1st Battalion in the 60s going to British Honduras with A Company, then returned to Osnabruck where he finished his service. He was a member of the Halifax Branch of the OCA until moving to the west coast. Representatives of RHQ and members of the Halifax Branch attended his funeral.

## James Faithfull

By John Barkshire

James Faithfull did his National Service with the Dukes from 1953 – 1955, and died on 9 June 2014.

James and I joined the Dukes on the same day in September 1953 as we started our basic training at Halifax. John Davis was the OC and Charles Huxtable the platoon officer. One of the Depot corporals was John Dalrymple. Jame’s father was of course “Bull” Faithfull\*

and his son Bruce would in due course follow his father and grandfather.

After 10 days potential officers and NCOs were posted to York to complete our training where we came under Malcolm Cubiss (and his boxer dog) who was faster over the assault course with one arm than all the rest of us. Then came Eaton Hall and in May 1954 a posting to the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar.

James was a conscientious and professional platoon commander, but the Battalion put most of its focus on sport, where James excelled. He captained the hockey team that won the Cup and League double, was a leading batsman for the 1st XI and played hockey for Combined Services. On leaving the Dukes in September 1955 he went up to Brasenose College Oxford, where he won a hockey blue.

He was a charming and gracious gentleman and a great all round sportsman.

\* “Bull” (CKT) Faithfull was a formidable sportsman who played rugby for Harlequins, Yorkshire, Barbarians and England, ten times for the Army 1924 – 1928. He also represented the Army Officers’ Boxing Team, and was runner up in the Officers’ Heavyweight championship.

## Steve Barnett



Steve Barnett, formerly of Halifax, passed away on 5 August, aged 67. He joined the Dukes from Oswestry Junior Leaders’ Battalion in 1964, going into the Signal Platoon in Osnabruck, where he remained for the tours of Cyprus and Hong Kong. He served for twelve years, attaining the rank of Sergeant. In 1984 he moved to New Jersey USA with his wife Ann, then in 1985 on to San Pedro, California. He suffered health problems later in life.



## William Edward (Ted) Schofield.



Ted joining the Dukes in 1939

Ted was born in Skipton in 1922. He went to Parish School, and afterwards served as an apprentice baker before joining the Dukes in 1939. He was only a Duke for a short while before joining the Royal Artillery. He was posted to Blyth in Northumberland in 1940, where he met his wife, Margaret. He was posted to different places in UK then on to France, Belgium, and finally to India. He came back to UK for demobilisation in 1946, when he also

got married. On return to Skipton he tried baking again but found it not fulfilling, so he left and went to Rolls Royce at Barnoldswick.

Ted was a stalwart for the Skipton Branch since its beginning in 1991, travelling with the Branch to regimental events here in the UK and to Osnabruck in Germany, attending dinners in Yorkshire and London. He helped out at events and fund raising, and the best year for Ted was when we had the kitchen in the Town Hall when they were filming Calendar Girls in the Dales. About four actors turned up in the Town Hall, but the main person for Ted was Helen Mirren, who came to the counter for a warm pie.

Ted passed away on 25th August 2014 at the age of 92, after a short illness. He leaves behind his wife Margaret and children David, Michael and Patricia.

## Chief Superintendent “Topper” Brown LVO CPM CPM.

Topper Brown served with 1 DWR in Korea as a sergeant. After his discharge he joined the Hong Kong Police, rising to the rank of Chief Superintendent. On retirement he and his wife returned to UK, living in Purley. He became a regular attender at London Branch meetings, and took a great interest in the Association's affairs. He attended the Branch AGM at the Union Jack Club on Sunday 14 September, when he seemed fit and cheerful. His funeral is scheduled for 10 October 2014, which is after copy for this edition closes.



At the Bankfield Museum, Halifax, by the WW1 display case. He claimed that the uniform in the case was the same as the one he was first issued with.

## Lieutenant Laurence Anthony Balding.

Tony Balding was a National Service (NS) Officer who served 1948-50, he died on 12th May 2014 at the age of 84. Tony briefly served as a private soldier in the Hampshire Regiment, before being commissioned into the Dukes in 1948, when he was then posted as a Platoon Commander to Strensall. In 1950 Tony was attached to the Green Howards in Malaya until his release from NS.

Tony was a very talented footballer, prior to his NS he played professionally for Rotherham United, he was Captain of Loughborough University XI and played for the English Universities XI. Tony and his wife Margaret were big supporters of the Dukes Association, particularly in recent years, following in the footsteps of the Dukes on Battlefield Tours.

## WO1 (RSM) Edward Paul Pennington.

Ted Pennington died in August 2014 at the age of 88. Ted initially and briefly joined the RAF as aircraftsman, July – November 1944, before switching sides to join the Parachute Regiment, Ted served as a Pte/Lcpl in India and Palestine, before qualifying as an Infantry Clerk in April 1948. He then served in the UK, Sierra Leone and France and achieved the Appointment as Chief Clerk. In July 1956, Ted relinquished his trade to transfer to the Dukes as a Platoon Sergeant. He then served with the 1st

Battalion in Malta and Cyprus 1956-57, as CQMS in Cyprus and UK 1957-59, WO2 in UK and Kenya 1959-62. Ted was posted to the Yorkshire Brigade Depot 1962-64, as Training Warrant Officer, before being posted to Aden as RQMS of the Federal Regular Army. In July 1964 he returned to the Yorkshire to take up the appointment of RSM of The West Riding Battalion DWR in Huddersfield. Ted retired from the army in 1966. Following retirement Ted emigrated to Australia, but he kept in touch with RHQ and with his former comrades, many taking advantage of his hospitality on their visits to Australia.

### **Drum Major John Anthony Wilkinson.**

John Wilkinson who joined the army as a junior drummer at the Yorkshire Brigade Depot in June 1961, died on 18th September 2014, at the age of 69. John joined the 1st Battalion in February 1964 and served his entire army career in the Drums Platoon. He served in the UK, Germany (Osnabruck and Minden), Norway, Denmark, Cyprus (UN), Hong Kong, Northern Ireland (7 tours), Canada and most notably when he was Drum Major during the 1st Battalion's tour in Gibraltar 1993-95. John retired in 1995.

### **Terence Walter Barrett.**

Terry Barrett who was a National Service (NS) with the 1st Battalion of the Dukes, died on 14th March 2014. Terry served with the Battalion in Korea 1952-53, as a member of the Machine Gun Platoon in Support Company. Following his NS Terry, for many years was a Football Scout for Middlesbrough FC.

Terry left a very generous bequest from his estate to the Dukes Association Fund.

### **Captain John Greaves Shaw**

John Shaw was initially enlisted as a Private soldier in to the General Service Corps in January 1944. In May 1945, John attended the Indian Military Academy and was then commissioned into the Dukes in December 1945 and posted to the 2nd Battalion in India and served between 1945-48, serving in Dehra Dun, Meerut, Delhi and Old Dalby. John was released from service in February 1948. Many who knew John, both whilst he was serving and in his local community (Huddersfield) will also remember him as a very talented musician.

RHQ has received the proceeds of a very generous collection 'in John's memory' to the Dukes Association Fund.

## **LETTERS**

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

### **From Scott Flaving**

#### **The Battle of Bligny, 27th/28th July 1918.**

In the last edition of the Iron Duke, Spring 2014, page 25, was an invitation to attend a World War One commemoration parade, which this year was combined with the remembrance of the 8th (Leeds Rifles) Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment in the Battle of Bligny, normally an annual commemorative event held on 'Bligny Sunday'. Although the Leeds Rifles were singled out for the unit award of the Croix de Guerre, the battle was a Divisional attack, with 185th Brigade on the left, objective Montaigne de Bligny, and 186th Brigade on the right, objective Bligny village. 187th Brigade was attached to 51st Highland Division, which was operating on the left of 62nd Division.

*Editor's note - An article on the Battle of Bligny came with this letter; but as the action referred to occurred in 1918, it must wait its chronological turn for publication.*

### **From Michael Bray**

#### **David Hughes**

Since the obituary of David Hughes in the last Iron Duke was strictly factual, I would like to add a more personal contribution to a very fine man. He was RSM for much of my time as Commanding Officer and I could not have wished for a better person in the role. He was everything that a modern RSM should be, highly intelligent, an excellent communicator and a very professionally competent soldier. I regarded him as a leader of high quality, whose success was due not just to his skills but also due to his being a thoroughly nice man with an excellent sense of humour, always cheerful and enthusiastic and well respected and liked by all ranks. He was a man of integrity and straightforward manner, nothing pompous or artificial about David. He was typical of the very best of Yorkshire and the Dukes. What a pity for his Family and us all that he did not enjoy a longer life in good health.

Michael Bray CO 1 DWR 1977-79



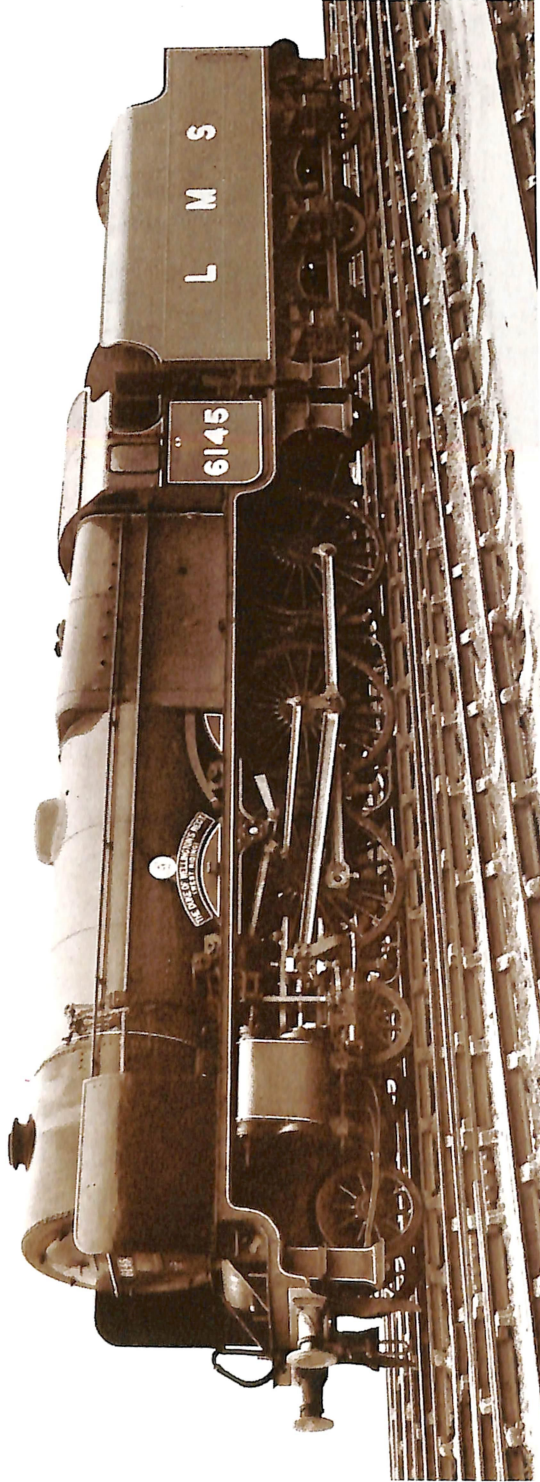
## Pip, Squeak and Wilfred



Three of the British WW1 campaign medals: The 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred are the affectionate names given to the three WW1 campaign medals. The 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal respectively. These medals were primarily awarded to the Old Contemptibles (B.E.F.) and by convention all three medals are worn together and in the same order from left to right when viewed from the front. The set of three medals or at least the British War Medal and the Victory Medal are the most likely medals to be found among family heirlooms. A bar on the 1914 star indicated that the wearer was in action early, from August to December 1914.

In a similar vein when only the British War Medal and Victory Medal are on display together they are sometimes known as “Mutt and Jeff”.



London Midlands and Scottish (LMS) Railway's Royal Scot Class Locomotive N. 6145 "The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)". These express passenger trains were given the names of British Army Regiments from 1927 onwards. The naming of No 6145 took place with considerable ceremony at Halifax Station on Sunday 4 October 1936, including a Guard of Honour from 5 DWR, the Colonel of the Regiment (Brig Gen PA Turner CMG), the District Passenger Manager and the Mayor of Halifax. The train was retired from service to the Leeds Holbeck Shed in 1962, and was then removed to Crewe where it was scrapped.