

Spring 2015
No. 278

THE IRON DUKE



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“WOs and SNCOs of 1 YORKS, all former Dukes themselves, carry the coffin of His Grace the 8th Duke of Wellington out of Stratfield Saye Church, Hampshire”.

Photograph at the foot of the cover shows the Duke of Wellington, as Colonel of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, with his escort in West Belfast in 1980.

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

*Dettingen
Mysore
Seringapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi 1803
Leswarree
D'ég
Coronna
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

It is good to see that the Regimental Association is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the battles of Quatre-Bras and Waterloo properly, with the Brussels Officers' Dinner and tours of the battlefields, and then the Halifax weekend for everyone. We could do no less.

But it is sad that the 8th Duke himself died just before all these events. He was a tremendous Colonel in Chief, showing fierce interest in us wherever we were and whatever we were doing, and visiting the Battalion on a regular basis, frequently with the Duchess. They made a great team, chatting to as many soldiers and families as possible, which they were good at, always engaging and putting everyone at ease. They were fun to have around, and lifted morale. As the tales told later in this issue show, he made his mark with the Dukes in contacts outside the formalities of Battalion visits as well, and some of our COs continue to dine out on the mishaps they made when meeting or hosting him, each and every minor disaster met with tolerance and good humour. They leave good memories with us: may they rest in peace.

As we journey through this crowded stretch of anniversaries, we continue the story of 2 DWR, Mons 1914, the Aisne and the Marne in early 1915 behind them, and now into the Spring of 1915, as the war turns to static, stubborn and murderous confrontation along muddy trench lines. Gas was used with horrible effect. By now, the old BEF was no more; shattered by ten months of overwhelming conflict, astonishingly successful in holding out in almost impossible circumstances, but by now the names of the units remained but casualties put out of action many of the men who were in it from the start, and replacements came up in their tens of thousands. The scale of the conflict on the Western Front grew and grew, as more and more British and Commonwealth Divisions poured in, including one full brigade of Dukes, whilst the 8th Battalion goes under the cosh at Gallipoli (Turkey), and the 9th and 10th Battalions arrive on the Western Front in late summer. Could any of them have guessed that there were another three and a half years of this ahead of them, and hundreds of thousands more casualties?

In passing, the "Blood swept lands and seas of red" display at the Tower of London to commemorate each and every one of the 888,246 deaths of British and Commonwealth men of WW1 was truly amazing and inspiring to those lucky enough to get to see it. Some photos in this issue.

And we reach the climax of the story of 100 years earlier in 1815, when the 33rd (First Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment came out of winter quarters to find Napoleon again rampant in Europe, leading to the final

battle of that long and costly war in June, on the Mont St Jean Ridge south of Brussels. And, 127 years on from Waterloo in 1942, Lt Col Owen, commanding 2 DWR fighting the advancing Japanese in Burma, was murdered by dacoits (bandits) as he and his batman slept, exhausted, in a village with his battalion scattered on both sides of the Sittang. Michael and Anne Bray have been to visit his grave, and report in this Journal.

This issue also carries a long extract from Brigadier Brian Parrit's book "Chinese hordes and human waves", which gives a good account of the Dukes' battle on the Hook, but also the excellent coordination and cooperation between all arms, and the national contingents.

As ever, any contributions from more recent Dukes will be warmly received. When you look back on your career, long or short, as a soldier, was there nothing at all worth remembering, and passing on? A memory here, an anecdote there, a photo or two to share? This edition carries the last "Dukes Diaries" - (I have struggled to decide whether there is meant to be an apostrophe in that title - sometimes there was and sometimes there wasn't. Perhaps some pedant would be kind enough to put me straight) - which might have sparked the odd recollection. To coin a phrase - your journal needs you!

A personal anecdote. I attended the Commandant's rehearsal of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst passing out parade on 6 August last year, as Intake 33, or what is left of us (happily, quite a few), celebrated 50 years since our own passing out in August 1964, which not only sounds, but actually is, a very long time ago. The day started with a service in the lovely Sandhurst Chapel, led by Rev Derek (Bob to us) Browning, a member of Burma 33 who was commissioned into the Gunners and, frankly, not in those days an obvious candidate for the Cloth. Our SUO (Senior Under Officer) had been a very upright gentlemen from Pakistan, Ali Khuli Khan Khattak, and he and his wife had made the long journey to be with us. Photos were produced of our platoon just before and during our first term drill competition in December 1962, which cause much mirth and some guesswork as to who everyone was. The rehearsal, commanded by Major General SR Skeates CBE, who made an excellent address, was very good indeed, although naturally we were all quite sure that it was not as good as it had been in our day (when we spent two years at the Academy, few had degrees so most were 18-20 years old, and we had lots of time to be rifled about the various squares by fierce Guards' Drill Sergeants and Warrant Officers. I do not know if WO2 Jim Grindley of the Coldstream is still with us, but we have not forgotten him). A great day.

The President's column.



Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE

I could be accused of stating the blinding obvious in opening this piece by saying that 2015 is a hugely significant year for any organisation associated with the Iron Duke but it is worth saying nevertheless when one considers the subsequent effect the Battle of Waterloo had on Europe. Given the uncertainties faced today, the thought of half a century of peace is indeed noteworthy. However any thought about the anniversary was for all of us put to one side in January at the sad news of the death of our Colonel-in-Chief. An account of his life appears elsewhere in this issue and I do not intend to add to that other than to note that The Duke was determined to witness the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and thus the fact that this was not to be the case added much poignancy to the news. Those of us who were present at the final 'Dukes' weekend in Warminster some 8 years ago will recall the passion with which he spoke about the Regiment and what it meant to him to have been at our head for so many years. It was therefore no great surprise that one of his last wishes was to have a bearer party from The Yorkshire Regiment carry his coffin at his funeral and of particular note was the fact that all members of that party had started their military careers in The Dukes.

As the anniversary of Waterloo approaches the interest in that historic battle increases with more and more appearing in the press along with a variety of exhibitions and events being organised both in this country and elsewhere. Thus it is only right and proper for the Association to mark this occasion with a major reunion which is being organised in Halifax for Saturday 20th June. Details have been sent out separately but for those who might have missed the mailshot the occasion will start with a musical re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo (courtesy of the Band of the Yorkshire

Regiment) followed by a BBQ for members of the Association in Manor Heath Park, Halifax. The Association Trustees have agreed to cover the major costs of the evening thereby ensuring that ticket prices are kept to a minimum. It promises to be a great event and I look forward to welcoming as many members of the Association as possible to what I am sure will be a hugely enjoyable and memorable evening.

One development of interest has been the establishment of an informal association with Wellington College in Berkshire. The initiative for this came from Brigadier Michael Bray, himself an Old Wellingtonian, who saw the potential for this link partly because the College was built as a memorial to the Great Duke but also due to the fact that the CCF is now the only unit still wearing the Duke of Wellington's Regiment cap badge. Brigadier Bray was invited to the annual CCF inspection in March and the College has asked us to attend and lay a wreath at their Remembrance Day parade on 11th November. Further thought is being given as to how we might develop this association with the College in the future.

Finally many will have noticed that our office continues to function out of Wellesley Park, Halifax despite the announcement of the move to Bankfield Museum. The move is in fact taking a little longer to complete than was originally envisaged and will now take place once the celebrations of Waterloo have occurred.

Association Trustees

In the last ID a photograph of Colonel Simon Newton was omitted, and is now below. When other Trustees send in a short note about themselves with a photograph, these will be published for the information of members of the Association.



**Simon
Newton**

Dukes News Round-Up

Colonel of the Regiment's Portrait.

Report by Lt Col Peter Mellor

On the 6th November a number of former Dukes' Commanding Officers and their wives attended the unveiling ceremony of a portrait of Major General Sir Evelyn Web-Carter, KCVO, OBE, DL in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment at Warminster. The event was hosted by Lt Col Andy Garner (a former Duke) and his Field Officers who warmly greeted the Guests in the recently refurbished Officers' Mess. A sense of 'coming home' was evident as former Dukes soon recognised familiar old Dukes pictures, silver and other memorabilia amongst less familiar Yorkshire Regiment items and even a large 1DWR Officers' Mess Scrap Book was spotted on a side table.

The significance of the occasion was explained by our President, Brigadier Andrew Meek, in a short speech to the assembled old Dukes and current Yorkshire Regiment officers in the anteroom, as some would not have known of the Dukes' custom of having a portrait painted of former Colonels of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and it was pointed out that General Evelyn was the last of a very long list of distinguished Colonels; his tour having lasted from 1999 until the amalgamation of the new Yorkshire Regiment on 6th June 2006, the last two years of which covered the period of all the attendant ceremonies of laying up of the Colours and farewell events at Warminster when he was presented with his engraved Arm Chair which he proudly uses in his dining room.

General Evelyn then spoke amusingly and also

described the seven three hour sittings for the artist, Diana Blakeney, which must have taxed him given his current work commitments. A little known fact is that in 1965, as a schoolboy, he with his father and other senior Dukes watched the military pageant on Horseguards celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 150th Battle of Waterloo. Little did he realise that years later he would become 'Colonel' of his father's old Regiment followed by Chairman of the Waterloo 200 Committee!

The portrait was duly unveiled to reveal the General in an unusual pose, as many similar military portraits depict sword, medals, hat and white gloves. As readers will see from the photograph the portrait shows a very reflective and thoughtful pose which provokes much speculation as to what he may have been thinking of during those long sittings. Certainly much discussion followed the unveiling and clearly he and the young artist had got to know each other well over some 20 hours of sittings in her Battersea studio.

The Dukes were then entertained to lunch and it was a pleasure to see the familiar Dukes' silver table centre piece and the Honorary Colours which had recently been returned from 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment in Cyprus. Towards the end of lunch our President rose, given the presence of both David Harrap and Bob Heron, to make a short speech thanking them both for their respective achievements in RHQ Halifax over many years and through the most protracted and difficult times of amalgamations, and closure of the office. They were presented with a small octagonal table engraved with the



**General Evelyn
stands beside
his portrait**

Dukes badge which had a workmanship symbol of a Beaver running up one leg, similar to the Mousey Thompson furniture of North Yorkshire.

The Regimental Association are most grateful that the CO 1 Yorks and his officers took the time from their busy training programme prior to becoming the Lead Armoured Battle Group in 2015 to entertain some older 'Cold War' Dukes and their wives wallowing in nostalgic memories. The following Dukes attended:

Major General Sir Evelyn and Lady Celia,
 Brigadier Andrew and Sandy Meek,
 Brigadier Michael and Anne Bray,
 Colonel Nick and Jane Borwell.
 Colonel Simon and Lucy Newton,
 Colonel Charles Cumberlege,
 Lt Col Peter Mellor,
 Lt Col Peter Andrews,
 Major David Harrap,
 Major Bob and Linda Heron.
 Diana Blakeney- artist.

Waterloo 200 – Officers' Dinner.

The Officers' Dinner is being held this year on Monday 15 June at the Maison des Brasseurs, Grande Place, Brussels. The following day the party will tour the battlefields of Quatre-Bras and Waterloo. The event is fully subscribed as things stand, but there may well be some drop outs so any former Dukes officer who would like to attend, on his own or with his wife or partner, should get in touch with Lt Col Tim Nicholson, contact details on the first page of this Journal. Accommodation for one night, the dinner, the tour and lunch on 16 June are included in a "package" price of £200.

Regimental Association Reunion, Halifax, Saturday 20th June 2015

To mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, the DWR Regimental Association Reunion for 2015 will be held in Halifax on Saturday 20th June, the nearest Saturday to the anniversary date of 18th June. On the same day, at a parade in Halifax, Calderdale Council will be granting the Freedom of Calderdale to the Yorkshire Regiment. The parade and ceremony will also mark the 70th anniversary of the original granting of the Freedom of Halifax to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment on 18th June 1945 at the end of the 2nd World War.

After the parade there will be a concert on Manor Heath Park, Halifax, by the Yorkshire Regiment Band and the Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment. The concert will tell the story of the "33rd Regiment at the Battle of Waterloo in Music". This will be a public as well as a Regimental event.

The Regimental Reunion will follow immediately after the concert and be in marquees on Manor Heath Park.

In addition, the National Army Museum, is mounting their special exhibition on the Battle of Waterloo for the North of England in Bankfield Museum alongside the 'Dukes' Regimental Museum. If you have the

opportunity please take the time to visit it. You may also be interested in visiting our Regimental Chapel in Halifax Minster where the Regiment's original Waterloo Colours are laid up in frames on the church wall together with other Colours that we all served under.

Events and Timings

1100 hrs. Freedom Parade in Huddersfield - 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment.

1500 hrs Granting of the Freedom of Calderdale to the Yorkshire Regiment in Halifax - 1st Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment.

1700 – 1745 hrs Reception and drinks Manor Heath Park - All members of the Regimental Association plus Regimental guests. There will be no cost for drinks at the reception. Entry will be for those with tickets for the evening Reunion.

1800 hrs 'The Battle of Waterloo in Music'. Manor Heath Park, Halifax - The Yorkshire Regiment Band and the Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment.

1845 – 2330 hrs Waterloo 200 Dukes Regimental Association Reunion at Manor Heath Park, Halifax.

Regimental Association Reunion.

The Reunion will be held on Manor Heath Park under marquees. It will be a ticket only event. There will be bar facilities and the meal will be a BBQ. Though there will be some tables and seating for those who wish or need it. It will not be a formally seated event, the focus being on reunion and meeting up.

Reunion Tickets. The cost of a ticket is £15.00. The costs of the evening are being heavily subsidised from DWR Regimental funds. Entry to the marquee area where the Regimental reunion is being held will be by ticket only. Tickets are available now and can be ordered on the enclosed proforma. Please return your booking proforma, together with your payment to RHQ, by Friday 29 May 2015. Dress. Smart casual. Members of the Regimental Association are encouraged to wear Regimental ties. A copy of the application proforma is at the back of this issue of the Journal.

Accommodation. For those who may need accommodation the following, all of which are in central Halifax and would need to be booked sooner rather than later:

The Imperial Crown Hotel. £45.00 double £55.00 with breakfast. Tel: 01422 342342 Email: www.corushotels.com/halifax

The White Swan Hotel. £49.00 double £59.00 with breakfast. Tel: 01422 355541 Email: www.whiteswanhalifax.com

Premier Inn Halifax Town Centre. £35.00 saver £52.00 flexible £8.75 breakfast. Book via the Premier Inn website: www.premierinn.com

Obituary and Personal Recollections - Brigadier His Grace The 8th Duke of Wellington KG LVO OBRE MC BA DL

Prince of Waterloo



The 8th Duke of Wellington, who died on 31 December 2014 aged 99, was Colonel in Chief of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment from 1984 until the break-up of the old Yorkshire Regiments in 2006. After that he became Deputy Colonel in Chief of the Yorkshire Regiment, giving way to the Colonelcy of HRH the Duke of York. As the following recollections and articles show, he was a tremendous supporter of the Regiment, and proud of his association with us, as we were with ours with him and his family.

He did not expect to succeed to the title. He was born in Rome on July 2 1915, the centenary year of his great-great-grandfather's victory over the French. His father was Lord Gerald Wellesley, the third son of the 4th Duke,

an author and diplomat who later qualified as an architect and succeeded as the 7th Duke in 1943. He read History and Languages at New College, Oxford, and then went to France to learn French, before being commissioned into the Royal Horse Guards, which taught him sword, lance and revolver drill, tent pegging and other cavalry exercises. He embarked for Palestine in 1940.

After being posted to Tulkarm with the 1st Household Cavalry, Wellesley made patrols through Arab villages, and was upset to be ordered to shoot 14 horses which had taken part in George VI's coronation, when the regiment was mechanised. He was then part of a column which advanced 500 miles into Iraq, where he found himself hunting, and being hunted by, the canny nationalist leader Fawzi al-Kawukji who, in league with the Vichy French in Syria, was harrying British supply lines. The citation for his MC read "Apart from the above incidents, this officer's conduct throughout the operations in Syria was exceptionally gallant and he was a magnificent example to all ranks of his squadron."

He took part in the battle of Alamein before being wounded when a "brew-up" of tea exploded. It was in late 1943 that he learned that his cousin, the 6th Duke, his elder by three years, had been killed with the Commandos at Salerno. Wellesley's father succeeded as the 7th Duke, and he began to use the courtesy title, Marquess Douro. He then, in 1943, served in the advance through Italy. After the war he was posted to Germany, and then became commanding officer of the Blues in Cyprus, during EOKA days, where he always slept with a pistol under his pillow. He then commanded the Royal



The over-large monument to the Duke of Orange on the Waterloo Battlefield, close to where Wellington directed operations

Armoured Corps in Germany before a final appointment as military attaché in Madrid: he was also the Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo.

On retiring from the Army in 1968 he turned his attention to the family estates, which were in an unsatisfactory state. He oversaw the modernisation of the estates, including opening Stratfield Saye to the public and the creation of a country park. He played an active part in rural, county and, in debates in the House of Lords, defence matters.

He kept an eye on the development of the site of the Battle of Waterloo, being concerned with the general commercialization of the site – his ancestor the 1st Duke was much irritated by the overpowering monument to the

Prince of Orange which “ruined his battlefield” – and felt that too much prominence was given to Napoleon.

As an indication of his support for the Regiment and the respect due to his ancestor the 1st Duke, we reproduce here the letter he sent to the Chief of the General Staff requesting that further consideration be given to the decision to remove the Duke’s name from the Army Order of Battle. The decision stood, and he wrote to the then CO, Lt Col Phil Lewis, his “sympathy and condolences” saying that the news was “depressing reading”. He hoped that the Battalion could, to some extent, “maintain our regimental traditions and retain the name of the 1st Duke in the Army, in spite of the machinations of the Ministry of Defence and some senior officers”.



The Duke was presented with a photograph of all ranks 1 YORKS on his 90th birthday, by Major General Webb-Carter and Lieutenant Colonel Nick Wood, at Stratfield Saye

Personal Recollections

The Duke became Colonel in Chief of our Regiment in 1974, and from then on was an enthusiastic supporter, visiting the battalion on many occasions. He always showed great interest in our activities, got on well with everyone, chatting with officers, soldiers, wives and families with equal charm and courtesy. He took every opportunity to get out and about to visit the soldiers on the ground, even when that ground was distinctly unsafe for an important VIP, which was entirely to be expected from a man with war service and an MC.

When the Dukes were transformed into a battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment in 2006 he was appointed Deputy Colonel in Chief of that Regiment, with The Duke of York as Colonel in Chief. When, later, the Yorkshire Regiment reduced from three battalions to two, many (not least himself, see letter above) thought it quite extraordinary that the name of the Duke of Wellington, surely our most distinguished soldier, should be removed from the order of battle when the option not to do so were available. But so it was. Even so, the Duke's commitment to the Yorkshire Regiment remained strong and despite increasing age, he was still regularly seen at major parades and other functions.

Some personal recollections of his visits to 1 DWR, and meetings at other times, follow.

The first Commanding Officer to host a visit, in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, in 1974, was Colonel Peter Mitchell OBE.

Peter Mitchell recalls - I first met the Duke when, as Marquis of Douro, he was commanding his Regiment in Cyprus in 1957. As a very junior participant I attended a



The Duke with Col Peter Mitchell and Captain Alistair Roberts, then Adjutant, in Ballykelly



The Duke with Col Tom Vallings at Warminster in 2010

conference which he was chairing. He did this excellently, a late arrival received a very frosty reception, and he kept a large meeting under control and moving forward.

Subsequently, during the tour in Ballykelly, he visited the Battalion for the first time. He was clearly proud and delighted to be our first Colonel in Chief, and with his own military background showed great interest in all aspects of our life in Ulster. Later, on our return to Aldershot he attended the service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, and took the salute of the March Past which included the Regimental and Honorary Colours.

Brigadier John Greenway CBE writes....

"In all dealings with the Duke and, indeed with the Duchess, whether in our home, their home, or on some formal occasion, they were both invariably charming, interesting to talk to and interested in what we were all doing. The effective disbandment of our Regiment hurt the Duke as much, if not more, than it hurt all of us – he was one of us too.

An advantage of Aldershot has been its proximity to Stratfield Saye and the opportunity this has given us to

welcome the Colonel-in-Chief to the Battalion. On one occasion he was witnessed attaining a 4-in group in his first-ever shoot with an SLR, thus demonstrating commendable prowess; on another occasion he was, regrettably, witnessed pushing a reluctant staff car down the A323, subsequently judging by the continuance in office of the Commanding Officer, displaying commendable restraint."

The "Thirty Year Rule", or some such, permits release of the background to the latter tale: The then GOC Aldershot District, Maj Gen Jim Wilson, had kindly invited the Duke to lunch in his house, along with the CO and a number of other Dukes' Officers, who were soon to be leaving Mons Barracks for Minden. The logistic plan was for Charles Cumberlege, in the CO's staff car, to fetch the Duke from Stratfield Saye and all to RV chez GOC.

All, less the Duke and Charles, met chez GOC as planned and sipped sherry for a bit, before realizing that we were not going cross the luncheon start line at 1300 as planned. Someone, I expect it was an ADC, caused enquiries to be made and we learned that Charles had collected the Duke as planned, but the staff car had



The Duke and Duchess and Colonel and Mrs Cumberlege at a dinner night in Gibraltar

At the watermanship centre**At a families tea party**

puttered to a halt en route. This had necessitated Charles legging it back to Stratfield Saye to get the Duke's chauffeur to bring his Rolls to effect a rescue. Relief all round; which might easily have included relieving Greenway of his job, but, luckily, didn't. So both General Jim and The Duke showed considerable forbearance that day".

Colonel Charles Cumberlege, remembers that occasion, only too well, and has some recollections of his own tenure in command...

"Memories of this sort tend to focus on things that go wrong and that is rather my case with the Duke. My first experience was in Aldershot in 1976 when John Greenway asked me to take his staff car with Jo to take the Duke from his home to the GOC's house for lunch in Aldershot. To cut a long story short, after emergency

repairs to a spluttering engine amongst the Stratfield Saye rhododendron bushes, we collected the Duke and set off only for the staff car to cut out irreparably miles from anywhere. Being before the days of mobile phones, the situation taxed my initiative to extremes; and we arrived 1½ hours late for lunch. We both knew him pretty well by the end of the day, but not a method of doing so I would have chosen.

We had a very successful visit to the battalion by the Duke and Duchess in Gibraltar in 1983. Nothing very major went wrong that I can remember. He didn't think much of my NAAFI South African sherry in the middle of the apartheid era, and inevitably the loudspeakers broke down in the middle of his speech to the battalion; but apart from that we all enjoyed ourselves."

Brigadier Dick Mundell OBE recalls...

When I was CO in Catterick in the early 80s we held a Mess Dinner for the Colonel in Chief. Prior to the meal a couple of subalterns showed off some small tattoos on their forearms (relatively discreetly) from the latest Ireland tour. Without much thought I let it be known that I disapproved! To my horror our guest the Colonel in Chief took me to a corner to show off his regimental tattoos on his forearm - a relic from his subaltern days on a visit to Kenya!! Happy days!

I also recall the Duke's visit to us West Belfast in 1979/80. Donald Isles, as Colonel of the Regiment, escorted our Colonel in Chief to West Belfast. The Duke insisted on getting out of the safety of echelon on Musgrave Park to the Bn HQ in Springfield Road and on to Ballymurphy - with a fairly large escort! He thoroughly enjoyed his stroll around the 'hot spots' of our area! - though the various Senior HQs in Ulster were

somewhat relieved when he departed back to London!" See photo bottom of front cover.

Colonel Alistair Roberts MBE saw quite a lot of the Duke.....

I have fond memories of the Duke's visits to the Battalion both when he was first appointed as Colonel-in-Chief and I was the Adjutant in 1974 in Ballykelly, and subsequently when I was CO and he and the Duchess stayed with us twice in Northern Ireland and once in Tern Hill, on the first occasion bringing their own tea bags and cereal, just in case. They were a pleasure to have to stay.

At the beginning and end of my tenure as CO, Carolyn and I were invited to Stratfield Saye for lunch, just the four of us. On arrival the Duke was a little unsettled and breathing heavily, having just dealt with 2 cock pheasants, so intent on fighting each other, that they had flown into and through his drawing room window and with the butler he had had to catch them with his salmon landing net! Lunch was a splendid affair with the Duke and Duchess at either end of a 20 metre table, Carolyn and I in the middle opposite one another and the butler acting as intermediary – "George, would you ask his Grace to pass the salt to Colonel and Mrs Roberts" etc. At the end of my tenure, I had a call from the Duke asking whether the family could come to lunch any day in the week of the Game Fair at Stratfield Saye. I chose Wednesday – there was a pause and he said in that case could we not bring the girls as the Queen and Prince Philip would be there and there wasn't room! Nothing daunted we drove down from Tern Hill on the Wednesday, proceeding smoothly to Stratfield Saye, armed with some very smart VIP passes. There was a major accident on the M40 and we were, and we had to run very late towards the VIP luncheon tent. As we approached, the crowds parted and started clapping, not for us it soon became apparent, we found ourselves in the Royal entourage and the Queen was right behind us! Anyway, lunch eventually passed off smoothly; we met and chatted to the great and good and we both fell in love with our lunch partners, Carolyn with the Duke of Westminster and me with Lady Jane Wellesley!

He was without fail cheery and enthusiastic. He engaged with the soldiers really well and they enjoyed having him around. He always wanted to be fully involved and made quite a nuisance of himself in 1988 with HQNI, demanding to be taken round the trouble spots, eventually being asked by the GOC "please obey the guidelines"! One night after he and Diana had retired to bed in Palace Barracks, there was an unusual amount of helicopter activity; suddenly there was a knocking on my bedroom door and it was the Duke, half dressed in combats saying "Come on, let's find out what's happening". A second "bedroom event" took place after a guest night; I had just climbed out of my Mess Kit and into my pyjamas and there was a shout "Alistair" from down the corridor. I found the Duke sprawled on the bed, The Duchess peeking disapprovingly from under the bedclothes muttering "Valerian for goodness sake!" He could not get his wellingtons and overalls off and I did

the necessary whilst he clutched on to his modesty concealed in a very smart pair of boxers.

The Regimental Council meeting in 1989 was at Apsley House in London and I travelled by staff car from Tern Hill. We got badly held up and eventually gridlocked in Hyde Park Lane. I jumped out and ran the last bit but tried to enter the wrong door where there were some builders and their supplies. Eventually I arrived breathless but just about on time. When the moment came for the CO's report, I found that one of my shoes was firmly stuck to the ground (in fact to what was probably a very expensive Persian carpet) and I had to leave one shoe behind, give my report and walk nonchalantly back to my seat. I spent the rest of the meeting prising my shoe off the carpet and scraping some very powerful industrial glue off the sole!

Brigadier David Santa-Olalla DSO MC recalls...

In the summer of 1995, I was spending my post-command tour as an instructor at the Army Staff College and was acting as the senior POC for Duke's officers at the RMAS. I had invited the Duke and Duchess to join Jo and I at our quarter on The Terrace for an evening drinks and nibbles with our Potential Officers. Among about 5 or 6 POs were, I think, Liam McCormack and George Triplow. Coincidentally, that evening my sister's family were staying with us from their home in the US. My culturally American nephews were outside the front of the house playing one-on-one basketball when the Duke's magnificent plum Bentley swept down the road and parked in the boys' notional basketball court.

The Duke's chauffeur jumped from his driving seat and opened the rear doors for the Duke and Duchess to alight. The boys, having had their game interrupted wandered up to the car and one exclaimed "Hey Dook, nice motor!"

The Duke agreed with them and gave instructions to his chauffeur to give the boys a cabby around the Sandhurst grounds which apparently became the highlight of our nephew's two week visit to the UK.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Nicholson remembers a dinner night attended by the Duke and Duchess in the Minden Officers' Mess when he was OC Burma and PMC. The first course was fish, and in came a trout of such astonishing dimensions that its head and tail hung over the sides of the plate. The Duchess was served first by a soldier impressed as a waiter for the evening, wearing a very tight-fitting white jacket. As the trout was placed before her the Duchess turned to the man and asked politely if "there was a smaller one". "No love", said this excellent rifleman, with absolute frankness "they're all that big".

Later that evening the CO had arranged a special treat. He borrowed the equipment for mouse racing from the REME Officers' Mess, and this was all set in the Ante-Room after dinner. The Duke was led in, took one look, and, and retreated back to the dining room. Project abandoned.



Yorkshire Regiment News

Note that the battalion news is extracted from the MOD website
<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments>

The 1st Battalion remains at Warminster. The Battalion completed Exercise PRAIRIE STORM in British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in late October 2014. The exercise was a great success achieving Collective Training Level 4 and was considered one of the best Battlegroups to go through BATUS in the last three years.

In November, having just returned from Canada, the Battalion deployed as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) for Ex WESSEX STORM; the largest exercise held in the UK during 2014. In December the Battalion completed its last Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup task before re-subordinating into 12 Armoured Infantry Brigade. In March, the Battalion conduct Exercise TRACTABLE, a test exercise to rehearse the Lead Armoured Task Force activation and deployment.

There has been continued investment in sport and promoting the Regiment's strong sporting reputation and ethos. The Battalion football team is through to the Infantry Cup semi-final and faces 4 RIFLES on 27 March. They are currently placed first in the central premiership and play 10 Training Battalion REME and are in the 3rd Division Football Cup Final.

The Battalion entered two rugby teams into the Army Rugby Union competition this year; the first team in the Premiership and a developmental squad (Hindoostan XV) in the Championship. The first team reached the Army Cup semi-final and narrowly lost to 12th Regiment Royal Artillery 8-10. The Hindoostan XV has gone one step further, securing a place in the Championship Plate final. The Battalion sent a novice alpine skiing team to France on Ex FROSTED BLADE; they performed well and intend to build on their success.

In April, the Battalion prepares to assume the Lead Armoured Battlegroup (LABG) role and focus on individual readiness, armoured crew courses and vehicle fleet preparation.

2 YORKS is a light role infantry battalion and is responsible for guarding the UK Retained sites around Cyprus. It is equipped with a range of small arms, support weapons and is expert at dismounted close combat. It moves to Catterick in 2015 to re-role as a Light Mechanised Battalion under 4 Infantry Brigade. Despite the end of the Battalion's commitment to Operation SHADER in Iraq, the Battalion still finds itself busy continuing to be the driving force behind Cyprus Operations. In addition to this responsibility, the Battalion has continued with its preparations to convert to the Army's new Light Mechanised vehicles, FOXHOUND, HUSKY, RWIMK and MASTIFF.

The overseas deployments keep coming thick and fast with proposed exercises in Tunisia, Romania and Estonia on the horizons; these exercises promise to provide excellent training opportunities to sharpen the Rifle Company's existing infantry skills, as well as fostering closer links with our allies throughout Europe and North Africa.

Closer to home, the specialist platoons of Quebec (Support) Company have recently completed two qualifying cadres which were run on Salisbury Plain Training Area. Sniper Platoon has 'badged' two new snipers as well refreshing and revising core skills for the remainder of the platoon. The Anti-Tank Platoon saw 25 soldiers qualify on a range of weapon systems including the Javelin Anti-Tank Missile, Grenade Machine Gun and Heavy Machine Gun, adding significant 'punch' to the Battalions' capabilities.

The career development of our soldiers remains a key area we invest in with a several soldiers having successfully completed their first promotional course. We have also maintained a steady trickle of our junior commanders attending career courses at the Infantry Battle School.

The Battalion Rugby Team recently sent a 15-man squad to compete in the Cape Town 10s in South Africa. After having facing some stiff competition the team managed to qualify for The Bowls Competition, eventually winning the event. The Battalion has also completed a scuba diving expedition in Cyprus and has a mountaineering expedition in the Scottish Highlands in the pipeline.

The Battalion moves to Catterick in Summer 2015 and re-roles to a Light Mechanised Battalion under 4th Infantry Brigade.

4 YORKS is an Army Reserve infantry battalion and part of 4th Infantry Brigade and HQ North East. It provides individuals and groups to support the Regular Army and in particular our Yorkshire Regiment regular battalions during operations. The Battalion is firmly focused on delivering operational output in support of our paired unit, 1 LANCS and the Brigade. We still have regional responsibilities for civil engagement and national resilience and we retain the overall responsibility for the management and routine of Regimental recruiting activity for both Regulars and Reserve.

The Battalion is showing significant growth as we move to our new Army 2020 structure; we are well on our way to achieve recruiting and retention targets. A request for change from the rebasing orders given to the Battalion within Army 2020 was accepted in order to allow the Stockton Road Army Reserve Centre to remain in place of Scarborough.

In December 2014, we deployed Corunna Company (supported by elements of Alma and Helmand Companies) to Cyprus on Ex. LIONS STAR 9 - the second of this year's Annual Deployment Exercises (ADE). The exercise was particularly successful as it integrated Regular soldiers from 1 LANCS and was also supported by 2 YORKS.

In March, we deployed 70 personnel on Ex. ASKARI STORM 2 with 1 LANCS. This is a fantastic effort by the Reserves to be able to commit this number for a third overseas deployment in a single training year.

Waterloo – the end of a long campaign.

In the last edition we left the 33rd (First Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment formed up in square on the Mont St Jean Ridge, preparing to withstand assault by French cavalry. The men had had a very difficult time: soaked by torrential rain, under shell fire and taking some casualties, and surely somewhat nervous about what was about to happen. But we should remember that this was no raw battalion. It had been in some tough fights at Merxem and Bergen Op Zoom at the end of 1814 and, just 48 hours earlier, at Quatre-Bras. No-one could ever think that they were enjoying themselves, but they knew what to expect, and were ready for it.

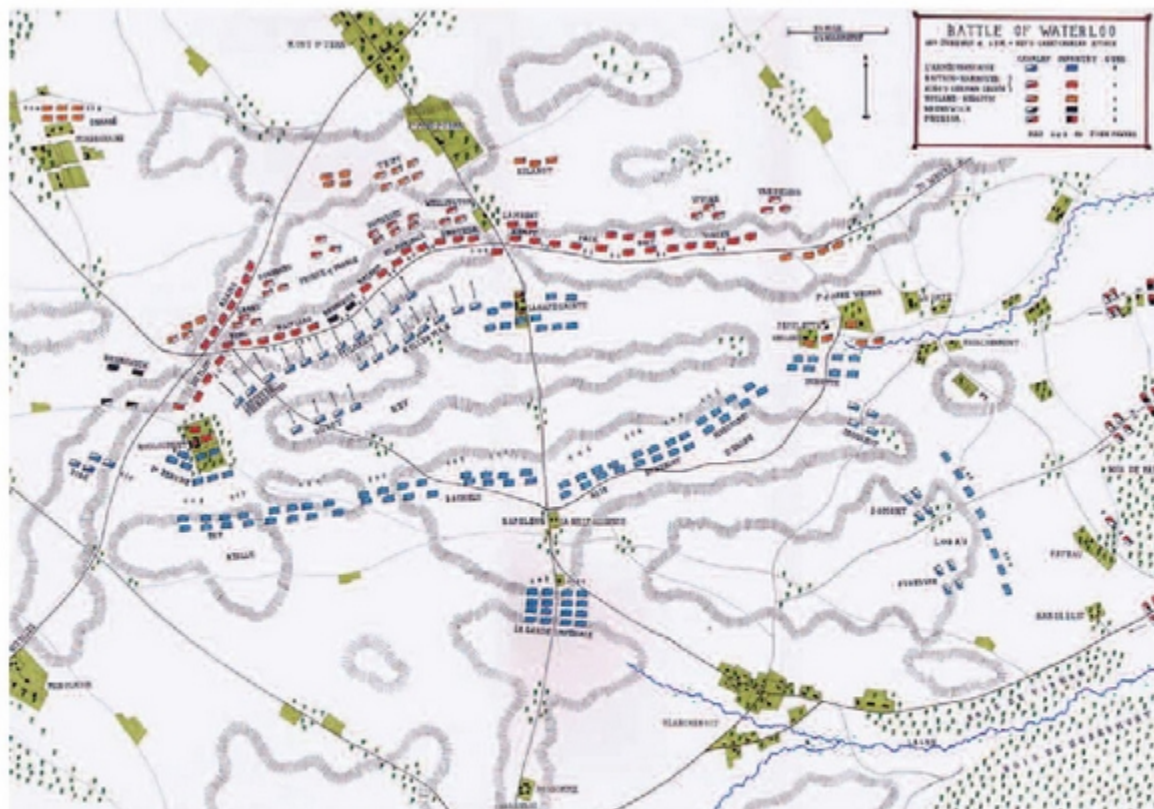
Napoleon's plan was held up by the actions at La Haye Saint, defended by the King's German Legion and Hougomont defended by units from the Brigade of Guards, the latter eventually drawing in the best part of two French divisions. Whilst the fight for the two farms continued there was a great deal of action on the allied left and right fronts. Eventually La Haye Saint, still stubbornly defended, was by-passed and D'Erlon's three divisions (some 14,000 men) assaulted Kempt's and Pack's Brigades, either side of the Dutch von Bylandt's Brigade.

It was very much touch and go on this front, and Lord Uxbridge ordered in his heavy cavalry. Whilst this

proved decisive in pushing back the French assault, it also (depending on which contemporary and subsequent account you choose to believe) effectively took these units out of the battle, as they were unable to rein in and reform, but carried on to near destruction. All of this was outside the 33rd's zone, but no doubt the noise of battle easily reached them, and certainly the incoming shelling continued.

At 1600 hours Ney reputedly mistook the movement of British wounded to the rear to mean a general retreat from the centre of the allied position. With little infantry left after the actions on the French right and at Hougomont, Ney chose to assault the British squares with cavalry. A British square was not large – 60 to 70 feet on all sides – and was almost impossible to penetrate with cavalry, although it was highly vulnerable to artillery and infantry attack. Being, by definition, square, it could not be out-flanked, and was equally prickly on all sides.

Some accounts report as many as twelve cavalry assaults on the centre right squares, although the 33rd counted four on their position, over a two hour period. Hammered by British artillery (who ducked into a square with one gun carriage wheel when about to be over-run



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.



then dashed out again and carried on firing when danger was passed), and blasted by the concentrated, volleyed musket fire of the infantrymen, the French cavalry eventually was all but destroyed. The lesson, already understood by Wellington's men, was that, terrifying though a cavalry assault looked and sounded, if you stood fast and shot straight with bayonets outstretched, you survived. Falter and they were in and through you, and your square was blown away.

By 1800 hours, with Blücher approaching and his cavalry in tatters, Napoleon ordered Ney to attack again, this time with infantry. La Haye Saint's defenders ran out of ammunition and the position was captured, greatly easing the French advance. The battle was at a critical point; Wellington was heard to say "I wish it was night or the Prussians would come". At 1900 hours Napoleon ordered forward all he had left, including the Imperial Guard, advancing in column.

The 33rd, by now combined with the 69th due to heavy losses, was ordered by their Brigade Commander Halkett, into line with the 30th and 73rd. Advancing, they met the French head on, in a devastating exchange of fire. Lieutenant Cameron, carrying the Regimental Colour, had it taken from his dying hand by General Halkett, but then Halkett went down (the Colour was picked up taken forward) and command passed to Colonel Elphinstone of the 33rd, the battalion command falling to Captain Charles Knight.

Wellington then ordered Maitland's Brigade of Guards, in reserve behind the ridge, forward with the reported command "stand up guards", followed by "Now, Maitland. Now's your chance". As this happened the 52nd caught the third French column in the flank (see Charles Curry's book review later in the Journal). The French broke, and it was over. With Blücher's troops in action on the allied left flank, Wellington ordered the general advance.

The 33rd and 69th got no further than Hougomont. They had reached their limits. But they had won. They returned to the Regimental Depot in Hull in December 1815. The battle honour "Waterloo" had been earned and every private soldier received £2 11s 4d in prize money, and in due course a medal was struck and awarded to all those who took part. The Regiment's total casualties between 16 and 18 June were 277, out of a strength of 561 when it entered the field at Quatre-Bras. A close run thing indeed.

After Waterloo An Entry into Paris

One might reasonably have thought that after its total defeat at Waterloo, the French Army would lie low. However, despite having received the formal surrenders of the French generals and other leaders, including an assurance that Paris would be handed over to the Allies peacefully, soldiers and the citizens of that city took a rather different view. An article appeared in the 1929 Iron Duke describing the allied entry into Paris, written by one of the Duke of Wellington's ADCs, later to become Lt Gen Sir William Stavely KCB. An extract appears below, describing the hostilities faced by him and his escort.

Incidentally, the allies treated the French, whose aggressive actions over 20 years or so had cost them so much blood and treasure, with extraordinary generosity, which can hardly be said for largely French led reparations imposed upon Germany in 1918.

"Fifteen days after leaving Brussels we encamped on the Seine before the gates of Paris. The Prussians crossed that river at St Germain's and, marching through Versailles, drove in the troops of the enemy sent to oppose them on the south side. Deputies had been coming in from all sides begging for a suspension of hostilities, which terminated in a convention by which

the French Army would march out, and we into, Paris... .. On the 4th of July the Duke of Wellington sent me... .. to see the convention carried into effect.

"...we were half way through the Faubourg when we were stopped by an officer of Polish Lancers and his men, the latter (some of them drunk and excessively unruly) ... refused to allow us to proceed. Then collected a mob of soldiers and, the tumult increasing, they began to fire at us from all sides, and cut at our Dragoons with their sabres..... Finding the firing increasing on all sides, and feeling myself wounded, I galloped on a little way clear of them and then alighting, entered the first house I found open.

"...I continued here half an hour the noise in the street continuing, mingled with cries of "Vive L'Empereur". They appeared to be searching for us... At length a light flashed into the room where I was, followed by three ruffians who, the moment they perceived me, rushed upon me presenting their pistols at my head and breast... .. Then they began to plunder me of my watch, money etc, and while thus employed the officer who had first stopped us entered. I claimed his protection, but that did not prevent them rifling me of everything valuable except my dress.

"... I went out with him and was immediately surrounded by a crowd of those villains, some holding lights up to me, others insisting on shooting or "massacring" me with their sabres. ...The officer said ... he could not control his men who said they were "sold and betrayed" by their generals, and would be revenged.

"...(The officer) succeeded in withdrawing his Polish Lancers, but I was now followed in to the room by a crowd of French infantry who renewed the same scene of threats and imprecations, menacing me with their bayonets or muskets, which continued for between two and three hours."

Readers will be pleased to hear that Captain Stavely was eventually rescued and continued with his mission.

The name the "Iron Duke".

How many readers know the origin of the name "The Iron Duke"? Perhaps there are several versions of the tale; here is one of them. After the Duke of Wellington overcame Napoleon at Waterloo he became a popular hero to a nation that had suffered the consequences of war for a generation. A number of ships in the merchant service were named either "The Duke of Wellington" or simply "The Duke". One of the first steel ships to be built was called "The Duke" and to distinguish her from wooden ships of the same name she was nicknamed "The Iron Duke" This adjective, it is said, so suited the character and personal appearance of the Duke of Wellington that it became used in reference to him, and he was subsequently almost universally known as the "Iron Duke".

The Royal Navy honoured the Duke with the naming of a warship with the title HMS Iron Duke, with whom the Regiment was allied for many years, and which is now linked to the Yorkshire Regiment She was launched in October 1912 by the then Duchess of Wellington (the wife of the Fourth Duke, who was the grandson of the Iron Duke), but was not commissioned

until March 1914. As soon as she joined the Grand Fleet she became the fleet flagship, Admiral Callaghan becoming the first to fly his flag in her, shortly to be followed by Admirals Jellicoe and then Beatty, names familiar even to confirmed landlubbers. As fleet flagship, HMS Iron Duke went into action at the Battle of Jutland (31 May, 1 June 1916).

The present HMS Iron Duke is a type 23 frigate and is currently deployed on operations in the South Atlantic.

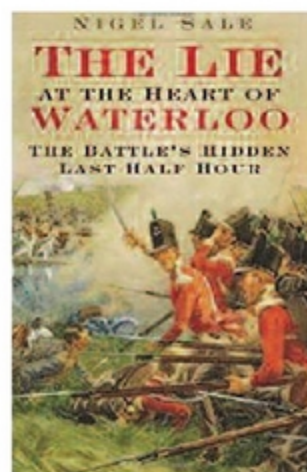
BOOK REVIEW –

"The lie at the heart of Waterloo"

by Nigel Sale

Reviewed by Charles Curry.

(This review has been brought forward so that it stands with other Waterloo related topics.)



The rash of publications being promoted at the time of the 200th Anniversary includes one by Nigel Sale, entitled 'The lie at the heart of Waterloo'. The descriptive addition of 'The Battle's Hidden Last Half Hour' focuses on a particular phase of the conflict. Sale served as an officer in the successor unit of the regiment which he feels to have been unjustly denied the accolade due to it at Waterloo for turning the tide of the battle. His work is well researched, drawing his conclusions that Wellington could have manipulated the story, especially of The Crisis in The Battle's Last Half Hour, to the detriment of his Regiment, the 52nd.

It is a topic which has been visited before, once by The Rev William Leeke, an Ensign in the 52nd Regt at Waterloo, who published in 1866 'The History of Lord Seaton's Regiment (The 52nd Light infantry) at the Battle of Waterloo'; claiming 'that very great injustice has been done to Lord Seaton and the 52nd Light Infantry' (Lord Seaton being Sir John Colborne who commanded the 52nd at Waterloo).

Far from the oft quoted 'up Guards and at 'em' (not made by Wellington) bringing the final charge which defeated Napoleon's finest, Sale says that it was the 52nd Foot delivering an independent flanking movement

which finally broke and scattered Napoleon's forces. Sale also notes that the Prussians contributed more than has been acknowledged. Further extensive commentary develops his challenge to Wellington. One can imagine that die-hard supporters of Wellington will huff and puff at this further invasion of long held beliefs and accusation against the Duke. In any event, there are various accounts which clearly mention the key part played by Colonel Colborne and the 52nd at that point in the battle, so it has not hitherto been ignored.

Bernard Cornwell in his 2014 book 'Waterloo' addresses these points in his narrative, saying some of Leeke's assertions were incorrect or at least questionable, but he still gives great credit to Colborne and the 52nd for their action at a key point of the battle. Similarly, Gregor Dallas in 'The Final Act' (1996) details the earlier Guards charge which started the French collapse, followed by the decisive blow by Colborne and the 52nd. Other commentators also credit the 52nd for their timely independent action.

Readers of accounts over the years will realise that sceptics of established military folklore have always

existed, much being due to confusion on the battlefield, poor communications and methods of recording were slow and not necessarily sure. Word of mouth was distorted along the way and that could affect any translation to paper. Even in Sale's narrative there are comments about coincidences or disparities.

This does not mean that Nigel Sale's conclusions should be ignored, condemned or cast aside. They deserve as much consideration and examination by thoughtful readers as he has given to present his case. Challenging the faith of a century or two of national belief is not new. Some have festered from the time of an event, others have surfaced in later years when 'lost letters' have emerged or modern techniques have made it possible to challenge them. This seems to be one in the former category.

It is up to the readers of Sale's account to decide whether his charge against Wellington of deliberate manipulation to create a myth has been proved beyond all reasonable doubt, but the book in any event is a comprehensive study of this famous battle and merits being read.

The Dukes in World War 1

Reinforcements – On the Western Front – Gallipoli – Captain Tunstall's Men

Reinforcement of the British Expeditionary Force.

In this narrative we can pass over the early numbering and designations of new divisions and brigades, and use the titles with which they eventually went to war.

The first call for reinforcement for the BEF was Kitchener's New Army, sometimes referred to as "K1", a call for 100,000 men, ("Your Country Needs You"), was initiated in August 1914, perhaps as an understanding of the scale of casualties being met by the BEF in France became apparent, and met an immediate response, some of it motivated by the "pals" idea, where men from one place, factory or other sphere of employment all volunteered together, as often as not taking the hierarchical structure of their work-place into their unformed activities. The target number was achieved in just a few days. Barnsley, for example, produced two Pals Battalions, officially 13th and 14th (Service) Battalions the York and Lancaster Regiment, mostly miners. Later initiatives were labelled "K2". By the middle of September 1914, 500,000 men had enlisted.

But there were considerable difficulties to overcome. Allan Mallinson, in his excellent book – "1914: Fight the good fight", (Bantam books, 2013), writes "So successful was the call to arms that there was not only a shortage of trainers but also a chronic shortage of uniforms, rifles, ammunition and accommodation. Men drilled with broom handles in the clothes in which they had enlisted; they slept under canvas or in seaside lodging houses. Only boundless good spirits and forbearance seemed in plentiful supply."

The Dukes had the 8th (Service) Battalion, a K1 unit, into Gallipoli by April 1915, and the 9th (K2) and 10th

(K3) (Service) Battalions into France by September 1915. The 11th to 14th Service Battalions would follow, making, in the end, seven in all. (They were called Service Battalions because they signed up for service for the duration of the war. They were classed as regulars.) As will be obvious to Dukes readers, the numbers started at 8, because 4, 5, 6 and 7 were TF battalion numbers, 1 and 2 were regular battalions and 3 seems to have been kept "for spare". The exploits of our service battalions will be recorded as the ID advances through the war.

In parallel was a focus on the existing Territorial Force (TF). After a slow start they mustered and volunteered for overseas service, with the benefit of in place structure and some experienced officers and NCOs. It will be remembered that reservists had been called up on the outbreak of war, to fill the BEF's order of battle, so were available, at least in large numbers, neither to the service battalions, nor the TF units. Still, although the existing TF battalions were expanded and split to form extra units, there was generally enough resources to get them trained, equipped and on their way. The 49th (West Riding) Division, comprised three brigades of volunteer Yorkshire soldiers, including 147 Brigade, with 1/4, 1/5, 1/6 and 1/7 Battalions, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. 49 Division was on the edge of action at Aubers Ridge in France in May, just a few days after 2 DWR's awful second battle on Hill 60, when they were all but wiped out by chlorine gas.

Forming up also was a new TF West Riding Division, numbered 62nd, a mirror of 49 Division, in that it comprised 3 brigades of Yorkshiremen, including, in 186

Brigade, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, and 2/7 TF Battalions of the Dukes. In terms of resources it was, for them, a rather different story. 62 Division HQ formed up in Doncaster in February 1915, which at the time was also the HQ of 49 Division. The units formed up and stayed in their home locations, to aid recruiting and because at first there was nowhere else for them to go, although in March everyone decamped over the Pennines to Derbyshire, with the Divisional HQ at Matlock and units billeted in the surrounding town and villages. "It was now possible to take stock of the Division. It was found to consist of a mass of men, partly clothed in uniform, untrained, unarmed, having for instruction purposes a few d.p. rifles, without equipment, horses or wagons, with practically no officers or NCOs competent to train and discipline, and without many of the small customs and traditions which influence the regular recruit from the moment of his enlistment. At the time, it should be noted, the Territorials were competing with the units of the Kitchener Divisions, and these latter having found favour with those in high places swept into their own ranks all the training ability of this country." Everard Wyrall, *The Story of the 62nd (West Riding) Division*, (Naval and Military Press, in two volumes). Indeed, 62 Division became a feeder formation for 49, losing some of the already inadequate human and materiel resources it had to the priority division.

When 49 Division embarked for France, 62 was ordered back to Yorkshire, setting up in the space left by its sister formation, with one brigade at Strensall Camp. Gradually equipment arrived, and the formation settled into some kind of shape, at which point the entire Division decamped to Nottinghamshire, with HQ in Edwinstowe, and the units scattered about the Dukeries and the Thoresby Estate.

By early 1916, after several moves around the country, 62 (West Riding) Division was declared to be organised, equipped and trained out of all resemblance to its former state in 1914, and presented an excellent appearance on parade. It had been a slow and difficult business, but they got there in the end.

Has ever an army been assembled in such a short time, and against such an array of difficulties? All our men, service and TF, fought well – although in some cases their inexperience showed at times – and we will follow their story as the Iron Duke marches on.

2 DWR: 1915 after Ypres and Hill 60

Only nine battalions were awarded the Battle Honour "Hill 60": After the dreadful carnage – 700 casualties in the actions in April and May 1915 – of Hill 60, 2 DWR were withdrawn into rest billets, and over the next few weeks receive large drafts of reinforcements. From mid-May through June and July the Battalion, now commanded by Lt Col RN Bray, (the first of three generations of Brays in the Regiment; he was later promoted to command a brigade, but his HQ was hit in a gas attack and he died of his wounds), occupied muddy, wet and generally unpleasant trenches near St Eloi. On July 21st the Battalion was relieved and marched out of the battle area to Steenworde. On 21st August it received a visit from General Herbert Plumer: as Brigadier

General CD Bruce CBE drily observes in his "History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (1st and 2nd Battalions)" "Visits from high commanders were already reckoned as presaging some unexpected and not altogether bloodless change in the daily life of battalions and brigades". The 5th Division were to relocate to the Somme, relieving French troops.

We might note in passing the fate of Ypres around the time that 2 DWR were fighting on Hill 60. In their "History of the Fifth Division in the Great War", Brigadier General Hussey and Major Inman wrote "Foiled in their attempts to capture Ypres, the Germans, with characteristic, childish spite, were engaged in the systematic destruction of that unhappy town. The use of incendiary shells caused fires to break out in several places and for three or four days the town was in flames. By night it formed an unforgettable scene; the shattered tower of the Cloth Hall standing out against the crimson background of the conflagration." And again... "Within a month or six weeks Ypres was reduced to a mass of smouldering ruins. Houses had disappeared and only in the case of a few of the stronger buildings, such as the Cathedral, the Cloth Hall the Barracks and the Prison, could the original be recognised."

Although on the Front, 2 DWR saw little large scale action; some aggressive patrolling, sniper activity, and a great deal of training to settle the battalion down. By November it was fully up to strength with 26 officers and 950 other ranks. Elsewhere, Dukes' soldiers had been in action. In May '15 49th (West Riding) Division, which included 147 Brigade, comprising 1/4th, 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions DWR, played a small part in the unsuccessful assault on Aubers Ridge. The Division took just 94 casualties in a largely reserve role on the "northern pincer". Arriving in theatre in July and August were 9 DWR in 17 (Northern) Division, and 10 DWR in 23 Division. In August, 8 DWR faced a determined enemy in Gallipoli (see next article in this issue).

The original BEF, shattered beyond recognition by the first 9 or so months of war, was no more. The formations and units that were now on the front were Kitchener's new army, supplemented by territorial divisions, 23 of them by the end of September 1915. In September 1915 the British attacked Loos, at the urging of the French who were under extreme pressure at Verdun. Our battalions were not involved, for which they were no doubt thankful. Loos was an expensive failure; British losses amounted to 60,000 men. Sir John French was replaced as C in C by Sir Douglas Haig.

The Dukes were to have a comparatively quiet period though much of the latter part of 1915, after Ypres, but that would come to a bloody end in 1916.

1/4th Dukes at Aubers Ridge

Much of this short account is taken from the 1/4th battalion's history. Just before the opening of hostilities, 4 DWR (TF) – whose history went back to 1859, when the 4th West Yorks Rifle Volunteers was formed in Halifax – consisted of 8 officers and 365 other ranks. It was brought up to strength and joined 49 West Riding Division, along with 3 other Dukes battalions. To quote

the battalion's history "in early 1915 the order came to prepare for imminent embarkation, there was a last minute deluge of badly needed equipment, which caused almost as many problems as it solved".

On 22 April the battalion suffered its first casualties, arising from a 24 hours familiarisation visit to the front line; one man killed and two wounded. It moved into position at Fleurbaix, which lies in an open low lying plain, with the nearest noteworthy geographical feature, Aubers Ridge. 1/4th DWR was predominantly equipped with rifles, having only two maxim guns in addition. Sniping became a fine art practiced by both sides, and the battalion took many casualties in 1915 from snipers.

In the first week of May 1915 preparations for a big attack were becoming evident, and the battalion began to speculate on its role in what was to be the Battle for Aubers Ridge. The Division was to be on the extreme left flank of the battle area, to play a passive support role until leading elements broke through the enemy positions. On the night of 8 May they moved up 2000 yards behind the front line.

By night fall it was clear that the attack had failed as wounded were streaming back through the battalion lines. Eventually 1/4th was moved back to its old position near Fleurbaix, having suffered only two casualties, both from "friendly" artillery. In the days following three more men were killed and four wounded by enemy artillery and snipers.

Gallipoli

8th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment goes to war.



For what follows I am much indebted to the late General Donald Isles, whose History of the Service Battalions is of great interest and value to those wishing to know more about 8 DWR and the other Service battalions.

The story of the Gallipoli campaign has been somewhat distorted over time. What is agreed by all is that it was a disaster, probably should not have been attempted, or, if it had to be, it was set about the wrong way. On ANZAC day (25 April) Australians and New Zealanders remember all of their citizens who died in all wars, but the date is that of the ANZAC Corps landings on the Gallipoli Peninsular on that day in 1915. Many believe that the ANZAC forces were misled and pressed to inevitable failure by the British High Command, whilst some modern Australian historians say that their eyes were wide open to the risk and challenge of the operation. This article takes no sides in the controversy.

There are those who put it all down to the recklessness of Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, whilst his supporters insist he only wanted a naval engagement to secure the Dardanelles, take Istanbul (which was still called Constantinople at the time) and thus take the Turks – and their threat to Suez and Egypt – out of the war, but the Navy's inability to achieve that aim prompted a land forces action. It will all be wrangled over again and again every time the campaign swings back into the limelight.

Whatever the political and strategic manoeuvrings at the time, they meant little to the men of 8 DWR, a service battalion formed in the rush to answer Kitchener's appeal for 100,000 men in response to the imminent war in Europe in 1914. Formed up at the Regimental Depot in Halifax in August 1914, the Battalion was assigned to 32 Brigade in 11th (Northern) Division. The Brigade consisted of four battalions. As well as the 8th Dukes, there were the 9th West Yorkshires, the 6th Yorkshires (as the Green Howards were often called), and the 6th York and Lancasters, all service battalions, as were the other eight battalions in the two remaining brigades of the division.

Embarkation and Landing

The GOC, General Sir Ian Hamilton, had first landed troops at the southern end of the peninsular in April 1915, but the Turkish defence held firm despite renewed allied assaults, and by July the action was at stalemate. Reinforcements were called up, all of them New Army formations with little or no war experience. Among them was 11th (Northern) Division.

After intensive training in Surrey, 8 DWR, commanded by Lt Col HJ Johnston DSO, a veteran of the Boer war, moved by train to Liverpool and embarked on SS Aquitania, destination unknown although the Mediterranean was suspected by the clothes and equipment issued. They staged through Lemnos and Imnos Islands, then were moved to the northern end of the peninsular, to Suvla bay. The plan was to cut off the Turkish forces facing the allies in the South from Istanbul. The map shows the general dispositions, with 11th Division landing at the northernmost end of the assault. The landing, on 6th August, was not unopposed, but the troops made progress inland.

The fight for the high ground

However, the next day as they pushed inland to seize the high ground ahead of them, they met fierce resistance



The War Grave site at Greenhill

in the area of Hill 10 (which is a little north east of Chocolate Hill on the map). With great dash and courage the initial objectives were mostly secured, despite heavy casualties and under shell fire. On the 8th and 9th of August the allies attempted to move forward to the Anafarta ridge, but senior commanders failed to take concerted action to hold and use the momentum gained and the advance halted in confusion. Turkish counterattacks were driven back, but casualties were heavy.

Some men, despite the intensity of the battle around them, still find time to keep a diary or make notes on what is happening around them. 8 DWR had the good fortune to have with it CSM Miles, then a sergeant, whose diaries record the action the battalion faced over the years of its active service in WW1. Of the landing at Suvla Bay and subsequent events, he writes...

"We eventually reached the shore and doubled up under cover of the hill. Mr Turk was retiring. Here we fixed bayonets and spreading out into a single line charged up the hill. My word! We knew all about warfare then; bullets were whizzing by, finding their billet in some poor fellow; land mines were exploding everywhere, blowing the unfortunate ones who trod on them sky high. The Turks were throwing bombs at us and, altogether, we were having a very uncomfortable



LCpl Patefield's memorial stone

time. We were suffering heavy casualties, one of my chums receiving a bullet in the chest, another in the forehead, killing him outright."

Of the next day, 7 August, he wrote, "After running up and down ditches and running across fields of stubble for a matter of six miles, daylight came and found me in a ditch with some 50 men (no officers). We surveyed the ground in front and saw dozens of Turks lying about, some dead and others wounded and, looking behind, we saw the same for our own poor fellows. I find also that the regiments have got a bit mixed up. There are Yorks, West Yorks, York and Lancasters and ourselves."

The battle for the ridge

Battle continued through 9 and 10 August; some 9000 men attacking (as was learned later) some 90,000 Turks up on the ridge. The 53rd Division was brought forward to press the assault, with support from 8 DWR and 6 Y&L. There was no allied artillery at this time, so no response to the Turkish shell fire. The CO, Lt Col Johnston, was wounded (as were many officers) and ordered the stretcher bearers who came forward to take him back for medical attention to leave him and look after the wounded around him. His body was found later and is in the Hill 10 cemetery.

On 10 August 11 Division was relieved and withdrew back, initially to the beaches and then, after two days, to trenches facing Turkish positions on Chocolate Hill. There they remained until 21 August when they took part in a major assault on the heavily defended ridge positions. It was not a success.

The final major assault.

By night fall on 21 August it was clear that the attack could not succeed, nor could the rate of casualties be sustained. CSM Miles wrote, at dawn on 22 August..... As soon as dawn broke we called the roll. What a lot of specimens we looked. There was roughly 250 of us out of a total of about 900. In my company alone we had lost seven killed, 43 wounded, the majority of whom died of wounds I expect, and 23 missing out of a total of 134. We had one officer left in the battalion out of a total of 29." Second Lieutenant RE Edwards duly became temporary Commanding Officer. 32 Brigade had suffered so heavily it was obliged to form a single battalion out of its survivors.

The operation cost the allies 188,000 casualties, including 57,000 killed. Of the last category 34,000 were British. French casualties (killed, wounded and missing) were 27,000, ANZAC 36,000, Indian 5000, Canadian 140 and Turkish 175,000.

The end of a dismal story.

8 DWR did not take part in much further action, although cold, shell fire and snipers caused further casualties. They dug in and endured. Great gallantry had been shown by the British, ANZAC, French and Indian troops who took part in the operation, but to no avail. Evacuation was authorised by the Cabinet on 7 December and 8 DWR embarked ten days later. It eventually arrived in Egypt. Whilst accurate casualty figures are not available, 19 officers and 607 men were drafted in to bring it up to strength.

Captain Tunstill's Men

By Lt Col Toby Lehmann

Just over one hundred years ago, on Friday 4th September 1914, a letter was published in the weekly edition of the Craven Herald and Wensleydale Standard; the letter ran to just 432 words but it was to change the lives of hundreds of local residents. The message of the letter was simple; it was an appeal by local businessman Harry Gilbert Tunstill to the people of the Craven District of North Yorkshire, "to raise 99 men from this district and so form, together with my own enlistment, one whole company of 100 strong ... rallying to the Country's call for soldiers in the desperate struggle now confronting the Nation, and upon which depends our very existence as an Empire". Tunstill's appeal struck a chord with the local population and in little more than two weeks he had raised his company. On Monday 21st September Tunstill, with his fellow recruits, departed to begin their military training. En route to Halifax they were joined by other contingents from the wider area to form a whole company, 240-strong, who were to become 'A' Company in the newly-formed 10th (Service) Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. To the locals they were, and would remain throughout the war, 'Captain Tunstill's Men'.



**Captain
Tunstill in
December
1914**

Harry Gilbert Tunstill (known to all as Gilbert) was 33 years old in September 1914. His great-grandfather had established a cotton spinning business in the Burnley area in 1834 and the company had prospered over the last 80 years, leaving the Tunstills wealthy and well-known. Gilbert himself had been educated at Charterhouse School and then worked as a land agent. In 1906 he had married Geraldine Margaret Parker, who was to take a prominent role in Gilbert's raising and equipping of his volunteers. Following their marriage, Gilbert and Geraldine set up home at Otterburn House, in the hamlet of Otterburn. By 1914 Gilbert Tunstill had become a well-known and respected figure in the Craven community; in December 1913 he was elected,



Captain Tunstill seated, with other officers, believed to have been taken in 1917

unopposed, as the Settle representative on the West Riding County Council, following the death of the previous incumbent.

So it was that when Tunstill made his appeal in September 1914, with the endorsement of a wide range of local dignitaries, notably the renowned Walter Morrison of Malham Tarn, it attracted great attention not only in the local press but also among the wider community. More than the one hundred he had requested came forward but, with some failing their initial medical examinations, the final number of recruits who assembled in Settle on Saturday 19th September came to 87 (including Tunstill himself). On the following Monday (21st) the men departed by train via Skipton to Silsden and Steeton and then marched on to Keighley. By the time they were ready to move on by train that same evening to the Regimental Depot at Halifax the Company numbered some 240. Tunstill's men had been joined by volunteers from Keighley (50); Grassington (18); Cowling (18); Ilkley (16); Bingley (11); Skipton (10); Burley (10); Earby (8); Menston (8); Addingham (2); and Silsden and Otley (1 each).

Tunstill's Company, along with the rest of the Battalion, spent the next year in training, at a variety of locations across the south of England, before finally in August 1915, embarking for France. The Battalion remained on active service for the remainder of the war. Their first engagement came within weeks of their arrival in France, on the fringes of the British attack at the Battle of Loos in September 1915. There followed a very trying winter and spring spent in harsh conditions at a variety of locations on the Western Front. Although not involved on the infamous first day of the Somme offensive in July 1916, they were in action on the Somme between July and October, suffering heavy casualties. In September 1916, Tunstill himself was invalided home and served out the remainder of the war in England. The winter of 1916-17 and the following spring were spent largely in the Ypres Salient, with regular turns in the front line. In June 1917 they attacked on the first day of the Battle of Messines and in September were engaged in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). In November 1917 the Battalion was sent to the Italian Front where they would serve out the remainder of the war. The Italian campaigns may not, in the popular imagination, have the same resonance as the Western Front, but weather conditions could be brutal and the fighting, on occasion, fierce. The Battalion was in the forefront of the final allied advance across the River Piave in October 1918. It was not until April 1919 that the Battalion, including the survivors of Tunstill's original recruits, finally returned to England.

The impact of the war on the men of Tunstill's Company, on their families and on the wider community cannot be reduced to mere statistics, but the numbers are startling. Of the original 87 volunteers from Tunstill's

personal campaign, one-in-four (22 men) were killed and many others discharged from the Army on grounds of wounds or ill health incurred during service. We can only speculate on the lasting impact of the war on Gilbert Tunstill himself. What is known is that on 8th July 1931, 15 years after leading his men into action on the Somme, Gilbert Tunstill took his own life.

To mark the centenary of these momentous events, the staff and students of The Skipton Academy (formerly Aireville School), with the generous support of a host of local individuals and organisations, and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Craven and the First World War group presented a series of special performances of their acclaimed production "Tunstill Men", which attracted sell-out audiences at the Grassington International Festival in 2013 and 2014. There were performances in Settle on Sunday 14th, in Grassington on Tuesday 16th, and in Skipton on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September. Finally, on Sunday 21st September, one hundred years to the day from the departure of the volunteers, there was a special performance for an audience of invited guests, including relatives of Gilbert Tunstill and other of his volunteers. Among those present were Mr. Dennis Maunders, whose father, Bob, was one of Tunstill's original recruits and also Mr. Henry Bolton, whose great-uncle, Dick Bolton, was one of Tunstill's fellow Company officers.

The progress of Tunstill's recruitment campaign and the story of the Company from 1914 to 1919 can now be followed, day-by-day, via an online diary. The account, which can be seen at <http://tunstillmen.blogspot.co.uk>, is updated daily, 100 years after the original events.



A Company in August 1914, at Bramshott Camp, Hampshire

BATTLE OF THE HOOK

Extract from Chinese Hordes and Human Waves

By Brigadier Brian Parritt RA

Every night now Chinese shelling increased and, on the night of 20/21 May over 4,000 rounds landed, mainly on The Hook position. Many senior officers, including the divisional commander, General Cassels, who had commanded the famous 51st Highland Division in the European Campaign, stated that this weight of enemy artillery fire had never been experienced in the Second World War on any front. Brigadier Kendrew decided, therefore, to readjust his forces; the Duke of Wellington's Regiment was put back on The Hook, with the Black Watch just behind, sited for immediate counter-attack on either The Hook Left Sector or The Hook Right Sector and the King's Regiment was deployed on the right. It was interesting that among the captured Chinese weapons were British Bren guns manufactured in 1942 and ammunition, dated 1943, which had almost certainly been carried by the transport planes which flew that hazardous, and often fatal, journey over 'The Hump' to supply the Nationalist Army of Chiang Kai Shek.

In this period of waiting, the Brigadier decided to mount a diversionary attack to the right of The Hook using B Company of 1 King's. The Company moved out on the night 24/25 May down to the Samichon River. A firm base was established just beyond our defensive minefield and one platoon, heavily armed with additional Bren guns, moved down the river to form an advanced base. A second platoon, led by Captain John Caws, was lightly armed with Sten guns and grenades and crossed the river to attack the Chinese positions and try to capture a prisoner. Baker Troop was firing continuously on targets just above the attacking platoon. Unfortunately, John Caws ran into an unmarked minefield and the noise attracted Chinese fire. Out of his 16 men, 10 were injured, four of whom were stretcher casualties. Captain Caws was amongst the wounded and, three weeks later, we were in adjoining hospital beds.

Then, one morning an unprecedented event occurred. Colonel Brennan arrived at the battery position and summoned all ranks to gather round him. He stood next to Baker One [25 pdr gun howitzer] and said that there was positive intelligence that a Chinese attack on the Hook was imminent. He said it would be a hard battle and that we should be prepared, but he was confident we could defeat the attack. It was a good speech and left everyone with a sense of determination, although a little apprehensive. The intelligence that convinced the colonel that the attack was imminent came from that most reliable of sources, a man who knew the facts. As in Northern Ireland, although photographic intelligence, forensic intelligence, card indexes and reports from units all help guess future operations, nothing beats a human source who has access to those who are actually planning and going to implement operations. This is why source

handling became so important and remains so today. In this case, a Chinese private soldier called Private Hua Hong, who had previously fought for Chiang Kai Shek and had then been conscripted into the People's Revolutionary Army, walked into our front line and surrendered. He confirmed that an attack was being planned and that he had taken part in a specific rehearsal in a hill similar to The Hook ten miles back from the front. The attacking force would consist of five assault companies from the 397th, 398th and 399th Regiments carrying satchel charges to cut the wire, destroy our gun pits and command posts and were to be followed by three other fighting companies from the 399th Regiment. Just as the area of The Hook meant that only one company could be used to defend the position, so the Chinese were limited to the number of men they could use in the initial attack. Their aim was to kill the defenders, seize the ground and then bring up reserves. Hua Hong knew a great deal but did not know the exact date for the attack.

His unexpected arrival in the Black Watch lines caused a flurry of excitement. The Commonwealth Division policy was to give a bottle of whisky and five day's leave in Japan for any soldier who captured a prisoner. This followed a tradition established in World War One. When Hong was pulled to the ground and made prisoner, his captors naturally expected the promised rewards. Sadly, the fact that he had been a voluntary prisoner, but more especially because this was not a good time to let two soldiers disappear to Tokyo, meant the rewards were not forthcoming. Another incident which failed to bring a reward was when a soldier discovered and arrested a Chinese soldier on the flank of one of his company positions, only to be told he had successfully captured one of the Korean labourers who, on the Battalion's behalf, was digging a communication trench.

Signals intelligence, which by 1953 had been refined and properly targeted, was working well and also indicated an imminent attack. An attack was coming – but when? The answer came at 1935 hrs exactly on 28th May; with all four companies of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment on The Hook, and a further company of the King's in reserve, the battle started. It was still daylight and the fighting opened with a tremendous artillery barrage falling on The Hook and surrounding positions. The Chinese, who had been lying concealed in caves close to our forward platoons, advanced aggressively behind their artillery barrage led by their assault engineers carrying satchel charges to clear a path through our barbed wire. They quickly crossed the protective minefields and wire obstacles and within minutes were attacking the forward weapon pits.

On the afternoon of 28 May, Major Mackay,

commanding 45 Battery, had decided to increase the number of OPs in support of Captain John Gordon, the gunner OP officer with the 'Dukes' forward company, and asked Lieutenant Roddy Scott, the OP officer with C Company 1 DWR on the feature to the right, known as the 'The Sausage', to send two of his gunners over to The Hook to man an additional observation post. Roddy sent Bombardier H J Hudson and Gunner M L Caws who, on arrival on The Hook, moved to an OP with the forward company, in 10 Platoon area, and, during the period of intense shelling before the assault of the Chinese, began to relay fire orders to Captain Gordon using their 31 set. After the Chinese assault succeeded in crossing the wire and ran screaming down the trenches carrying satchel charges and using their burp guns and hand grenades, the two men carried on reporting the enemy movements for eight minutes and, according to Captain Gordon, 'behaved with coolness and determination.' Surrounded by the enemy, 10 Platoon commander ordered VT artillery fire down on his own position but was then killed. Gunner Caws came on the air and reported that the Chinese were all round him, but his transmission suddenly ceased and his body, together with that of Bombardier Hudson, was found next day beside the wrecked radio. They had been killed by a satchel charge thrown into the back of their OP. They had died with their infantry comrades doing their gunner duty. Four other gunners from 45 Battery with the 'Dukes' were also wounded that night.

In December, 1953, Major R E Austin, who had been a King's Officer in the Second World War, and was then a company commander with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was asked to write an official account of the battle for the Journal of the King's Regiment:

"Within a matter of minutes, the platoon commander was killed in hand to hand fighting and the Chinese overran the platoon, leaving behind them small pockets of resistance and many of our men buried in the debris. While this fighting was taking place, three additional waves of enemy, each of approximately platoon strength, swept forward. They were practically annihilated by our artillery fire and few were able to join those already precariously holding on to the top of The Hook. These, however, reorganised and attempted an encircling movement the right arm of which was caught in the wire on top of The Hook and was wiped out by artillery and small arms fire. The time was now close to 2300 hrs when the Chinese artillery fire lifted to the road behind the Hook along the road that reinforcements would have to travel.

On top of the Hook there was an uneasy lull which was broken at 2045 hrs when a fresh Chinese attack came in. Although this attack was savaged by artillery, tank and LMG [light machine gun] fire, the enemy succeeded in linking up with their force, which had penetrated our right hand platoon and fierce hand-to-hand fighting broke out. Greater penetration was achieved until most of our platoon area was in enemy hands. The platoon was

reinforced and the penetration was held. Subsequently a planned counter-attack restored the situation.

At 2305 hrs the CO ordered heavy artillery, tank and MMG [medium machine gun] fire to be brought down on what looked like a forming-up place for an attack and no attack materialised. It was later confirmed that this enemy force was of battalion strength and was caught by artillery in the open and suffered enormous casualties – so much so that it advanced but a short distance from its start line and was then forced to clear the battlefield of dead and wounded.

The final attack came in at 0030 hrs, this time directed at The Hook. It was of company strength and was heavily engaged by the tanks and MMGs of the King's and 'Dukes' with artillery and mortar support. Slowly and methodically the area was cleared and by 0330 hrs The Hook was reported completely in our hands.

The scene of devastation that was unfolded in the grey light of dawn that followed was indescribable. Bunkers were smashed to matchwood, communication trenches that the night before had been six to eight feet deep were now scarcely knee high. Shredded sandbags and smashed pieces of barbed wire littered the area and the dead Chinese, many in fragments from the murderous effects of our artillery fire, rounded off a scene that rivalled the most gruesome illustrations of Dante's *Inferno*."

Captain Tony Harris, now commanding Baker Troop, relieved Captain Gordon and was forced to use an open trench for observation as the OP had been destroyed. On the next day I went up to The Hook which was now occupied by 1st battalion Royal Fusiliers. My first impression was that everyone was dazed. Soldiers were scrambling along the blown in trenches and trying to dig out the weapon pits and command posts. It was rather like the scene after an earthquake where everyone is trying to regain normality. It had been a terrifying night, one that would have been very familiar to infantrymen in the First World War. Screaming enemy getting through the defensive minefield; crossing the barbed wire and then jumping into the zigzag communication trenches behind the weapon pits. It became a personal battle of Sten gun, revolver, grenade and bayonet versus Chinese stick grenades and 'Burp' guns, all against the overpowering backdrop noise of Chinese mortars and artillery and the British machine guns, tank and artillery fire. The Chinese had desperately wanted to capture the hill and the 'Dukes' prevented it happening. As I walked through the position my feelings can be summed up in two words, 'admiration' and 'respect'. This was the feeling I had at the time and on subsequent analysis, this feeling of admiration and respect has increased. The officers, warrant officers, the NCOs and, above all, the young National Servicemen, were put to the ultimate test and by determination and bravery were successful. Sixteen infantry battalions served in Korea during the war and, as is traditional, every battalion finds it easy to highlight the failings of other battalions. I never met any

soldier who knew the facts, who would not agree that the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, supported by the 1st Battalion King's Regiment, justifiably deserved the praise and decorations they received for their actions on the night of 28 May 1953. For those who do not know the facts the book by A J Barker, *Fortune favours the Brave* is a wonderful account of this most dramatic battle.

Major Austin in his factual report continually mentions the effect on the battle by the artillery and mortar fire that supplemented the fire from the troop of 1 RTR located on The Hook itself. The fact that so much artillery fire was able to be concentrated on such a small area at the right time was the result of a well-planned and professional artillery plan. Major Bill MacKay and Captain Gordon had prepared a Defensive Fire Plan and had registered targets covering the area leading up to The Hook, targets immediately in front of the barbed wire, targets actually on the forward platoons and targets inside the Battalion perimeter. Not surprisingly, Captain Gordon was awarded an 'immediate MC' for his actions during the battle and his citation reads: 'Throughout the night his cool and balanced situation reports and his efficient calls for fire were of the utmost value in helping first to stop the enemy and then to defeat and drive him from the position. There is no doubt that the correct deployment of the guns had a major effect on the outcome of the Battle. Captain Gordon's contribution to this was notable. In the words of the company commander, he was a tower of strength.'

Throughout the battle, Major MacKay, the battery commander, sat next to the 'Dukes' battalion commander, Colonel Bunbury, relaying requests for fire back to Colonel Brennan. Colonel Brennan was given the authority to coordinate the fire from the guns of 1 Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery, 16 Field Regiment Royal New Zealand Artillery and the mortars of 61 Light Regiment. Brigadier Gregson, the Commander Royal Artillery at Divisional Headquarters, coordinated the guns of 74 (Battle Axe Company) RA and all the medium and heavy guns from the flank divisions that were in range. A total of 25,743 rounds were fired that night, mainly on The Hook position and Baker Troop played its part.

Starting around 1700 hrs Baker Troop was called into action firing on targets where the Chinese might be forming up and then, as the tempo of battle developed, gradually increased their firing rate. Given the desperate situation of the 'Dukes' there is some guilt in reporting that the feeling in the Troop was one of exultation. Members of the gun teams had to stand around for long periods in all types of weather and often they did not fire, if they did it was generally, at most, three rounds' gunfire. On the night of 28 May, the orders came and came, 'Five round Gunfire! Five rounds Gunfire! Then the most unusual order, 'Repeat' and again 'Repeat'. There was an air of feverish activity as rounds were thrust into the breach, rammed home and the gun fired. Every soldier

of the Troop, signallers, mechanics, cooks and batmen, clustered round the gun pits helping carry the shells, empty the ammunition boxes and remove the spent cartridge cases. We fired every type of shell we possessed, variable time (VT), High Explosive, Smoke and shells that were designed to carry propaganda leaflets.

At one stage a convoy of lorries arrived driven by RASC drivers, commanded by Lieutenant David Lawrence who had been in the same intake at Sandhurst. He and the drivers unloaded their wagons and carried ammunition directly to the guns. Given the rate of fire, the muzzle of Baker Four was glowing red in the darkness and Lieutenant Lawrence ran back to his wagon, took out his towel, soaked it in cold water and threw it over the barrel where it burst into flames. At daylight, when the battle on The Hook was drawing to an end, the Chinese made a fresh attack on the Turkish Brigade to our left and the Troop was again called into action. This fire was successfully coordinated – in spite of the language problems – by Second Lieutenant W J Bromley, who was the survey officer of 20th Field Regt, but who had been attached as liaison officer to the Turkish Brigade for this purpose.

During the night 20th Field Regiment fired 13,609 rounds and Baker Troop fired nearly 2,000. Looking down from the command post next morning, the piles of empty ammunition boxes were an unforgettable sight. That morning more ammunition arrived and we felt a warm sense of gratitude to all those in the RAOC who had made the supreme effort to move such large quantities of ammunition forward, and to the RASC drivers who had got it to our guns including, we were told, the enthusiastic but rather bewildered driver of the mobile bath and laundry truck. When Lieutenant Lawrence visited us later we made him an Honorary Member of Baker Troop and presented him with a bottle of sherry and a new towel.

At 1700 hrs on 28 May, 248 Battery 61 Light Regiment RA, who were supporting 28 Brigade on the right flank of the Division, were suddenly ordered to move to the other end of the Divisional area and give support to the 'Dukes'. As the battle had already started, they deployed off the line of march and immediately started engaging targets. They continued until their mortar barrels glowed red with heat. At one stage, Second Lieutenant Peter Duffield, the troop commander of G Troop, was given the order, 'Gunfire 10 Seconds' which meant he should fire one round of mortar bombs every ten seconds. When he queried how many rounds, he was told by his OP officer to continue firing until told to stop, a most unusual order. He also remembers that throughout the night more bombs were delivered in wagons driven by the Transport Company of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. On 28 May, the three mortar troops fired an amazing total of 8,000 bombs. Usually the mortar DFs were about 500 yards from our front line but, in The Hook battle, this was reduced to

200 yards. The gunner mortars had earned the gratitude of the infantry, but were also treated with apprehension as the Number 9 tail fin of the bomb had a tendency to fracture and come off which caused the bomb to fall only 40 yards in front of the mortar. Second Lieutenant Duffield can remember this happening and watching a gunner run forward and, to the amazement of the infantry, pick up the bomb and run back with it under his arm to his gun pit. Sometimes the infantry reference to the gunners as 'Drop Shorts' was justified. On 14 July, 1953, 61 Light Regiment celebrated firing its 250,000th bomb, having been in front line action more than any other gunner regiment.

The tanks of 1 RTR also played an important part in the battle. In the days preceding 28 May, Captain George Forty, in consultation with the company commanders of the 'Dukes', had pre-selected a large number of targets, given them a number and registered the angle of traverse and elevation. Unfortunately, just before the battle, Captain Forty was badly wounded by a mortar bomb as he got out of his tank to initiate a direct fire shoot. In his place, Lieutenant Tony Uloth moved his four tanks up to their peg markers and, with their hatches closed, awaited the enemy attack. At about 1830 hrs a high explosive shell hit his tank with a sound like a very large sledge hammer and a shower of sparks came through the machine gun mounting. Twice more during the night his tank was hit but, although this was very alarming, he was able to continue firing both his 20-pounder and machine gun. At 1945 hrs he received a message from the company commander, 'enemy attack imminent' and then a call for fire on his own position. This was a target that had been previously taken into account by Colonel David

Rose, commanding officer of the Black Watch who, when taking over from the US Marines, had made an urgent request for a troop of sappers and one hundred Korean labourers to dig very deep gun pits, command posts and communication trenches, some over eight feet in depth. He had anticipated that, in the event of the Chinese infantry getting through the wire and onto his forward position, his soldiers could go into their deep holes and leave the Chinese exposed on the roofs. This very dangerous artillery fire plan had the appropriate codename 'Tin Hat'. For the tanks it was a target that had not been registered but, working from his map, Lieutenant Uloth was able to adjust his fire to the forward edge of The Hook, which he then swept through the night with continuous machine gun fire and explosive shells.

As an aid to accurate shooting, tanks were fitted with high-powered searchlights. The problem was that when a tank fired, it created so much smoke and dust that the light was of little value. The answer was to move a second tank with a searchlight close to the firing tank which gave the firing tank light and better vision. This tactic was used in the battle but, perhaps not surprisingly, the searchlight was soon hit and put out of action. Other troops of the Regiment sited on the flanks were also able to provide direct fire on the attacking Chinese and, by the morning, the Squadron had fired 504 rounds of high explosive and 22,500 machine gun rounds. The only damage to Lieutenant Uloth's tank was that all the turret bins had been blown away and the searchlight badly damaged. The Centurion tank had proved itself in battle and, thereafter, there was no complaint from the soldiers about the noise of the tanks.

MODERN MILITARY MEDALS

To see soldiers on parade these days is to enjoy the sight of many splendid rows of medals. This article may help readers to identify them.



South Atlantic Medal: This medal was awarded to those who took part in the liberation of South Georgia and the Falkland Islands or served at least 30 days in the operational zone including Ascension Island. Recipients who served at least one day in the Falklands or South Georgia were also awarded a rosette.



Gulf Medal: The Gulf War Medal was a campaign medal approved in 1992, for issue to officers and men of British forces who served in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during Operation Granby (the Liberation of Kuwait) in 1990-91. Awarded for thirty days continuous service in the Middle East (including Cyprus) between 2 August 1990 - 7 March 1991, or seven days between 16 January 1991 - 28 February 1991, or service with the Kuwait Liaison Team on 2 August 1990. Clasps were awarded for active service with the Liaison Team or in the operation to liberate



Bosnia-Herzegovina: Awarded for 90 days' service during the transition of authority from the UN Protection Force to the multinational Implementation Force (IFOR). Civilian police and military personnel were involved.



Iraq Op Telic Medal: This medal was awarded to all military and civilian personnel involved in Operation TELIC in Kuwait and Iraq from January 2003. Those who took part in the actual combat from 19 March were award a clasp.

The United Nations Force in Cyprus Medal - Awarded



for 3 months' service with the Mission, keeping peace between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Inscribed "In the service of peace" on the reverse.



Afghanistan Medal: In order to qualify for the clasp, personnel must have either 5, 21, or 30 days continuous service between various dates, depending on the operation, for example between 11/09/2001 and

1/08/2002, or for a period later specified, on Operation Veritas, Operation Fingal and Operation Landman. In order to qualify for the medal without the clasp depends on service of varying lengths on operations, for example operation(s) Landman, Oracle, Ramson or Damien. Alternatively the medal is awarded for service in other Middle Eastern countries during specific dates, Pakistan, Oman and Qatar to name but a few.



Queen's Korea Medal: Awarded to British and Commonwealth troops for one day's service in Korea or 28 day's offshore, between 1 July 1950 and 27 July 1953.



United Nations Korea Medal: awarded to any military service member of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defence of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954.



The General Service Medal 1962 & Onwards Medal was awarded to Army and RAF personnel for campaigns and operations that fell short of full-scale war. Clasps were awarded for service in different campaigns - Borneo, South Vietnam, Gulf, Air Operations Iraq, N Iraq and S Turkey, South Arabia, Kuwait, Malay Peninsula, Mine Clearance Gulf of Suez, Northern Ireland, Dhofar, Lebanon, Radfan. A few soldiers, especially in Special Forces, earned quite a number of these clasps but still only had one medal to wear. Keen eyed readers would have spotted in the photo on the inside cover of the last ID that Colonel Wilf Charlesworth has a good number of these.

The writer is no medal expert. Comments and additional information on this topic will be welcomed.

COMMEMORATING OUR LOSSES IN BURMA IN WORLD WAR 2

By Brigadier Michael Bray

In January 2015 Anne and I visited the two Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries near Rangoon where lie many of the Dukes killed early in the Burma Campaign, especially during the famous incident of the bridge over the Sittang River. Having studied the CWGC website, I discovered that amongst the Dukes listed are three men whose families I have a connection with, so we decided that we should pay tribute at their graves, with the blessing of their families and that of our President. The three men concerned were:

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Owen, the CO, whose Daughter, Valerie Helliwell, lives near us.

Major Guy Cartwright, Father of Hugh and married to my Brother's Godmother.

Captain John Christison, Son of General Sir Philip, lately CO and Colonel of the Dukes, and my Godfather.

I had hoped to take poppies from the Tower of London display but they were not available in time, so I made some plaques instead. One is illustrated below:



John Christison grave

As always, the two cemeteries were beautifully kept and it was both a pleasure and an honour to be able to pay tribute to the Dukes buried there.

General Christison's men not only retook Rangoon, as written on his Son's gravestone, but they also went on to capture Singapore. In a museum there we found a newspaper report covering the surrender of the Japanese to the General and his appointment as the Military Governor of Singapore and Malaysia.

There are many stories about the Sittang operation, some related in previous Iron Dukes, but on my return to England I was told one I had not heard before by Alistair Roberts about his Father, Derek. The latter did sterling work helping others to use the remainder of the Bridge and improvised roping to cross to the west bank. His task completed, he was hiding in a bush, dressed only in his underpants (known to many as "drawers Dracula"), and without a weapon. He found another soldier, similarly



Taukkyan Main Building

attired, in the same bush. On seeing approaching Japanese soldiers, they took off into the jungle, where after some distance was covered, they heard what sounded like a column of tanks. It turned out to be a British Army train, which they managed to flag down. They were promptly arrested, in view of their condition, as suspected deserters. It took some time to convince their hosts otherwise, but all was well eventually, and Derek was subsequently Mentioned in Despatches for his gallant conduct at the Bridge. One wonders whether any other Duke has won an MID dressed only in his drawers Dracula!

(Anyone wanting to learn more about the actions by 2 DWR in Burma in 1942 could refer to Iron Duke No 270, Spring 2011, page 26 – Editor.)



Michael and Anne Bray at the grave of Lt Col Herbert Owen



DUKES' DIARY

BELFAST 1979.

The big picture

We have now come to the last of the 70s series of Dukes Diaries (DD), which is rather sad for those of us who were around in those days and have enjoyed having old memories prodded out of our heads. These two Diaries arose from the Belfast tour from October 1979 to February 1980. 1 DWR was based in Minden, under the command of Lt Col WR Mundell, later to be Brig WR Mundell OBE, Colonel of the Regiment. There were two issues: October 79 – February 80, and a “mini Diary” for November 79.

In Belfast the battalion was deployed around the hard “green” areas of West Belfast; Ballymurphy (Alma), Turf



“Which way up did you say the mag goes Colour?”



Just some of the finds made by the battalion so far. It may not look a lot — but in terms of potential lost lives it is a great deal.

Lodge (Burma), Divis Flats (Corunna), McCrory Park and the Whiterock Road area, (Somme), Tac HQ (RUC Springfield Road), Echelon (umm. Someone remind me. Nice and warm and dry was it? Only joking – we couldn't have done it without you. But I still don't remember where you were!)

It was a dangerous tour. The CO's introduction to the first edition of the DD said “The ambushes and shootings that marked our first few weeks demonstrated the dangers of West Belfast. Apart from the tragic murder of QMSI Bellamy the storm was weathered successfully with true Yorkshire grit”. QMSI Bellamy APTC was a member of the CO's escort, riding shotgun in the back of the land rover. He, and Constable Davison RUC, was killed by automatic gunfire just outside the gates of Springfield Road RUC Station. LCpl Tait was wounded on the advance party and Pte Peet was shot guarding a Scottish soldier in the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH), Belfast; both recovered. Later in the tour, Pte Erroll Price was shot and killed when an IRA attack team opened up with an M60 heavy MG and several rifles from a house near the Somme Company base.

But, as ever and regardless of the tactical situation on the ground, the main component of these last two diaries is humour, rarely subtle (!), but good natured and, for those who found themselves being targeted, often wickedly accurate.

The Diaries

CSM Alma to OC 3 Platoon, “Sir, promotion has lowered you to the level of the people above you”.



Stephanie Laine, our wonderful 'Miss Wellie' enjoying a visit to ALMA

Sign in Corpus Christi Church "We regret that the box marked "For the sick" must be restricted to monetary contributions".

On a pre-Christmas patrol the platoon was reminded that it was a good chat up policy to remind pensioners that their Christmas bonus was no in the Post Office ready for collection. At least one young man remembered...after an initial "ello luv" he passed on the good tidings to a lady. All he got for his trouble was a near miss with a handbag and a colourful retort of "ye cheeky young *****, how old do you think I ***** well am?"

Awards to members of Somme Company - LCpl Barker, for shredding Tuesday's patrol programme on Monday, before it went to print: Pte Wade, for failing to put weights on the multi-gym apparatus before pulling the handles. He gave it such a heave that the handles bounced off his head as he sagged unconscious to the floor: LCpls Conlon and Bailey, for standing in a telephone queue for an hour when there was nobody in the phone booth: the Lord Snowden Golden camera of 1979 goes to LCpl Craven for taking snaps of the lads for the Dukes Diary and throwing away the undeveloped film but keeping the empty container.

"Hello 33B this is 33C. Rendezvous with me on Kashmir Road". "33B roger, wait out". "Hello 3C this is

33B, confirm Kashmir Road, I can't find it". 33C "it's OK, I'm, there now... and so are you".





Who'se the fairest of them all!

A follow up secure telephone report to the Brigade watch keeper by the 2i/c after the initial report that a soldier had been the victim of a hit and run incident on

the Falls Road, went something like this.

2i/c; hello Springfield Ops here. I didn't tell you earlier because I wanted to find out the full facts, but regarding the hit and run... a number of shots were fired.

Bde Ops; Oh no – how many?

2i/c; Not many; about 30 I think.

Bde Ops; 30!! What on earth happened?

2i/c; Well the Divis Tower OP saw the incident and had a pot-shot with their GPMG.

Bde Ops; GPMG! My God!

2i/c; Yes, well it's not too bad. Only one chap was hit and we took him straight to hospital.

Bde Ops; who was the casualty?

2i/c Father somebody or other.

Bde Ops; a PRIEST!?!?

2i/c; yes, but he might be OK.

Bde Ops; might be!! This is not good. Who is going to tell the Brigadier?

2i/c; Surely that's your job. We only report these things to you.

Bde Ops; He'll go bananas!!

2i/c; No – it's a joke.

Bde Ops; Hang on, I'm still writing.

2i/c; No, it's only a joke.

Bde Ops; just hang on – I've not finished.

2i/c; (shouting) I said it's only a joke.



Hubble bubble, toil... The traditional mixing of the Christmas pud by the CO and junior soldier in Flax Street

Bde Ops; Oh – thank God for that. You had me going for a minute there. You shouldn't do these things to me.

Adjutant on watch keeper at Springfield Road; Right, I want something to read. Penthouse, Mayfair, anybody? PRO; I've got an old Playboy upstairs. Adj; I'm not interested in the Paymaster, I want something to read.

RQMS when asked by his storeman for a pair of size 6 insoles for a third party. "We have none. Send him one size twelve and tell him to cut it in half".

Extracts from Search Reports. "The occupants were very friendly in the cupboard under the stairs: the parent are of low intelligence and could possibly be used by terrorists: very friendly towards SF, has a son in the Maze doing 20 years: she tried to pull off her old trick by saying her husband had just died, we know she was lying because the Army shot him some years ago."

Burma have named their new base "Jericho" as its walls keep blowing down.

Coy 2i/c speaking to a coffeepot (WRAC) at Grand Central Hotel. Coffeepot, "will I have to stay the night?" 2i/c "I think you might. To be on the safe side bring your washing and shaving kit with you".

Heard on the Bn net "Hello 3 this is 39; send colour of the beige escort, over".

We were glad to get back to Minden.



**Friday night
is disco
night!**



"We are not am-Hughes-ed"

Remembrance

Hilltop Memorial – Veterans and well-wishers braced autumn winds and rain to pay their respects at a newly restored hilltop war memorial. The cross above Marsden was installed by Walter Horne, who served in the Dukes in the 1950s, and each year a hardy few would climb Pule Hill to honour the Regiment's war dead. Ten years ago the monument was vandalised, but now it has been restored by ex TA soldier Nick Horn.

Colonel St Maur Shiel – a notice appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 8th October 2014; "Lt Col FP St Maur Sheil DSO killed in action on Monte Cece, Italy on 8 October 1944, while commanding 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. In everlasting memory of our father, grandfather and great grandfather, killed at the moment of success, and of all the officers and men who fought to capture Monte Cece".

Regimental Remembrance London 2014

Report by Brigadier John Greenway CBE.

On the morning of Thursday 6 November 2014 the Regimental Plot in the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey was made ready for the Service of Dedication by John and Judith Greenway.

They were soon joined by In-Pensioner Fred Richardson and by Rob Palfrey; the latter will be co-ordinating the Dukes' contribution at the Abbey next year. David Miller, down from Anglesey, with step-daughter, Lynne, and Donald Palmer completed the party. As Prince Philip was otherwise engaged, Prince Harry took his place at the Ceremony and made good contact with those heading their respective Regimental groups.

We already knew that Bob Temple's leg surgery would prevent him and Mavis from attending, but we only later learned that Mac and Biddy Dowdy had been delayed en route from Ely and not been admitted to the secure area. Frustrating for them.

On Remembrance Sunday itself, John, Judith, Rob and Fred were soon joined, as last year too, by the great-nephew of Henry Tandey VC DCM MM, Chris Gordon, who kindly agreed to handle the London Branch Banner during our brief Ceremony. Our Ceremony usually attracts a small audience and it was a delight to find Margaret Holden, from Bradford, among them. She had



John Greenway, Chris Gordon, In Pensioner Fred Richardson, Rob Palfrey, Margaret Holden
(see No 277, Autumn 2014 for Mrs Holden's Duke's connection)



**At the
Regimental
Plot**

already visited the grave of her great uncle, Private James Henry Banks, at Hautrage War Grave Cemetery, (see Iron Duke Issue No277) and was on her way to the Tower of

London to see the Poppy Display. Also at the Abbey was Clinton McCree who had happy memories of service with the Dukes under Charles Huxtable and Peter Hoppe.

Tower of London – “Blood swept lands and seas of red”

Two photographs of this astonishing memorial, art work, call it what you will are shown for the benefit of those who were unable to travel to see it. It was a monumental work, inspiring and very moving, every poppy representing a life lost by a British or Colonial soldier in WW1, 888,246 of them, spreading all round the Tower's moat by the end.



Halifax Remembrance

A service of remembrance in Halifax town centre attracted a large crowd of shoppers. The Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Pat Allen, with representatives from local British Legion Branches and members of 4

YORKS, with other veterans, paid tribute to the Calderdale fallen. A colour party from the German Army was on parade and took part in a procession through the town.

Private Smith, Mill Road Cemetery, near Thiepval.

The editor visited this cemetery in March and found a large number of Dukes graves, mainly from 1/4th and 1/5th DWR. Whilst he was there a car pulled up, and a couple got out, carrying a large wreath of flowers, and proceeded to lay it on the laid flat headstone of Private Smith 1/5th DWR. In later conversation the wreath layers were found to be Private Smith's grandson and his wife, from Huddersfield. They planned a three day trip to the area and had crossed the channel just than morning.



In the ritual we say "we will remember them". And we do. School parties often have the charming habit of bringing with them memorial cards with appropriate comments on them, which they leave prominently somewhere within the sites they visit, and families leave wreaths and messages, often very moving, such as the ones for Private Wastnag of the York and Lancaster Regiment seen at Hamel and left by St Helen's School, at Hill 60.



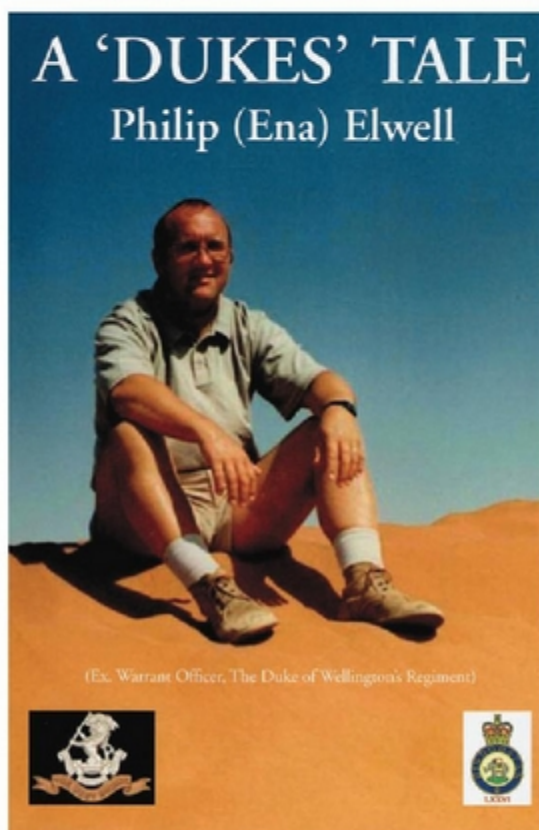
Memorial Card left by pupils of St. Helen's School, left in a concrete bunker on top of Hill 60. There are many schools of that name, and which this was is not possible to say.



Book Reviews

A Duke's Tale

Review by Brigadier Dick Mundell and Scott Flaving



(Ex. Warrant Officer, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment)

'Ena' Elwell has produced a highly readable, entertaining and quite unusual account of his service in the British Army in peacetime - from his enlistment as a Boy Soldier in 1970, his 22 years with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, rising through the ranks to Warrant Officer Class 2, to his discharge from the Territorial Army in 2001, covering postings to such places as Northern Ireland, Germany, Gibraltar, Namibia and Latvia, as well as exercises in Norway, Canada, Cyprus and Belgium.

He covers the routine of Battalion life, the training, both as a recruit and, later, as an instructor, and his career courses, punctuated with the many operational tours of Northern Ireland undertaken under Op BANNER in the '70s and '80s. He also describes some interesting postings to Strensall and Namibia, where the professionalism and resourcefulness of the British Army is highlighted. Sport, in particular Rugby, has been an important element in his career and many hard fought matches and considerable successes on the field are portrayed, not forgetting the post-match socials.

The stresses, strains and joys of family life in a service environment are sensitively covered, the pressure of constantly cleaning and packing up home, moving and taking over another quarter, outweighed by the variety of locations and fantastic opportunities for the whole family to experience a different way of life, now sadly all but lost to the current generation of soldiers' families.

The book is well illustrated with some inspiring images, featuring family, colleagues, postings and interests. However, this edition, although well written and an easy read, is marred by the proof reader not having a forces background and many incorrect military phrases and abbreviations will jar with many readers.

There are many humorous anecdotes, which confirm the fact that he was a well-liked and respected Battalion 'character', as much due to his love of fun as his undoubted professionalism, both as a soldier and a sportsman. His love of life, his Regiment and his comrades shines through these pages.

Highly recommended.

Copies, at £10.00 plus £2.50 for 1st class UK p&p, payable by cheque or bank transfer, are available from Mr P Elwell, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

philipelwell@yahoo.co.uk, 01904 668233 or Mobile 07787 703070.

Charles Curry's review of "The Lie at the Heart of Waterloo" can be found at the end of the Waterloo section in this issue.

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.

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 Pop & Pasty Public House, Bradford Road, Keighley. *Secretary:* Mr C. W. Akrigg, 14 The Poplars, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 7PW.

London: Meetings 12 noon at the Union Jack Club; 18 April 2015 (joint with PWO Association and Green Howards Association); 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.

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



Ladies that Lunch – at a recent get together in London, from bottom left Gilly Palmer, Gel Westcob, Merle Penaliggon (formerly Reid), Sheenagh Nicholson, Annie Andrews, Anne Pettigrew, Susie Walker, and Jo Cumberlege.

Charity Run

David Woolley, a member of the Halifax harriers, took part in the Great North Run and raised £500 for the Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association.

The cheque was handed over (see photo) at the Association's annual dinner at the Greenhead Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.



David Woolley handing over the £500 cheque

Andy Reid climbs Snowdon

Corporal Andy Reid, winner of the 2010 Sun "Millies" Award (see issue No 270 Spring 2011), continues his inspirational support for service charities. He has just climbed Mount Snowdon in Wales, (3559 feet up) raising £1000 for the Not Forgotten Association. He was joined on the climb by Stewart Harris, 30, who was left brain damaged, half deaf and blind in his right eye by a roadside bomb. The photo below shows Andy in 2010 with the Prime Minister and his then fiancée, now wife, Claire. Andy and Claire now have a two year old son,



Theft of George Gill's Medals

Former Corporal George Gill was attacked by a gang of Asian youths as he was on his way to a Remembrance Day service in Keighley. He was quoted in the media as saying they "tore at his beret like a pack of dogs would a piece of meat". They snatched his beret, ripped off his poppy and his medals, and ran off. George, who was shaken but not hurt, had just come out of hospital after a heart operation. There is a happy ending; personnel at the Catterick Garrison infantry training centre got in touch with George's nephew Mostyn Hockey, acquired replacement medals (he was also found a new beret and badge) and they were presented to him at a ceremony at Catterick. Speaking on 17 March 2015, George

expressed his gratitude to those who rallied round, but was disappointed that the Police, despite being fairly sure who was involved in the assault, did not have enough evidence to press charges.

Change of Address

John Thorn - 3483 Amish Path, the Villages, Florida 32163, USA. Tel:001(1)3525523833. John.m.thorn4@gmail.com. John is not there yet (or not at the time of going to press) as he has to satisfy the US authorities on various matters concerning his service overseas to obtain the required visas, but hopes to get there shortly.

Ian Mitchell - PO Box...2293, Clarkson, West Australia 6030. loraineianmetcalfe@hotmail.com.

LETTERS

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

From James Hayes

I have somewhat abridged the content of this email and its attachment – Editor.

I came across this "for sale" notice whilst looking for something else just now, and thought I should pass it on. From a quick look at Savory and Brereton, it does not seem to have been mentioned there, though known to the compilers of the Record of Services of the 33rd Regiment, published in 1870 and referred to below.

"Crimean War, 1855; Frederic Rodolph Blake (1808-1855), Lieutenant Colonel of the 33rd (The Duke of Wellington's) Regiment of Foot; Thomson Hankey (1805-1893), merchant banker and MP]

Price: US\$ 1,212.27

Item Description: The Crimea 14 January 'Camp light Division. Jany 14th./55'. The letter is written in general terms, and contains a detailed description of the inside of an officer's tent, as well as a description of the privations of ordinary British soldiers. As part of Airey's 1st Brigade of the Light Division, the 33rd had arrived in the Crimea in August 1854 and within a month had distinguished itself at the Battle of Alma, since which it had 'continued to do duty in the trenches, suffering heavily from deprivation'. Dated 14 January 1855, the author begins by giving 'a slight sketch of my doings and seeings within these few days which as coming from the Camp direct, will bear some interest. I am sitting on a low bed writing on my knees, my feet resting in thick sticky mud in the tent of Quayle & which by the bye I have already scraped & shoveled out twice this morning - there are two beds, such as they are, all round the edges of the tent a medley of meats, biscuits coffee bread, old

bottles used as candle sticks, cheese, Boots, & with used utensils for cooking, old clothes of every description all wet & frozen, old newspapers, tin canisters of all shapes for all uses, old crockery & pewter spoons, canteens with a variety of other things, a perfect description of which would puzzle a better pen than mine'. He continues with the description ('the centre lining the Tent Pole', 'wet muddy socks', etc) for several more lines, before turning to 'the arrival in Kamiesch Harbour on Thursday 11th. All the Fleets, both English and French, appear to be in the Bay & off Sebastopol, which is looking as black, & grim as you can well conceive'. He next describes how he travelled through the French camp with a pilot, when 'to my surprise I suddenly came in sight of Sebastopol & evidently very near to both Town, & shipping. I could not understand that we were the only Party to be seen, all dressed in blue & looming large in the snow. Presently I heard a salvo of guns, and in a second or two, whizz, & down came three shells about two hundred yards ahead of us, all of which burst within 50 yds of each other, & at the same moment'. He describes how a cannonball 'cut the ground not more than a yard fm. my toes!!' The party enter a French trench, after which they 'pushd for the Lt. Dn. Camp which we afterwards entered without difficulty, the first thing I saw was 8 men stretched out belonging to the 23rd, 6 of whom had been found frozen to death in their Tents during the night, on reaching the 33rd. I found that Hans [Hans Stevenson St Vincent Marsh, killed in the trenches before Sebastopol, 24 June 1855, and 'distinguished', according to Raglan, 'for his gallantry and devotion to the service'] was out on Picket, towards the Trenches so I got a guide, & went off to him'. He reports that the 33rd have also had 'several men frozen to death since I arrived'.

Obituaries

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

HV "Topper" Brown CPM QPM LVO

A short notice also appeared in the last issue.

Topper Brown joined The Dukes as a National Serviceman in Strensall in 1950, later signing on for three years as a Regular. He served in Chiseldon and Minden and then with A Company in Korea, where he was promoted Acting Sergeant. He served a stint as Instructor at the Commonwealth Battle School in Japan before moving with the Battalion to Gibraltar, leaving the Army in 1954.

He subsequently served with distinction in The Royal Hong Kong Police from 1954 to 1983, serving in nearly every Branch and earning the award of the Colonial Police Medal (CPM) for Meritorious Service and appointment to Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO), following the visit to Hongkong of HM The Queen in 1975. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (QPM) in 1982.

In recent years Topper was a regular attendee at meetings of the London Branch of the Regimental Association. Good-humoured, charming and modest, we would never have guessed at his distinguished service record. He attended a Branch Meeting on 14 September and we were much saddened to hear from his family that he had died suddenly the next day.

Mac Dowdy, himself a Korean Veteran, and John Greenway attended the Memorial Service held by Topper's family in Purley on 10 October 2014, where the complimentary Eulogy by a fellow senior Police Officer, brought rumbles of approval from the large number of Police in the congregation. We will all miss him.

Reuben Holroyd BEM

Reuben Holroyd was a Korean War veteran and publisher of the Iron Duke for many years. He died peacefully at the age of 83 on 11 February 2015. He left school at 14 and became an apprentice printer at William Ackroyd's at Sowerby Bridge. He was called up for National Service in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, spending two years in Korea with the Signal Platoon. After discharge in 1954 he was a member of the TA until 1958, and returned to the printing business, setting up his own company in 1959.

He became an active member of the British Korean veterans Association (BKVA) in 1979, and edited and published the Association's journal, "Morning Calm", and was a member of the National Council. In 1983, on the 30th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities, he attended a ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, and was presented with the Republic of Korea's Ambassador for Peace Medal, in recognition of his war service and his support and friendship afterwards. He was also present at the 50th anniversary commemoration event in Seoul.

Reuben was a scout leader in Sowerby Bridge for 42 years, and was particularly fond of his association with the 12th Halifax Sea Scout Group based at Sowerby Bridge Canal Basin. Under his guidance the Group flourished. He was a keen shot and a keen sailor, a member of the Rotary Club of Halifax, the Sowerby Bridge Branch of the British Legion.

In 1989 Reuben was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to sea scouting. In He was awarded the Scout Association's Medal of Merit and Long Service decorations, and the Rotary Club of Halifax's Presidential Community Citation.

He was a helpful, friendly, fair and courteous man, greatly liked and respected, and his support was much appreciated by successive editors of this Journal. He is survived by his wife Barbara and children Mark and Jane, and grandchildren Duncan and Lucy.



Peter D Jackson

Peter Jackson passed away on 18 May 2014. He was a junior soldier from Troon Junior Leaders and joined 1 DWR at Barnard Castle, becoming a member of the Signal Platoon and served in British Honduras, Germany and Cyprus. His funeral in York was attended by former members of the Signal Platoon of the sixties.

Geoff Nicholson

I regret the lack of specific information – perhaps a reader can help? - Editor

Geoff Nicholson passed away in July 2014 and is survived by his wife Ann. His last known address was - 3 Seedown Close, Seebrook, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5TM. His age would have been early 80s. Geoff served in Korea and was in the Signal Platoon, believed to have

taken over from Walter Robbins as Signals Sergeant. He spent some years as an instructor at the Signal Wing School of Infantry in Hythe, Kent. He retired as a WO1 in York. At one time he was a member of the London Branch/OCA and attended Dinners in Yorkshire.

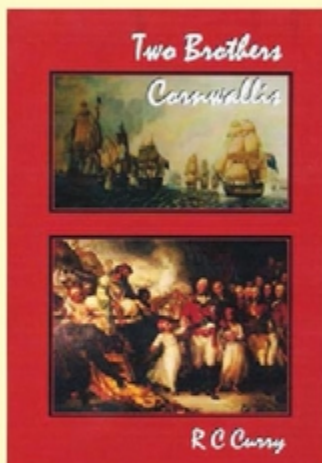
John Wilson (1924 – 2014)

John Wilson was posted to 1DWR in September 1944 and as a platoon commander in 'C' Company took part in the capture of Monte Cece on 8 October 1944. He served with the Battalion in Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Khartoum. In the autumn of 1946, he took command of D Company which, due to a shortage of officers was enlarged by the addition of a section each of 3 inch mortar, 17 pounder anti-tank guns and Bren gun carriers from Support Company.

During its stay in Khartoum, regular officers began to return to 1DWR and in January 1947 Major CF Grieve took over D' Company and John Wilson became Weapon-Training Officer before leaving for demobilisation in early March of that year. After taking a degree in commerce at Leeds University he worked for the Worsted Spinners Federation in Bradford before going to the newly established Wool Futures Market where he built up the Bradford office of Buxton, Ronald, Du Croz & Co.

As the Bradford Wool market declined, Wilson went to Ireland as Production Controller of Navan Carpets Limited in 1963. After setting up his own textile distribution company in 1971 he built it over the next 25 years before retiring to Oxfordshire in 1995. During his stay in Navan, Wilson became an active member of Navan Chamber of Commerce and became its president from 1973 to 1975.

In Chipping Norton he became Treasurer of the local branch of the Conservative party and organised meetings in support of the new prospective parliamentary candidate, David Cameron. Wilson was a regular attender at functions of 1 DWR 1939-45 Officers' Dining Club and other Regimental events before increasing frailty prevented him from travelling



Two Brothers Cornwallis

Final stock sale

In this story of notable members of a famous family, one the former Colonel of the 33rd of Foot, forerunner of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 2nd Earl and later 1st Marquis General Charles Cornwallis, and his brother Admiral Sir William Cornwallis, in the period from the American War of Independence to Trafalgar, the author has linked the lives of these two very remarkable brothers, who were respectively associated with both Wellington and Nelson, as they served their King and country with dedication during those early years of the British Empire.

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The poppies in the moat of the Tower of London. By the time the 888,246th poppy was laid, the moat was full. An estimated five million people saw the exhibition, and at one stage the police advised people not to try to get to it and a short extension of the display period was granted