

Autumn 2015  
No. 279



# THE IRON DUKE

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- Waterloo 200th Belgium and Halifax
- Dukes News Round-up
- Freedom of Calderdale
- Verdun and the Somme
- The Victoria Cross
- Jack Collins in Korea 1952
- Visit to Suda Bay, Crete
- Association News
- Letters; ANZAC forces, medals
- Obituaries





**“Ossuaire du Hougaimont near Verdun. 16,000 graves and the bones of 130,000 unnamed men collected from the surrounding area.”**

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**Photograph at the foot of the front cover shows a happy band of former Dukes and friends at the Freedom Parade in Halifax on 21 June 2015.**

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT (WEST RIDING)

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



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

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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## Editorial

### Waterloo

As is right and proper the Regiment celebrated the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo with considerable energy and a proper pride both in our predecessors' achievements on the battlefields, and in the link to the First Duke of Wellington that led to our adoption of his title in our name.

An officers' dinner in the Grande Place Brussels on the night of 15 June was followed the next day by a visit to the battle fields of Quatre Bras and Waterloo. Over 90 people enjoyed this event, ranging in age and service from Korea to Afghanistan, and from their eighties to their thirties.

The following weekend, based in Halifax, was open to all – the opening alongside our own museum at Bankfield of the National Army Museum's Exhibition to mark the bi-centenary; the granting of the Freedom of the Borough by Calderdale Council to the Yorkshire Regiment on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June; a Waterloo themed flower exhibition in the Minster; and a musical re-enactment of Waterloo in Manor Heath Park, open to the public, followed by the annual Regimental Association Reunion.

Well done to all who made all this possible, and those who supported these activities. These events are all reported on in this edition; stirring good memories for those who were there, and showing everyone else what they missed.

### Anniversaries

A year ago the Iron Duke reminded us of the wave of regimental anniversaries that were coming up in 2014 and 2015. In particular we will be thinking about our men in World War 1 in 1915, 100 years ago, in often muddy trenches, facing danger from snipers and artillery shells, managing despite the frequently horrendous conditions to run active patrols and train the new drafts of recruits. In the latter part of 1915 more of our battalions arrived in France and took up positions, mostly along the Somme, though there was a great deal of re-locating, sometimes ending up back where they started, with periods in and out of the line. Some years ago I wrote an article about 1/4<sup>th</sup> DWR, noting that it moved an amazing 286 times

between arrival in France in August 1914, and getting home again at the end of the war in 1919.

1916 marks 100 years since the great Somme offensive beginning on 1 July and dragging on for most of the rest of the year. The forerunner to the Somme was Verdun, a battle that started in February 1916 and over the next nine months or so drew in hundreds of thousands of men on both sides, as both France and Germany refused to give way. There is an article about Verdun in this edition.

There is also a preliminary article about the Somme battles themselves. The details of what our battalions did will come later, nearer their actual 100th anniversaries next year, but we can start to understand some of the basics.

### The 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington.

The Spring 2015 edition reported on the Regiment's long and much valued relationship with the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke, who died in December 2014. There is a short report from the President here on his Memorial Service, attended by almost the entire Royal Family and many of the highest in the Realm.

### Scott Flaving

Scott Flaving has been a fixture within the Dukes' family for many years, and has finally retired from his employment at the Yorkshire Regiment HQ in Tower Street, York. A photograph of him being presented with a suitable memento of his service is elsewhere in this edition. He has given back to our Regiment far more than he ever took from it, and we can only say thank you and well done. There can be little doubt that we will be able to call on his expertise and enthusiasm for many years to come.

It is people like Scot who keep our Regiment alive and well, now that all that is left is an Association for a dwindling band of old Dukes. People like Bob Heron and David Harrap, Walter Robins, Gordon Bell and Paul Taylor in the Archives, and many others like all those who continue to be active in the Association's branches, who contribute to our Museum and elsewhere, and whose work somewhere in the "engine room" makes all the difference. Our thanks to all.

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

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

## The President's Column



**Brigadier Andrew Meek CBE**

I think it is fair to say that the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo has been recognised in a most fitting manner both nationally and internationally. Regimentally we did not allow such a significant day to pass unnoticed: first there was the dinner and battlefield tour in June followed shortly afterwards by the Regimental reunion in Halifax. The event in Brussels was organised brilliantly by Tim Nicholson who managed to combine the historical with the social in a hugely enjoyable and memorable manner. Of particular note was the fact that our visit to the battle site occurred 200 years to the day of the Battle of Quatre Bras at which of course the 33<sup>rd</sup> of Foot distinguished itself and in the process helped buy time for the Duke to organise his forces for the subsequent battle at Waterloo.

Our reunion in Halifax started with a ceremony at the Town Hall at which the Yorkshire Regiment inherited our Freedom of the Borough of Calderdale, a Freedom that was exercised with due panache to the obvious appreciation of the many hundreds who lined the route including significant numbers of Dukes. There followed a wonderful musical re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo in Savile Park organised by David Harrap and Bob Heron after which the reunion itself got truly under way. The fact that so many members of the Regiment came to celebrate the anniversary (again in the hundreds) and to meet up with old friends and colleagues meant that the evening was without a doubt one of the best such occasions we have had for many a year. Both events are of course reported in more fully elsewhere in this issue.

The other significant occasion was the memorial service for our late Colonel in Chief held on 12th May at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. This was an event of note with Her Majesty the Queen and the majority of the Royal Family attending. The service encapsulated all the many achievements of the Duke and the eulogy, given by His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan highlighted the very special feeling the Duke had for the Regiment. It was of note that the order of service included a photograph of the Colonel in Chief in regimental uniform. Although the attendance required tickets, the Regiment was more than fully represented by all ranks.

As far as the Association is concerned the major news is that, as I write, the process of moving the office into Bankfield Museum has begun and should be completed by the end of November. As ever with such happenings one of the key determining factors is the installation of telephone lines which seems to be a law unto itself! Other than that the other piece of significant news is that the website, which has been in its current guise for well over a decade, is in need of an update due to the fact that the underlying software is now out of date. A new website is being designed and built and should go live by the New Year.

As for the future, much will depend on the move into Bankfield as until we are there it is impossible to say precisely how the Association will function. Nevertheless plans are already in hand for the offices and wives lunch which will be held at Wellington College on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April as well as the 2016 reunion: full details of both events will be sent out separately.

## Dukes News Round-Up

### Presentation to Scott Flaving for Service to the Regiment



At the end of the end of the Musical Re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo the President of the Regimental Association, Brigadier Andrew Meek, on behalf of the Regimental Association, presented Scott Flaving with a silver Tercentenary Statuette in recognition of Scott's retirement at the end of almost 44 years of service to the Regiment.

Scott joined the Army in September 1972 completing his recruit training at the King's Division Depot at Strensall before joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Catterick just in time for the move to Ballykelly. He there joined 9 Platoon, Corunna Company with a young Keith Best as his platoon commander. After that came Aldershot, Cyprus, and then BAOR and Minden where he was 'earmarked' for the Intelligence Section and with this elected for a colloquial German course shortly followed by an NBC course - the three strands that were to dominate his interests and the rest of his time in the battalion. He

became the battalion expert at all things Soviet Army and NBC and an invaluable interpreter helping to smooth the way with the local farmers and forstmeisters on all the major (and minor) autumn exercises across the North German plain. After Germany he remained with the Int Section through Catterick, BATUS, Gibraltar and finally Bulford from where in 1985 he was 'de-mobbed' from the Regular Army.

He almost immediately joined 3YORKS (Yorkshire Volunteers) first in Keighley and then Huddersfield (the DWR company) where he was for 6 years with a 'day' job in the DHSS. He transferred to the Leeds UOTC in 1992 and it was while he was there that Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robins, then Regimental Secretary, persuaded him to move his 'day' job from the DHSS to the MOD and join the staff at RHQ in Wellesley Park. At Wellesley Park he became an invaluable member of the small RHQ team managing the office, looking after

benevolence and developing an exceptional knowledge of, and interest in, the Regiment's history. A store of knowledge that was called on many times by General Evelyn in preparing for his memorable battlefield tours.

On formation of the Yorkshire Regiment in 2006 Scott moved from Halifax to the new YORKS RHQ in York where he was instrumental in helping to set up the new office there and its benevolence systems while also continuing to build up and support his 'Dukes' records and interests and act as secretary to the Regimental Museum Trustees.

Scott retired from the Civil Service and RHQ the Yorkshire Regiment at the end of April 2015.

### **Gordon Bell**



On 21 May 2015 Gordon Bell was elected Mayor of Skipton, something of a surprise as he had only been a Councillor for 12 months up to that point. His first duty was a 3 day visit to France for a Freedom Parade by 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment, and since he has carried out many duties and visits. On 16 May 2016 he attended the Freedom parade of the Regiment in Skipton, and he always tries to keep the Regiment in full sight of the people he meets.

### **Halifax Courier Coverage of the Regimental Weekend in Halifax**

The activities of the Regimental Weekend in Halifax reported on elsewhere in this issue, were fully covered by the Halifax Courier. A full page spread titled "Walking tall on proud day", with several large, colour photographs, covered the Freedom Parade, when 130

men from 1<sup>st</sup> Bn The Yorkshire Regiment exercised their right to the Freedom of the Borough, with hundreds of well-wishers lining the streets to show their support.

Major David Harrap is quoted as saying "It was a very fitting day for Calderdale and a wonderful Way for the Dukes and the Yorkshire Regiment to celebrate their history". Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Garner, CO 1 YORKS, told the Courier "It is particularly special to be coming back this year on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, and we will be marking the Duke of Wellington's victory with the unveiling of a special plaque to the granting of the Freedom of Calderdale. It is an honour and a real privilege to be able to be on parade here, at "home", in Yorkshire."

The Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Lisa Lambert, told the Courier "It is a real honour to be involved in granting the Freedom of the Borough of Calderdale to the Yorkshire Regiment."

In the same edition the newspaper covered the Minster Flower Show and the Musical re-enactment, again with colour photographs. Of the latter it wrote "The Minster became the magnificent setting for a feast of floral displays when the ancient parish church and the Halifax Flower Club joined forces. With flower arrangements, trees and even a life-size willow sculpture of a horse, the building was a floral extravaganza."

### **Lance Corporal John Middleton Morphet, 1/6 DWR**

A recent Craven Herald article told the story of John Morphet – known as Jack - who was killed on the Western Front in the First World War (WW1), on the occasion that his great-great nephew paid a visit to Settle Cricket Club. Jack Morphet was an outstanding sportsman: he played football (amongst others in a long soccer career) for Burnley, Aston Villa and Lincoln City and cricket for Hawes (where he held a record with 159 not out) and Settle, for many seasons playing in the Ribblesdale League where he was said to be a "terror to batsmen", with his leg spin bowling. In 1913 he took 85 wickets at an average of 9.12, and in his last season in 1914 he took 46 wickets at 10.5.

He joined 1/6 DWR on the outbreak of war, even though he was then 38. The Battalion landed in France in January 1915, and he was killed in action on 22 August. He was described as a "true type of English sportsman, as victory never spoilt him and defeat never embittered him". Amongst the memorabilia treasured by the family, apart from his wartime medals, is a mounted cricket ball commemorating Jack taking four wickets in four balls for Settle in a match against Skipton on September 4, 1914, probably his last ever match.

Jack Morphet is buried, along with 29 fellow Dukes, in Colne Valley Cemetery near Ypres.

### The "Fearless Fisherman" – Private John Henry Hirst

An old newspaper report uncovered by our Archive researchers tells the story of Private John Hirst of Cleckheaton, who joined the Dukes shortly after the outbreak of war and managed to find time to go fishing whilst at war on the Western Front. The article claims that "despite the ever present danger presented by the enemy, he regularly reeled in impressive catches of trout, eel, roach and bream, much of which ("typical" many readers will say) found their way onto the Officers' Mess table. However, in his diary, found by Classic Angling magazine, he wrote "the fish I caught were much appreciated by the officers and men of B Company. In fact I was excused all other duties so that I could provide fish".

Elsewhere in the diary he wrote "the pastime was considered rather uncomfortable by a number of bullets that whizzed past. The German line is plainly visible from one side of the island, but as I was fishing on the other side I thought I was sufficiently under cover. I took cover behind the bridge but it appeared German snipers were keeping a keen eye on the structure. A bullet seemed to strike the bridge every time I raised my rod above the parapet."

John Hirst later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and became a pilot, and, from the evidence of the picture in the paper, was commissioned. A most useful man!



### The Fijians are Coming!

Our Archive team have also come across a newspaper clip of the arrival of some Fijian volunteers who joined the (then) Yorkshire Brigade. Familiar faces to many of us.



Photo: W. Anderson, Doncaster

Some recruits from the Fiji Islands are in training at the Brigade Depot. Here they are seen providing some harmony in the Canteen. *Left to Right:-* Parrott (Y&L), Ponijiasi (DWR), Vunivalu (PWO), Vuro (Y&L), Waqabaca (DWR), Korologa (PWO)





# YORKSHIRE REGIMENT NEWS

These battalion notes are taken from the Regiment's pages in the Army website, with some minor modification..

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments>

## 1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment

1 YORKS remains based in Warminster, Wiltshire. It has been a busy period as the battalion assumed the role of the Lead Armoured Battle Group on the 1st of April 2015.

### Operations and Training.

The Battalion is now held at readiness and must be ready to deploy anywhere in the world at short notice. The rifle companies have been concentrating on their mounted and dismounted training with an emphasis on live fire ranges. They have also been re-learning some old tactics including public disorder and riot control, which has been a completely new experience for many of the newer soldiers in the Battalion.

### Sport and Adventure Training

The Battalion has continued its sporting excellence and both the rugby and football teams have seen success on the pitch. The Hindoostan XV (development team) won the Army Championship Plate Competition beating 14 Signal Regiment at Cardiff Arms Park. The 1st XI football team beat the Royal Welsh to win the Infantry Cup. The Rugby League team has also seen more success winning the Army 9's competition and more success winning the Divisional 7's competition.

### Future

The focus remains on the deployment of the 1 YORKS Battlegroup to Poland on Exercise DRAGON in September. This will prove to be a big test for the logistics elements of the Battalion as well as a great opportunity to work alongside our NATO partners. The Battalion will conduct Freedom parades in Yorkshire in June ensuring our Yorkshire footprint remains strong whilst supporting the Regimental focus on having a Yorkshire Regiment battalion in Yorkshire for the first time in 8 years, with the return of 2 YORKS from Cyprus.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

The Battalion was responsible for guarding the UK retained sites around Cyprus until it returned to Somme Lines, Catterick this summer.

### Operations and Training

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 companies 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 Battalion's capabilities.

The career development of our soldiers remains a key area we invest in with 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.

### Sport and Adventure Training

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.

### Future

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

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

The Army 2020 plan and recruitment continue to dominate and will continue to do so. The numbers of soldiers and officers joining the Battalion continue to grow steadily. We have received confirmation that B Company in Middlesbrough will continue as a full company - currently the fastest growing Reserve sub-unit in the North of England.

#### Operations and Training

The majority of training has been delivered at company level, concentrating on individual and platoon level Collective Training (CT). The 4 YORKS personnel that deployed to Ex ASKARI STORM acquitted themselves superbly, integrating platoons seamlessly into the 1 LANCS rifle companies for the CT Level 3/4 level phase of the exercise. 4 YORKS also provided various individuals into Brigade HQ, Battlegroup HQ and A1 Echelon. The competence and resilience of the Reserve soldiers and officers was admirably demonstrated and they received much praise from both 1 LANCS and the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) staff. In August our paired unit changed with the arrival of 2 YORKS from Cyprus.

In June, the Battalion exercised the freedom of the City of Leeds on Armed Forces Day. This was especially meaningful as it was the first time since formation day that The Colours had been on parade in public. It was

a great day with a full guard of 140 each from both 2 YORKS and 4 YORKS. Thereafter, Helmand Company put on the first Battalion families' day for many years in York; it was a fantastic and will hopefully become an annual event.

This summer, the Battalion will have trained, conducted adventure training, and supported other units in the UK; Germany, USA, Kenya, Egypt, France, the Falkland Islands and South Africa.

In September, the Battalion undertakes an Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE) which presents the chance to catch up on much needed career courses and familiarisation training for the wealth of new equipment that has appeared over the last year.

#### Regimental Associations

Since the Regiment formed in 2006 it is estimated that up to 4500 men have left the service. Many of these never served in any of the "antecedent" regiments. Although there is a "holding branch" of the Yorkshire Regiment Association (YRA), these and future leavers are entitled and welcome to join the nearest PWO, Green Howards and Dukes Branches to where they live, and to participate in their activities. Work is in hand to look for ways to ensure that the current branch structure not only does, but is seen to, hold out the hand of welcome to Yorkshire Regiment veterans.

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## THE WATERLOO BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS BRUSSELS, WATERLOO AND HALIFAX 15 – 21 JUNE 2015

#### Summary of the Celebrations

The activities to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo were splendidly varied, both in character and location. The annual Officers' Dinner was arranged in Brussels, on 15<sup>th</sup> June, the bi-centenary of the Duchess of Richmond's Ball, where Wellington allegedly heard the news that the French Army was much closer than he thought, and said "Napoleon has humbugged me by God; he has stolen 24 hours march on me", and set the whole Waterloo battle sequence in train by firing off the order for the Allied Army to concentrate at Quatre-Bras.

The following day the party went first to Quatre-Bras (the exact bi-centenary of that battle), laid a wreath on the monument, then visited the Waterloo battlefield, enjoyed an excellent lunch, and then either returned home by car or Eurostar, or spent an extra night "winding down" in Brussels.

The next weekend, in Halifax, the Regimental Association participated in (and almost wholly

organised, very well done Majors David Harrap and Bob Heron) the opening at Bankfield of a special bi-centenary exhibition by the National Army Museum, the granting of the Freedom of Calderdale to the Yorkshire Regiment, visited a superb 33<sup>rd</sup> themed flower exhibition in Halifax Minster, and witnessed a musical re-enactment of the battle at Manor Heath Park.

Our reports start with a commentary by Brig John Greenway, then a photo-montage of the Brussels and Waterloo events, followed by an illustrated report on the Halifax activities by Major David Harrap. But first ...

**Acknowledgements and thanks from the Editor.** The Waterloo officers' trip started as a bit of private enterprise, but thanks to strong support from General Sir Charles Huxtable and other senior members of the Regiment, soon gained enough momentum to attract a good number of people who were willing, even eager, to join in. My thanks to General Evelyn Webb-Carter who gave some excellent advice on historical and other aspects of the plan; the Brussels Tourist office, whose staff gave up a lot

of time to take me round a long list of hotels and dinner venues; French General Michel Yakovleff, Deputy Chief of Staff SHAPE, who bravely accepted our Waterloo dinner invitation, and showed a true Gallic charm that pleased the ladies no end, and spoke about Napoleon the man and Napoleon the legend in an insightful and fascinating way; Major Don Palmer, who took many of the superb photographs you see here; Brigadier David Santa-Olalla who led the Monday morning Eurostar party through the shot and shell of delays and difficulties but delivered it in time for the revels; and everybody who came in the true spirit of the venture, and made a point of enjoying themselves to the full without any fuss or bother. Finally, and certainly not least, my very grateful thanks for the consignment of excellent wines that arrived on my doorstep shortly after we got back, organised, I believe by Brigadier Dick Mundell. Thank you all very much indeed. Perhaps we should do something like it again, in the not too distant future?

### **A truly notable bi-centenary in Belgium.**

Report by Brigadier John Greenway

To mark the Bi-Centenary of the Battle of Waterloo, on 18 June 2015, hundreds, nay thousands, of people of many nationalities will have visited the historic site and enjoyed the music, the re-enactments (by humans and horses), the explosions and broadcast commentaries; doubtless accompanied by quaffing, now and again, of appropriate libations.

But one feels it is unlikely that anyone will have enjoyed their few days quite as much as did "Nicholson's Ninety", who assembled in Brussels a few days earlier. Tim's brainchild, devised, developed and delivered by him, brought together a cluster of Dukes of various vintages and their ladies, who were truly delighted

to be together, as well as to be learning more about the performance of their illustrious forebears in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot two centuries ago.

Amongst the convening papers had been included snippets of history; General Evelyn had distributed the Personal Recollections of Lieutenant Hope Pattinson of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot, and, on our first evening together, Michael Orr, a noted historian, reminded us about the nature of the people who filled the ranks of the Regiment in those distant days. An arresting thought was that if you aspired, as did Napoleon, and later, Hitler, to attack, say Moscow, you had, first, to walk there and then... win or lose... walk back again!

Dinner was gratefully consumed, with, yes, libations. Speakers, including our guest, a genial French General, spoke good words. The youthful element, of course launched into *The Dukes are Coming up The Hill* and all joined in.

The next morning Tim dealt deftly with a transportation problem and, reinforced by some helpful Tour Guides, we were soon out on the ground at Quatre Bras. Here we laid a wreath for those who fell in the Battle, some of whose names were inscribed on the handsome new Memorial.

Then it was Mont St Jean itself, with time to visit the excellent Panorama, as well as to stand on the very site occupied by the 33<sup>rd</sup> in 1815, listen to the Guides, and, yes, sip a libation too. For our education, our Leader had us form three ranks, in order to get the feel of forming one side of the classic infantry square, which had so successfully seen off the French cavalry. Our drill was poor, but no-one spilled a drop of their champagne.

A good lunch rounded off our brief, but informative and hugely enjoyable, visit to those historic sites, in the best of company.



**Young group arrive at the Hotel Bedford,  
Rue du Midi, Brussels**



**First night supper in the Grande Place**



**Col Wilf Charlesworth and Maj Alan Westcob chat, whilst Mrs Jilly Palmer reads the map**



**Sir Charles and Lady Mary Huxtable enjoy their first night dinner**



**Pre-dinner Waterloo briefing at the hotel**



**Key man at the pumps**

**The Grande Place, Brussels. The Maison des Brasseurs, where the dinner was held, is the building with a golden horseman on top**





**Time for a couple of warmers before dinner**



**Maj Mac Dowdy and Brigs Stone and Santa-Olalla at dinner**



**Dinner in the Brasseurs' Court Room**



**“The Palmer Boys”; Lt Col Matt and Maj Donald**



**The waiters – what’s not to like?**



The "younger end".



Lady Celia Webb-Carter, flanked by Brig Michael Bray and Lt Gen Yakovleff



Our principal guest, Lt Gen Michel Yakovleff,  
French Army, DCOS SHAPE



(Right) Gen Sir Charles Huxtable  
proposes the Toast to the Regiment

A good time  
being had  
by all





**Waiting for Transport!**



**Laying a wreath at Quatre-Bras**



**The Quatre-Bras Monument with some Dukes embellishments.**



**On the 33<sup>rd</sup>'s position at Waterloo – front rank of the square ready to receive cavalry!**



**Some of those who made it to the top of the Butte du Lion; a long haul up the steps**



**At the 1815 Restaurant after lunch. The tour organiser finally cracks “you two, kindly leave the premises at once!”**



**Post prandial; sunshine and a comfy chair required**



**Time to pack up and go home**

## Waterloo 200 in Halifax

Report by Major David Harrap.

Halifax, the Regiment's home town, took the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo to heart as an opportunity to celebrate with a series of events all things 'Dukes'. These began with the opening of the National Army Museum's exhibition in the North of England to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This was mounted alongside the Regimental Museum in Bankfield. It was followed by the granting of the Freedom of the Borough by Calderdale Council to the Yorkshire Regiment on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. The date was chosen not only to mark the Waterloo anniversary but also the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Halifax to the 'Dukes' on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1945 at the end of World War 2. Over that weekend an exceptionally imaginative flower exhibition was put on in Halifax Minster, home of our Regimental Chapel, focusing on Waterloo and of course the 'Dukes' and finally the Council loaned us Manor Heath Park to stage a musical re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo. This was open to the public and was the 'opener, for our Regimental Association Reunion held on Manor Heath Park as well.

### National Army Museum Exhibition at Bankfield

To mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo the National Army Museum mounted a series of exhibitions on the battle in each of the major regions of the country. The site chosen for the North of England exhibition was Bankfield Museum alongside our Regimental Museum. The exhibition called 'Waterloo Lives' focused on telling the story of the battle through the eyes of the ordinary officers and soldiers in Wellington's army. In doing so the 33<sup>rd</sup> were a prominent feature in the exhibitions.

They drew extensively on the recollections of the battle by Lieutenant Frederick Hope Pattison's. As a young man he was junior officer in the Regiment and wrote later in his life his memories of the battle including the final advance of the Imperial Guard on their positions "The contest soon became fierce and exterminating ... It could not have lasted more than ten or fifteen minutes. Our brave general was shot right through both cheeks and removed from the field. Lieutenants Buck and



Major Harrap speaking at the opening of the NAM Waterloo Lives exhibition with members of the His Majesty's 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot





**The Duke of Wellington's Waterloo Medal**

Cameron were killed. Lieutenant Haigh, shot through the neck, died at the village of Waterloo next day. Adjutant Thain. Lieutenants Bain, Meikland, Westmore and Ogle were also shot down. Captains M'Intyre and Hasty wounded besides between thirty and forty of our rank and file."

Ensign James Howard was more fortunate. After the battle he found a musket ball hole in his shako. He wrote home "It must have been within the eighth of an inch of my head. I intend bringing the cap to England". His shako is now part of the Regimental museum collection and was one of the two principal items in the Waterloo Exhibition display. The other was the Great Duke's personal Waterloo medal gifted to the regiment in 1936 by the Duchess of Wellington following her visit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Malta to see her son, the Earl of Mornington. He had just been commissioned into the Regiment. His great aspiration was to be The Duke of Wellington commanding the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Sadly it was not to be. He was killed at the battle of Salerno in Italy in September 1943 while serving with the Commandos.

### Halifax Minster Waterloo Flower Show

Halifax Minster, the home of our Regimental Chapel and the spiritual heart of the Regiment, joined forces with Halifax Flower Club to create a visually stunning Flower Festival over the weekend of Friday, June 19 to Sunday, June 21. The theme was a celebration of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo.

The display was in sections around the Minster including ones on Remembrance, Enlistment, Homestead, India and Afghanistan. The centre piece was a magnificent willow horse designed and created by local sculptor Sue Hiscoe. Amongst the most memorable for the "Dukes" able to visit was the display dedicated to the Regiment built around the altar in our Regimental Chapel.



**Flower display dedicated to the Regiment in the Regimental Chapel**



**Afghanistan Soldier flowers**

**The Regimental Chapel at its best in the Flower Festival**



**Granting of the Freedom of Calderdale to the Yorkshire Regiment**

Calderdale Council passed a resolution last year to grant the Freedom of the Borough to the Yorkshire Regiment as our successor regiment. In recognition of its deep ties to the 'Dukes', Calderdale decided the ceremonies to grant the Freedom should be held on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> June to mark not only the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo but also the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Halifax to the Regiment on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1945 at the end of WW2.

The Freedom Ceremony was led by the Mayor, Councillor Lisa Lambert and held in the Town Hall with Colonel Stephen Padgett as the senior Yorkshire Regiment representative. A marble plaque to record the

conferment of the Freedom to the Yorkshire Regiment was unveiled in the Town Hall. This sits alongside the two plaques dedicated to the 'Dukes' - the first to record the granting of the Freedom of Halifax to the Regiment in 1945 and the second in honour of our Tercentenary in 2002.

The ceremony was followed by a Freedom Parade through Halifax by 130 soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, led by Lieutenant Colonel Andy Garner and RSM Duncan Wyeth both ex-Dukes. The parade was well supported by a strong turn out from the 'Dukes' Association – not least from outside the Duke of Wellington's pub.



**Lt Col Garner, RSM Wyeth and the Colour Party presenting arms to the Mayor**



**Col Padgett presenting the Mayor of Calderdale with a Yorkshire Regiment Plaque**

### Musical Re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo

The Regimental highlight of the events in Halifax to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Waterloo was a Musical Re-enactment of the Battle held on Manor Heath Park. The music was provided by the Yorkshire Regiment Band led by Captain Gary Clegg who many will remember well from the days when he was Director of Music for the King's Division Waterloo Band. Given that they are a TA band and, with this, have very limited time to rehearse in amongst a heavy load of other commitments, they provided us with an exceptional display of their musical competence in meeting the demands of

putting on such an accomplished performance. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion provided the 're-enactors' most ably drilled and led by Sergeant Major Antony Roberts who too is ex-Dukes, and the evening was finished off with a Victory Beating by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion drummers. They gave us a magnificent occasion and opportunity to take pride in our Regiment and our heritage for which we owe them our warm thanks - all helped by the sun bursting out at the end of a grey, wet day to provide us with a spectacle and setting on Manor Heath Park that was truly memorable.



The 33<sup>rd</sup> form square



The 33<sup>rd</sup> meet the Imperial Guard



1YORKS Drummers play the Victory Beating



Edgar Gaukroger and Dennis Cragg (RNF), both of the DWR Halifax Branch and Korean Veterans, enjoying the show

### Regimental Association Reunion

The Regimental Association Reunion was the final Waterloo 200 event. It was attended by 380 members of the Association, our best number for many years, including Brigadier Andrew Meek, President of the Association, and former Colonels of the Regiment General Sir Charles Huxtable and Brigadier Dick Mundell. It was a BBQ meal supported by ample supplies of Havercake Ale from Timothy Taylors held under marquees on Manor Heath Park on a warm sunny summer evening. An evening made for enjoying the company of old friends.



**The reunion in full flow**

.... with Geoff Selby, our Timothy Taylors man, to the fore”.



**General Sir Charles and Lady Mary in good heart**

## THE DUKES IN WORLD WAR I

### 100 years ago.

This series of articles on the Dukes in the First World War (WW1), has attempted to describe the activities of the DWR Battalions, as we progress through the stages of the war in chronological step with the way it was 100 years ago. So far the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, with its 1914 actions at Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne, and then the first and, into 1915, second battle of Ypres and Hill 60, has featured. The last edition described the campaign of the 8<sup>th</sup> battalion at Gallipoli in Spring 1915, and saw the arrival in France of the first of our territorial battalions, 1/4<sup>th</sup>, 1/5<sup>th</sup>, 1/6<sup>th</sup> and 1/7<sup>th</sup>, comprising 147 Brigade; that formation saw a little action on the fringe of the unsuccessful Aubers Ridge operation in May 1915. In the summer of 1915 our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Service Battalions arrived in theatre. Through late 1915 and 1916 the BEF underwent rapid reinforcement.

The professional soldiers of the original BEF were largely gone from the order of battle by late 1915. Of course there were many individuals that survived the first 12 months or so, but they were now spread thin in the ranks of Kitchener recruits and territorials. By now new formations had arrived from the old Empire; from Australia, New Zealand, India and Africa. Lack of both experience and equipment caused serious difficulties, but through the latter half of 1915 these challenges were met and, largely, overcome.

Following the failure in the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) and of Russia in Poland, and of French attacks in the Artois region in May, renewed offensives on the Western Front were called for in the autumn of 1915. It was resolved that the British, with some French support, would attack at Loos in Artois with 6 divisions, and the French, with 35 divisions, would launch a much larger offensive in

Champagne, both offensives starting in September. After some initial success, these assaults petered out, with terrible casualties. The Dukes battalions in-theatre were not involved in the Loos battle, so we will move on, noting just that 6000 British soldiers were killed in the first two days of Loos, and by mid-October around 50,000 casualties had been taken.

But the first really big test for this new BEF would come in July 1916, by which time it was roughly equal in numbers to the French forces. We will come to that, and the part that the Dukes' battalions and formations played. But first it would be good to remind ourselves that the BEF, much expanded though it was by now, was not the "senior partner" on the allied side. France, in whose support Britain had joined the war in 1914, was often the initiator of strategic developments (for good or for ill), and our high command deferred to French ideas many times, and to French requests for action to relieve its own hard pressed forces.

As the Commonwealth troops focus shifted from Ypres towards the Somme through the latter part of 1915 and the beginning of 1916, the alignment was largely dictated by the way that France chose to deploy its own formations. To say that British in the north and French in the south is perhaps a bit simplistic, as they routinely overlapped and supported each other in the various sectors, but it is a fair overview position. The Americans are not here yet.

In this edition of the Iron Duke, therefore, we review the French situation at the start of 1916, and set the scene for the great Somme offensive, which will be the main WW1 focus for the spring 2016 edition of our Journal.

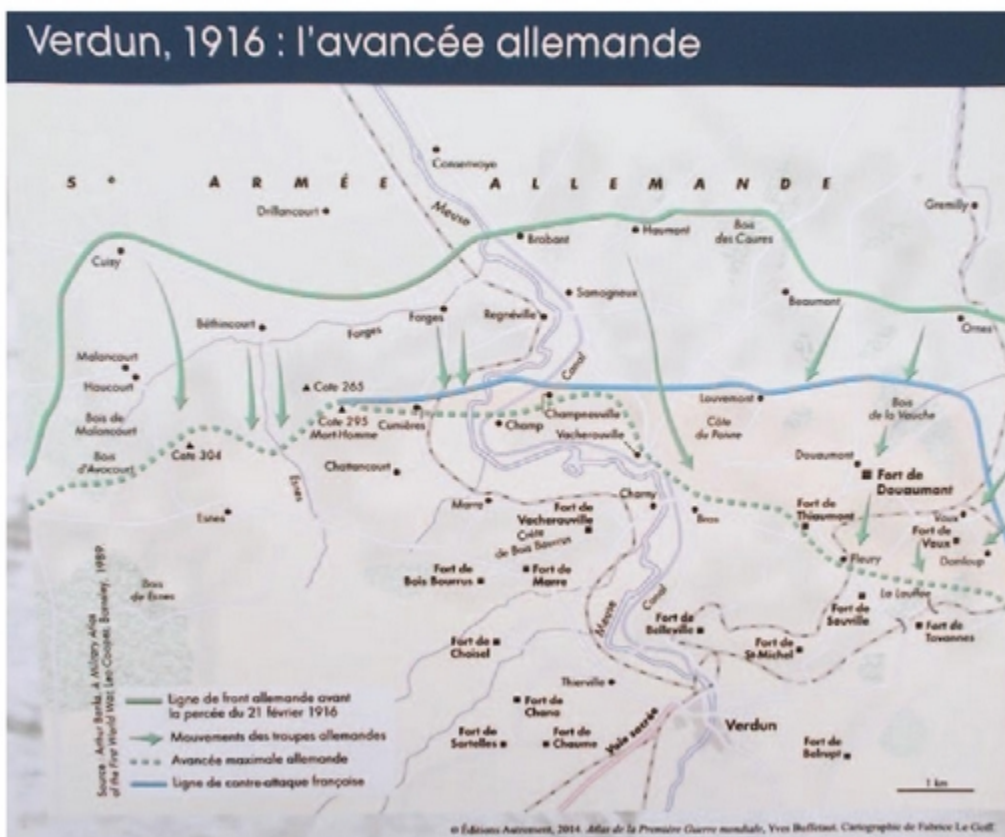
## Verdun – a wound that will never heal

Readers will know that the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) entered WW1 in support of a very much larger French Army. Whilst the BEF in August 1914 faced the German advance on a quite narrow front at Mons, the French, with five armies in the field, were spread from around Charleroi in the north to the Swiss Border in the south. After the next 15 months or so the balance between British and Commonwealth on the one hand, and French and its colonial troops on the other, roughly equated.

### **Franco-Prussian War 1870 – a humiliation for France.**

The outcome of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 was defeat for France, and most of Alsace and much of Lorraine was lost. Verdun found itself in the new front line. The frontier between France and the German states to its east was originally set as far back as the division of Charlemagne's empire amongst his grandsons in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century, and Lorraine and Alsace changed hands several times over the next millennium. In 1870 the Prussian

**Map of the fortified area, and lines of initial German advance**



Army reached Paris, and France capitulated. As a result of their loss, France decided to construct a series of 38 forts, centred on a 40 km frontage around Verdun, to prevent any future incursion. Some were very large indeed, notably those at Douaumont, Vaux and Souville; others were smaller, or simply fortified lines of defence in the hilly forests of the Ardennes.

### **Determination to regain lost territory.**

France never recovered from the defeat and humiliation of the Franco-Prussian War. On the outbreak of WW1, the French first objective was to recapture its lost territories in Alsace and Lorraine. That French assault was quickly repulsed, and after some heavy fighting with many casualties on both sides through 1914 and the first half of 1915, the opposing armies realigned on a north/south axis. Verdun remained in French hands, but none of the lost territories had been regained.

### **The Battle for Verdun.**

In the stalemate of early 1916 the German high command determined to draw the French into an engagement which would suck their forces into a counter-attack battle on a massive scale, where they could be

destroyed, primarily by forcing them to attack under massive artillery bombardment. The Germans would take territory, forcing the French to attempt to regain it. The aim was more an attack on French manpower, than on territory, and the region chosen for the execution of this strategy was the defended area around Verdun in eastern France, which now formed a salient into German held positions across the 1915 front. An attack on Verdun would do more than capture a few miles of land, in itself of little value. It would plunge a dagger into French pride – France, the German High Command believed, could not accept any further loss in that region. It would do whatever had to be done to resist.

How right that was. The French High Command had initially declared that fortified positions had no place in the French strategy, and where the Verdun forts and defended localities were manned at all, it was with small garrisons. When the German Army attacked in February 1916, preceded by an artillery bombardment on unprecedented scale, several of the major forts were quickly overrun and captured, including the biggest of them all, Douaumont, which was taken by a German sergeant and a small party, capturing the garrison of 57 (most of whom were attending a lecture deep in the bowels of the fort), without a shot being fired. German

forces moved up close to the town itself within a few days. At this point, the French reversed their attitude, and declared that the City of Verdun must be held at all costs. The French Prime Minister, Aristide Briand, is quoted as saying to Joffre and his staff "If you surrender Verdun you will be cowards, cowards! And you needn't wait 'til then to hand in your resignation, I (will) sack you all on the spot!"

Five French divisions were hastily assembled to start the counter-assault on the German's newly captured positions. Over the next nine months, the French pulled into the defence and then counter-attack of Verdun 259 of its 330 infantry regiments, and enormous numbers of guns and supporting arms and services. Amongst the many serious obstacles was the lack of supply routes; the Germans could use multiple rail and road routes, the French had just one, the road in from west of the City, later named the "Voie Sacrée". As it enters the city now the road is lined by statues of French Marshalls and Generals, rather spooky if you arrive in the twilight, huge white stone figures glaring down..



**The final stretch of the "Voie Sacrée" and some of the 30 or so statues**

Over a period of months, the lost front line forts were counter attacked and retaken, some by both sides, several times, at immense cost. Verdun town held out, but was all but destroyed. To continue their defence France had to withdraw formations from elsewhere on the Western Front, which meant that the BEF had to take a much greater share of the front on the Somme. Joffre implored Haig to open up a new offensive, to force the Germans to pull men out of their Verdun assaults. The Germans found that their strategy was as costly to themselves as it was to the French, as their prestige was now at stake, and were as committed to taking Verdun (not their initial goal) as the French were to defend it, so had also deployed far more resources, men and materiel, than originally intended. Both sides were being bled at an unsustainable rate. There has been considerable argument about the number of casualties; we can take



**The City after constant bombardment.**

a figure of 380,000 dead for France and 350,000 for Germany as in the right area.

### Aftermath

Whilst for the British and Commonwealth armies the names that primarily recall the terrible slaughter of WW1 1916/1917 are Somme and Passchendaele (3rd Ypres), for the French it was, and is, Verdun. Tales of almost supernatural heroism and achievement abound. Those who were there and did well came to public attention and several notables moved up – Charles de Gaulle was a captain at Verdun; Petain later succeeded Joffre, for rescuing French prestige by saving Verdun



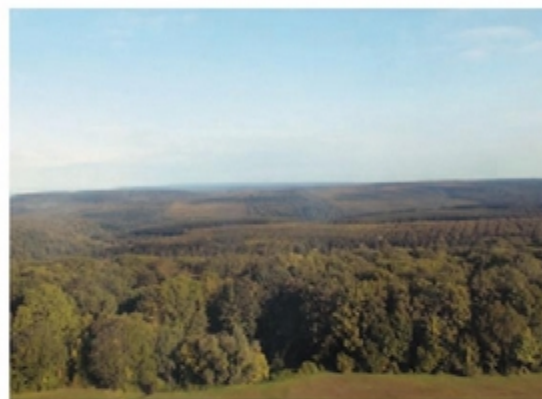
**French infantry in trenches shattered by shellfire**

(and dealing with mutiny in the French Army in 1917); the largely unknown General Nivelle, to whom great credit and high command was given at the time, later lost both in the defeats along the Chemin des Dames; Andre Maginot, whose concept of a fortified defence line in WW2 proved to be such a failure, fought at Verdun as a sergeant, though he had held ministerial rank in a previous administration.



**Memorial to Andre Maginot, who fought at Verdun as a sergeant in an infantry battalion**

The Ossuaire du Hougaimont, (an ossuary is a place for keeping bones), is an enormous sugar loaf shaped construction with a tall central tower, and the lower tiers are packed with the bones of men of both sides



**Looking east from the top of Fort Douaumont**

who fell. These heaps of remains, estimated of 130,000 men of both sides (and some women, for there were many civilian casualties from the estimated 26,000,000 artillery shells fired in this campaign) can be seen by peering through the darkened glass of the ground level windows at the rear of the monument. It was impossible to identify many individuals, so this practical solution became a major memorial, on a scale similar to, or perhaps greater than, Thiepval or Tyne Cot.

The interior has a chapel of remembrance and, at one end, a "flame of memory", and the names of the areas of the battlefield and the regiments that took part adorn the walls. For six euros one can climb the tower to get



**The Ossuaire du Hougaimont**





**The interior of the Ossuaire**

fantastic views all around, and then watch a good film in the basement, before exiting through the inevitable shop, with all manner of souvenir goods. In the grounds of the Ossuaire are some 16,000 graves of identified dead (including six from WW2). On one side is an area for Jewish casualties, and on the other one for Arabic casualties. There are many such cemeteries in the area, though not on this scale.

Beside the “Flame of Memory” are photographs of President Sarkozy and representatives of the other WW1 participants, attending a day of memorial in 2008. This turned out to be highly controversial as Chancellor Merkel declined to attend, because Sarkozy had switched the venue from Paris to Verdun, and she did not wish to be present in a place so closely associated with German aggression.



**One of the exterior faces of the Fort**



**French soldier carved from wood**

Nine villages were totally destroyed and never rebuilt. Some of these can be visited, and plaques recall what stood there – the school, the baker, the blacksmith and so on. At Fleury, one of them, many small monuments can be seen; one, carved from a tree trunk, a French soldier; another, a memorial to two men of the village who were shot (presumably for cowardice or desertion) showing that they were later pardoned, and whose bodies were exhumed and given a new grave within the Ossuaire cemetery. Some writers have claimed that the birds do not sing – not so. But the air is full of a heavy resonance of an appalling history of slaughter and death, although this is surely all in the mind of the informed visitor. Why should nature care for the follies of mankind?

In the area around the battlefields are many plaques and monuments, commemorating statements for peace in Europe, and one, at the destroyed village of Fleury, carries a quotation from Robert Schumann, the architect of the European Union project, showing how the slaughter at Verdun was a key stepping stone to, and justification for, unification, and all those 800,000 lives, far from being lost in vain, were lost in the cause of a united Europe. It struck the writer as a dubious argument.



**Memorial to two soldiers executed, and later pardoned, and re-interred at the Ossuaire Cemetery**

### **Effect of the Somme Offensive**

Haig launched his Somme offensive on 1 July 1916. There can be little doubt that however unsuccessful and costly this turned out to be for the British and Commonwealth forces, it saved Verdun. By the end of 1916 the French had recaptured all the ground it had lost the previous spring: a modest salient some 10 kilometres wide by 8 deep, of dubious real value. This was only achieved because the German high command was unable to defeat the Somme attacks without taking men from Verdun, and at the same time faced renewed offensives on their eastern front.

### **A Moving Experience**

The visitor cannot help but be moved by what can be seen at Verdun. A large new visitor centre, near Hougaimont, is under construction, but information at all sites large and small is quite well displayed, and the various forts and other places to visit are sign-posted. Verdun is only some 90 minutes down the auto-route from the Somme, and is well worth a visit.

## The Somme Battlefields – a general view

Many readers of this Journal will have visited the Somme battlefields, some several times. I visited the area in September this year, directly after my journey to Verdun. The Somme offensive began as and when it did to force the Germans to take some pressure off the French, who were unable to withstand the attacks in the Verdun sector, and over the months from February to July 1916 had pulled more and more of their formations out of the French sector of the Somme position and elsewhere to throw them into the shrinking defence line around the town of Verdun.

So, there is a clear link. Another, is the shocking scale of casualties of both campaigns. Armies were hurled at each other in attack and counter-attack; enormous numbers of artillery and mortar shells were fired, pulverising the ground, flattening the villages, and making heavy going for men and equipment.

A month or so ago, the weather was fine, with bright sunshine across the open, rolling fields, brisk breezes on the ridges and shelter in the valleys. I could see for miles, although with plenty of dead ground along my line of sight. In 1916, once you were out of your trench and moving forward, there would have been little cover, but plenty of opportunities for defenders to spring a nasty defilade position surprise, or for enemy artillery observers to acquire good targets.

A visit to the Somme between Albert and Bapaume shows you how developed WW1 tourism is now. All the major cemeteries and memorials have visitors in good numbers, whether coming by coach in organised parties or independently, and from many European countries. Some of the memorials are very big indeed, like Thiepval; some distinctive in design and purpose – the Canadian and Newfoundland Park at Beaumont-Hamel or the Ulster Tower. But there are hundreds of smaller cemeteries and memorials, and these seem to me to tell the story of those months and years of war in that region more clearly.

From Hawthorn Ridge Number 1 you can see five other cemeteries, all but one small. Number 1 has just 82 headstones, and is accessible only down a much used farm track, with deep ruts which require some careful driving to avoid bellying your car on. This demonstrates one of the very British characteristics of the Somme (and elsewhere); our men were buried as close as possible to where they fell. There are hundreds of small cemeteries. Sometimes two headstones stand side by side, touching, to show that although we know who they are, they could not separate the remains. Indeed, there are groups of 5 or 6 headstones all arranged as a group, to show the same thing. Occasionally two names share a single headstone.

In some cemeteries the dates on the headstones show a



**Albert  
Town  
Hall**



**A typical medium size Commonwealth War Grave site**

major action over a few days or weeks, but in most there is a wide spread of both dates and cap-badges. I regret that I cannot recall which location I was in (although it was somewhere in the Pozieres area) where I found two Dukes, lying almost side by side, one killed in 1915, and the other in 1918. I once plotted on a map the locations that 1/4<sup>th</sup> DWR moved to in 1916/17. The earliest is 4 March 1916, the last February the next year. There are twenty separate places, and some were occupied more than once.

Now imagine all the other units doing the same thing: going into the line, and coming out again, and moving a few miles up, down, left or right, and then you can see why it is rare (but there are some, of course), for any one cemetery to have headstones with a big majority of just one cap-badge and just one group of close dates. 1 July 1916 is something of an exception along the cemetery line of that first, fateful offensive. But otherwise, give or take a mile or so (and rarely so much), the front lines did not really go anywhere.



**The Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont Hamel**



**July 1916; two Dukes, side by side**



**The Thiepval Memorial**

If you wander, perhaps not entirely erratically but willing to stop on your route and explore anything that catches your eye, you are well rewarded. 2Lt Donald Bell VC's memorial stands beside a dusty lane on the edge of Contalmaison, on the spot where he lost his life, just 5 days after winning his Victoria Cross. He was a teacher from Harrogate who played professional football to supplement his salary. His VC was originally held by the Green Howards Museum in Richmond, but was later bought by the Professional Footballers' Association.

A few hundred yards away is a memorial to 16<sup>th</sup> Bn Royal Scots, constructed of Moray stone, which states that contemporary observers considered it to be the "finest battalion in Kitchener's Army", which seems a bold claim. Many wreaths lie around it, including one from Scotland's First Minister, and another from Heart of Midlothian Football Club.

One of the most active memorials is the "Grande Mine", as the road signs say, or the Lochnagar Crater, near Ovillers. It has its own Friends' Association, a website, and a mobile shop, pulled into place behind a land rover. There were a large number of visitors on the day I went, so clearly the publicity it is given works. Essentially it is just a big hole in the ground, with a variety of memorials, a large cross, a semi-circular bench dedicated to nurses in WW1, and so on. 185 Tunnelling Company RE started work on this in 1915, and it was taken over by 179 Company. The tunnel was over 1000 feet long, and it was loaded with 60,000 pounds of explosive. It was detonated at 0728 on 1 July 1916.



**The Ulster Tower**



**The Lochnagar Crater (The “Grande Mine”)**

If you have had enough of following your nose, you can easily, with a little research, pick on a particular action or line of march. 2DWR, who had been in France since August 1914 and had had a very hard time of it indeed for nearly two years when they went “over the top” on 1 July 1916, started their advance from trenches south of La Sucrierie, on the road between Mailly-Mailly and Serre (D919). They set off as left support battalion in 12 Brigade at 0855, heading roughly due east, but half an hour later received the order to halt. 4 Company did so; numbers 1 – 3 were out in the open under fire with no cover, so carried on reaching the first German line on the Redan Ridge. During this time all communication with Battalion HQ was lost. Eventually the Battalion reformed, less its casualties, back where it started, a sadly frequent outcome of the Somme assaults. My admiration for this battalion is considerable, so we might well come back to this action in a later edition.

There are a number of museums. One in Albert has an eclectic collection of WW1 memorabilia, and as you head down the last corridor (it is all underground), the lights flicker and the crump of artillery and chatter of machine guns hurry you along. In need of a cuppa? The

Blighty or Old Bill Tea Rooms will be pleased to supply you, and some of the major monuments, like the Ulster Tower, have a small cafe alongside.

The area of the 1 July 1916 offensive is surprisingly small; a front of maybe ten miles. Between 1 July and 19 November we advanced about 9 miles, between Albert and Bapaume. Some of the stories from the Dukes’ battalions that were involved in this will be set out in the next two issues of the Iron Duke.

### **The Victoria Cross**

The Victoria Cross was instituted by Queen Victoria on 29 June 1856, and it is widely believed that the early crosses were made from Russian guns captured at Sevastopol in the Crimean campaign. However, the guns from which VCs from WW1 onwards were made are actually made from pieces of Chinese guns of about 18 pounder calibre. They were captured by British troops at the Taku Forts in China during the Second Anglo-Chinese War of 1860. These guns are used to supply the metal to Hancock’s Jewellers, manufacturers of over 800 VC medals since 1914.

Dukes’ veterans and ID readers may already know the



**Sergeant James Firth**

story of Private P. M'Gwire, who served in Crimea with the Regiment and was almost one of the first recipients of the Victoria Cross. General Peter de la Billieres' book "Supreme Courage: Heroic Stories from 150 years of the Victoria Cross" recounts the tale of Private M'Gwire, who was captured by the Russians during the siege of Sevastopol (September 1854 – September 1855), based on a contemporary officer's report.

"The Englishman kept wary watch and, when he fancied his captors off their guard, sprang on the one who carried his musket, seized it and shot dead the other of his foes... Meanwhile the Russian from whom our fellow had taken his own musket and who had fallen to the ground, when rising from his recumbent position fired, missed, and finally had his brains knocked out by the butt-end of the Englishman's musket; after which the man coolly proceeded to take of the Russian's accoutrements etc with which he returned laden to the post where he had been surprised, fired at by the Russian sentries and received with loud cheers by our own pickets".

Private M'Gwire was put forward, with Lord Raglan's support, for the new Victoria Cross. However, Queen Victoria wished his name to be omitted from the list of potential recipients, on the grounds that " His deed, although publicly praised and rewarded by Lord Raglan, was one of very doubtful morality, and if pointed out by

the Sovereign as praiseworthy may lead to the cruel and inhumane practice of never taking prisoners, but always putting to death those who may be overpowered, for fear of their rising on their captors".

A somewhat unsung SNCO of the Regiment received the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in the Boer War. Sergeant James Firth, serving with 1 DWR on 24 February 1900 in the action at Plewton's farm in Cape Colony, picked up Lance Corporal Blackman, who had been wounded and was lying in an exposed position and under hot fire, and carried him into cover. Later in the day, when the enemy had advanced to within a short distance of the firing line, Sergeant Firth then carried Second Lieutenant Wilson, who was badly wounded and exposed to fire, back over the crest of the ridge and was himself shot through the nose and eye whilst doing so.

In connection with Sergeant Firth's VC and the Boer War, Col Wilf Charlesworth sent in a photograph of a monument to Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd CB DSO, who, as is shown, was killed on 29 November 1900, whilst in command of the Battalion.



## A National Serviceman 1952 to 1954; Part 1, Korea

By 22659585 Private Jack Collins

On receipt of the Spring edition of The Iron Duke I turned first to the article on The Battle on the Hook for reasons which will become obvious later in this piece. Having read the article I then read the Editorial and realised that many memories had been triggered.

**Just before  
National  
Service.....**



**“...and  
afterwards,  
in Korea**



My story starts on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1952 when I reported to Wellesley Barracks, Halifax as an 18 year old National Serviceman. Having been born and raised in Bradford, 8 miles away, I mistakenly thought my National Service would be no problem so near to home. Six weeks later after Basic Training I arrived at Imphal Barracks, York for Continuation Training. York, not too bad! 12 weeks later I was aboard MS Empire pride heading for Hong

Kong. It was rumoured that Empire Pride had previously been a cattle boat, an opinion we heartily agreed with having to grapple with hammocks below decks each night as the temperature increased the further east we travelled. The consolation being that after sailing through the Suez Canal, which was fascinating seeing the desert on both sides, the ship called in at Aden, Colombo and Singapore on the way. When would a young apprentice Lift Engineer ever manage to see such places in the 1950's?

During my time in Hong Kong, stationed at Lo Wu Camp, which was the camp nearest to the Chinese Communist border, I trained as a Machine Gunner on Vickers Machine Guns. Incidentally, it was not unusual to experience running battles through the camp in the middle of the night with smugglers being chased by Hong Kong police firing at each other. Those of us unlucky enough to be on guard duty could do nothing about it because although we had rifles, we had no ammunition. The Saturday visits to Kowloon by train were always enjoyable with plenty of places to eat and drink. The return journey could be hazardous if, as was sometimes the case, men fell asleep and missed their stations. The engine had to be detached and re-attached to the front of the train. In order to carry out this manoeuvre, the engine had to cross the border into Communist China during which time Chinese soldiers searched the carriages. Fortunately any British soldiers who were unfortunate enough to 'be asleep' were simply left to travel back to where they should have left the train in the first place.

Next stop, Kure transit camp in Japan, nothing much to report there, just waiting for my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and transit to Korea which duly happened a day after my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, I will admit I have since had better birthday



**the MG Platoon**





**in the machine  
gun platoon**

presents! Two small boats, Esang and Wosang, plied across the Sea of Japan to Pusan, Korea. Our contingent wondered why the crew were lashing everything down while we were in harbour. As soon as our ship, Esang, weighed anchor we knew exactly why everything had been battened down. A small ship in very violent waters caused almost everyone to suffer from sea-sickness. Fortunately the journey was only 24 hours and we duly disembarked at Pusan and joined a very uncomfortable train for the long journey north to Seoul.

On arrival at the regiment I was posted to 'D' company as a rifleman. It was then that I learned that the Machine Gun Platoon was in 'S' Company some way behind the front line, where I now found myself, the Dukes having moved into the forward positions on The Hook. On arrival at the forward positions, in the dead of night, we were greeted by the Chinese version of Lord Haw, Haw, announcing by loudspeakers, "welcome to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, we will annihilate you". Incidentally some time before we moved up, our platoon was attached to The Black Watch for a short

time as reinforcements and we were promptly nick named The Black Dukes! The food was very good but their porridge, made with salt and no sugar, took a bit of getting used to. However, the usual hunger pangs of young men soon accommodated the porridge.

Eventually with the turnover of National Servicemen there was soon a vacancy in the Machine Gun platoon and I was duly transferred to 'S' Company behind the front line.

Unfortunately, this situation did not last for long as it was decided to deploy a Machine Gun section, two guns, with the Turkish division, who were on our left flank, to give covering fire across the front of the Hook position. During the battle we ran perilously low on ammunition and used water soaked towels to cool the barrels, Vickers being water cooled guns. We had a Centurion Tank on our right between the Turkish division and the Dukes and they were just as busy as with their 20 pounder, machine gun and the searchlight.

The fact that we did not speak Turkish and they did not speak English was not a problem. We were



**the lads on the gun team, and friends**



**the Centurion near our position**

comrades and “me English, you Turkish” seemed to cover everything. The Turks had an ample supply of real Turkish Delight, which they were happy to share with us so the days after the battle were not unpleasant apart from the nightly bombardment. We assumed that the Chinese had taken exception to the two machine

**a shell  
lands  
near my  
position**



guns making life difficult for them on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> May. It was the statement in the article “The Battle of the Hook” that the Chinese artillery turned their attention on the Turkish division that triggered my memories and prompted me to write this article.

Eventually the ceasefire was declared and we rejoined ‘S’ Company and withdrew with the rest of the battalion to start digging the new defensive positions. This went on through the long hot Korean summer. We were now living in bell tents with camp beds which, compared with our previous existence, was considered luxurious. During our leisure time at weekends we cooled off by swimming in the Imjin River, which was probably more dangerous than being in the front line! The Imjin being a fast flowing river with strong under currents. As we moved towards the end of the year the bitter Korean winter began to set in. So it was cold when I arrived in Korea and cold when I left.

Part 2 of Jack Collins story will appear in the next issue. He reports on his time in Gibraltar, and his subsequent activities.

## Visit to Crete

Photographs courtesy of Judith Greenway

During their recent visit to Crete, Brigadier John and Mrs Judith Greenway re-visited the British War Graves Commission’s peaceful site on the north coast at Souda Bay.

The German airborne assault on the north coast in May 1941 and subsequent operations inflicted heavy losses upon British and Commonwealth forces, which included 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment (2 Y&L), and which were forced to withdraw to be evacuated, eventually, by the Royal Navy.

2 Y&L arrived in Crete on HMS Ajax on 2 November 1940, having come from Sudan, via Egypt and Palestine. Ajax was accompanied by two anti-aircraft cruisers and despite being bombed by high flying Italian aircraft, the battalion disembarked safely in Souda Bay. After a quiet period the Germans gained complete air superiority until the allied positions became untenable, and evacuation was ordered in May 1941. The evacuation was carried out under intense aerial bombardment and fire, approximately one fifth of the 4000 or so troops in the evacuation convoy were killed, wounded or captured by enemy ships during the voyage back to Egypt.

However, the operation was also costly in German losses, as witnessed by their own War Cemetery a few miles West, on a hill overlooking their DZ at Maleme. Both cemeteries are beautifully maintained. The German gravestones all lie horizontally in the ground, each commemorating two Servicemen. The low plants between them blossom into a striking red carpet of flowers.



**Private Sidaway’s headstone**



**the German cemetery**

Editor's Note: The York and Lancaster Regiment (65<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup>) was the fourth Yorkshire Infantry of the line regiment, post WW2 all formed as The Yorkshire Brigade for training and administrative purposes prior to the formation of The King's Division, which embraced the Yorkshire, Lancashire and Northern Ireland infantry regiments. The York and Lancasters' home area was

South Yorkshire with Regimental Headquarters in Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, and after its disbandment in 1968, with officers and men distributed to the remaining three regiments, that recruiting area largely fell to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Many a Duke thereafter hailed from Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and other South Yorkshire towns and cities.



**the British cemetery and view out into the bay**

# 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:** 7.00 pm onwards, meetings start at 8.00 pm, Keighley Drill Hall, Drill Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 3DN. *Secretary* Dave Connor 07528 672114. There is disabled access to the Hall. The Branch has various events planned and welcomes attendance from any former Dukes or members of the Yorkshire Regiment.

**London:** Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey Thursday 5 November (ticket only to get into the garden, but event can be viewed from the street side of the railings), and Remembrance Day Parade in Whitehall, London 8 November 2015, both concluding with an informal

social in a nearby public house. Joint meeting with PWO and Green Howards and organised by the latter in April 2016, date and venue to be confirmed. Chairman and Secretary Brig John Greenway, 9 Canterbury Gardens, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6ST, 01252 444881.

**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.

## Skipton Branch

The annual Waterloo Dinner was held on 11 July, the date changed from its usual June due to the Reunion in Halifax. The guest speaker this year was John Spencer from the Dukes' Museum at Bankfield. He came all dressed up in his 33<sup>rd</sup> Foot uniform, and gave a speech on Waterloo and the history of the Regiment. We had 98 guests and friends sitting down to eat.

**L to R. Back row,**  
**Gordon Bell,**  
**Phil Chadwick,**  
**Robert Mason (Chairman,**  
**Craven District Council),**  
**John Spencer,**  
**front row, Pam Higson,**  
**Mary Bell,**  
**Margaret Mason**



## Officers and wives lunch 2016: Wellington College 30 April 2016

Following the hugely successful gathering in Brussels to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, it has been agreed that for 2016 the principle gathering for Dukes officers and their wives will be at Wellington College. Of course this assumes that there is sufficient interest in the event! For those unfamiliar with the College the lunch will present an opportunity to see at first hand a quite remarkable memorial to the Great Duke, one that at every turn presents yet another reminder of the man, his career and his legacy to the nation so much so that 'Dukes' will feel immediately at home as soon as they enter the College grounds.

Dates for the event are determined by the College calendar and thus Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April has been chosen for the lunch. Prior to the lunch it is planned to have a short (60 mins) tour of the College for those that are interested. It is also our intention to invite certain members of the College community to the lunch.

This note is purely to let you know about the lunch so that you can put it into your diary. At this early stage full details have yet to be confirmed but it is likely that the cost of the lunch will be in the region of £50 per person although this may be less depending on numbers attending. Fuller instructions be sent out early in the New Year.

## Dukes London Group Golf Day

Report by Dan Brennan

There was a great mix of golfers; ranging in age, service length, regiment and of course golfing ability that turned out to take part in the annual Dukes London Group (DLG) golf competition, known as the Hindoostan Cup. Once again the DLG have been extremely fortunate that Major Dan Holloway kindly

enabled us to hold the competition at Bearwood Lakes, a beautiful course with fast greens, lakes-a-plenty and tight tree-lined fairways. Not for the faint-hearted!!

On the morning of 23 July 2015 the hopeful golfers started to arrive at Bearwood Lakes around 1130am for an early lunch, some much needed putting practice and



**James Young (Grenadier Guards), Dan Brennan, Rob Douglas, Gary Knight**

of course to visit the pro shop to purchase additional emergency golf balls. The lunch beforehand was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances, whilst enjoying the fabulous food and drink on offer. However, the mood changed when the resident pro-golfer arrived to deliver his course brief and hand out some valuable tips to the raptured audience.

This year there were 12 golfers, split into 3 groups of 4. Gary Knight was the first to tee off; not an easy task with everyone gathered around the tee box, secretly hoping for a shank into the rough on the right. However, Gary ensured the day got off to a flying start as he smashed the ball down the middle of the fairway, McIlroy-esque.

The most naturally gifted golfer on the course was Pte Richard Aspinall, 1 YORKS, who was playing off a handicap of 5, much lower than his nearest rival. Pte Aspinall was consistent off the tee and assured around the fringes of the greens. Rob Douglas also played some fantastic shots, one of which won him the 'nearest the pin' competition. Bearwood Lakes is a technically difficult course, with lightning fast greens so it's perhaps better suited to the more precise and fluid golfer; attributes not always associated with DLG golfers.

Maj Dai Harris, REME ran out as the overall winner

and claimed the trophy for 2015. Maj Harris is the first player to successfully play to his handicap, which is testament to the improved standard of this year's competition versus 2014. (Grumpy Editor's note: that's a bit harsh! I won in 2014, with a stableford score right on my handicap!).

Once all the golfers returned to the clubhouse, the staff at Bearwood Lakes provided a genuinely delicious 3-course meal that was the perfect way to end a very enjoyable day. Maj Holloway stood up at the end to present the various prizes for those who finished first, second and third. There were other prizes as well for the longest drive, nearest the pin and of course wooden spoon. This year the prizes were better than ever; wine, whiskey and an array of Bearwood Lakes branded golf memorabilia.

The day does not end there however, the Hindoostan Cup is a golf tournament with a Dukes' twist. As any Duke understands you cannot have a golf tournament without a quasi-kangaroo court to finish. This year, unsurprisingly, Rob Harford was Judge, Jury and Executioner; his role as enforcer was to ensure all golfers adhered to the course rules and displayed integrity at all times. Those found wanting would be subjected to a fine,



**Mark Conkin (US Army), Richard Aspinall, Andy Brewer, Baz Barrett**



**Rob Harford,  
David Santa-Olalla,  
Dan Holloway,  
Dai Harris**

which would be donated to charity at the end of the day. Rob set an exemplary example to next year's 'enforcer', he fined everybody for a variety of misdemeanours, including himself!! The money that the group raised was donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

On behalf of all those who played this year I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maj Holloway for hosting the DLG at Bearwood Lakes once again; the

course was fantastic, the staff were very friendly and helpful and the food was exceptional. The DLG Golf Day is perhaps the highlight of the DLG's calendar, the event is run professionally and it enables the DLG to bring its members together in an informal, relaxed environment. I would strongly encourage as many members as possible to take part in this truly enjoyable, fun event.

### **Suffolk's best kept military secret?**

The Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre is a charitable institution dating back to August 1919, with the mission of providing holiday accommodation to all ex-service personnel and their spouses, or partners, and recently extended to their widows/widowers. Subsidies from military charities make possible the provision of very good quality facilities, at reasonable prices, in a popular holiday resort.

The impressive Grade 2 listed building is situated on the sea front in Lowestoft, and was used during the First World War as a recuperation centre for wounded soldiers. At the end of the war, the Reverend Emms set up a charity and raised money, chiefly from the Lowestoft district and Sheffield (Lord Kitchener had

links with the Yorkshire City), with which to expand the premises as a Memorial to Lord Kitchener and the refurbished centre was opened by Lord Haig on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1919.

Today, the management team, Steve and Lorraine, are able to provide comfortable accommodation – a cross between the Sergeants' Mess and the Victory Services Club with a homely atmosphere – and excellent food, on a half board basis, for up to 20 guests a week, from Tuesday to Tuesday - helpful for travel arrangements. Short breaks can also be arranged. For further details, prices, a brochure and booking form, telephone on 01502 573564, or check [www.lkmhc.co.uk](http://www.lkmhc.co.uk). A discount can be claimed by mentioning Scott Flaving.

# Obituaries

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

## Lt Col RL Stevens OBE

Robin Stevens died peacefully, aged 77, whilst on holiday with his family in France in May. He had been suffering from Transverse Myelitis since 2006. He was the second son of Lt Col EW Stevens, who commanded one of the Dukes' Chindit Columns in Burma in 1944/45.

Robin's Memorial Service in a very full Church in Hampshire on 18 June was attended by John and Judith Greenway, Charles Cumberlege and Peter Andrews, who were also representing several other Dukes who may have attended, had they not been already committed to events marking the Waterloo Bi-Centenary.

Robin was appointed MBE in 1972 and OBE in 1981, after staff duties in Malta and HQ AFCENT respectively and he was Mentioned in Despatches in 1974 for his calm, resolute command of Alma Company during the 1973/74 tour of the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland. His last Command appointment was of 2UDR in Armagh in 1976/78.

He was his own man, often accompanied by a black Labrador\*, and wearing tweeds, rather than a tracksuit, for recreation. He was also musically adept with clarinet, harmonica and handsaw/stroked with violin bow. His family, Jane, with Tom and Jenny and several grandchildren, are to be commended for giving him a very happy and positive send-off on Waterloo Day 2015.

\*In the eulogy at his memorial service, his son said ... "Knut was a Batchelor with him in his early army days. Tweed helped raise his children. Bramble went to work with him. Roly caused havoc and joy in equal measures. Oscar and he shared trouble walking and finally Perdi cared for him and is currently looking after Mum with the strength and dedication that only a four legged friend can give. Anyone who we have asked about Dad from his early years will always recall him with a black Labrador by his side. His best man Malcolm recalls him and Knut on stage in the Staff College Pantomime where Robin was playing the saw with a violin bow.

## David Sugden

By Brigadier Michael Bray

I joined the Dukes after David had completed his National Service so our acquaintance was limited to meeting on rather rare occasions connected to the Regiment. It is therefore a particular tribute to his character that I came to regard him with respect and affection. He radiated warmth and enthusiasm whenever we met and for nearly 50 years he maintained a loyalty

to the Regiment that typified what was best in our tribe. I am therefore pleased to write this obituary, with the help of two of his TA friends and his brother, Paul.

David was born in 1937, son of Richard Sugden, himself a Duke, and manager of the family flour mill in Brighthouse. His father served on Monty's staff in World War II and became a lieutenant colonel. His great uncle, also a Duke, was one of the most successful TA officers in World War I, winning a CB, CMG, two DSOs and six MIDs.

After Tonbridge School, which was not a success for David, he put the gap before National Service to good use and acquired a lifelong love of sailing from the Aberdovey Outward Bound School. Cricket, archery and music also figured prominently in his life.

David served in Cyprus as a platoon commander in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in 1956-57, a period when the Army had not only to cope with the periodic violence between the Greeks and the Turks, but also with the Greek terrorist movement trying to unite Cyprus with Greece.

After National Service, David returned to the family mill and met and married Carol, in 1965, which further improved his Regimental credentials because she came from Halifax, a talented artist and designer. They enjoyed 50 years of a very happy and successful marriage and had three daughters.

David joined the Dukes TA and his brother, Paul, said at David's memorial service, "David revered his days in the Duke of Wellington's, stayed active in the TA for many years, kept up with all his pals there, and attended the big regimental reunions. He really valued the camaraderie of that group."

Major Brian Farrow, a Company Commander in the 5/7 Dukes TA and a friend and contemporary of David, writes " David joined the TA in 1958 and left in 1967





when he and Carol moved to Scotland and when the law changed to force the TA to give routine support for the Regular Army overseas. With his responsible job, David could not give this commitment. He was always cheerful, certainly resolute and very loyal to the Regiment and his friends. He was always adventurous and was an asset to the Regiment particularly having served in the Infantry with the 1st Battalion during National Service and then after leaving, joining the 1/4 Dukes TA, which, before amalgamating with the Infantry 5/7th Dukes, was an anti-aircraft TA regiment. David was able to assist in the changeover to an Infantry role. He rose to the rank of Captain and was Signals officer. I shall miss him".

John Golding, a friend and TA officer with David writes, "David was a man of belief and principle, a man of his word, a leader, a crusader even. If he thought something was worth doing it would be done with total dedication and enthusiasm. He didn't take, he gave."

In due course, Associated British Foods bought many family milling businesses, including the Sugden's. David worked for them for many years with success and eventually became an independent consultant travelling far and wide within the milling world. They lived first at Margaretting and then at Chelsworth, where David's memorial service took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. They often visited their beloved cottage in Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales.

This lovely service was attended by a very large number of family and friends and included a Dukes representation of Proctor Naylor, Charles Bunbury, Graham Allen, John Golding and me.

The last word should be from Paul, "David had an immense capacity for making and keeping friends wherever he went. They were very important to him and he was at his most relaxed at a party, pub or celebration. You always wanted to be sitting near David because that was where the fun was."

### **Peter Pettigrew**

Peter Pettigrew served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Germany, Cyprus, and Hong Kong, where he left for civilian employment, retiring as a captain. Peter died on 27 September 2015, and the funeral was held at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday 9 October. An obituary will appear in the next edition.

### **John Edward Sargeant**

John Sargeant died on 24 April 2015, at the age of 83. Regrettably, RHQ was not informed of John's death until after his funeral (it was his wish).

John joined the Army in December 1949 at the age of 18, and served for a total of 26 years. He was a Section Commander in 7 Platoon, C Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Korea 1952/53 and went on to serve with the Battalion in Malta, Cyprus (1956), Colchester, Catterick,

Kenya, Osnabruck and Hong Kong. In 1969, John left the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion as a WO2 to take up the appointment of RQMS at the Kings Division Depot, Strensall. In 1972 he was promoted to WO1 and posted to 34 Cadet Training Team in Lisburn, Northern Ireland as their Regimental Sergeant Major. John's final posting was to Shrivenham as WO1(RQMS), before finally leaving the Army in October 1975.



Those of us who knew John well, will remember what a staunch supporter he was of the Dukes and our Regimental Association right up until his death.

Editor's note: After his retirement, at one stage John was responsible for married quarters matters at Strensall. He marched me out of a quarter and noticed that a section of the back door had been cut out, replaced, and carefully (but not carefully enough!) painted over. He heard my story about the kitten that we bought, that went through the newly created cat flap never to return, with a jaundiced expression, but he was an old acquaintance and nodded the march out through. A good man.

### **William Michael Plewman**

Bill Plewman joined the Dukes as a National Service soldier in September 1956. He completed his basic training at the Depot in Halifax, before being selected for officer training at Eaton Hall in Chester. In August 1957, Bill joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion as a Subaltern in Belfast, where he played Rugby for the Battalion. He completed his service in September 1958. Bill died on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 as a result of injuries sustained from a road traffic accident. He was 78 years of age.

### **John Robert Harrison**

John Harrison died on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1915. John was a member of 8 Platoon, C Company of the 1st Battalion, in Korea 1952/53.

### **Arthur R Enock**

Arthur Enock died on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015. Arthur was a member of 9 Platoon, C Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, in Korea 1952/53.

### **Trefor Williams**

Trefor Williams, who was a Bandsman in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Band, died on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015, at the age of 67. Trefor served circa 1960s – 1980s in; Osnabruck, Hong Kong, Catterick, Ballykelly, Aldershot and Minden.

# LETTERS

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

## **From Dr John Reddington**

Congratulations on the excellent last edition of the Iron Duke.

I was especially interested in the article on Gallipoli since, on 25<sup>th</sup> April this year, on the Centenary ANZAC Day March in Brisbane, I led the British Ex-Services Association for the last time. Our only WWII veteran (wheelchair) survived the Dunkirk Evacuation and the Dieppe Raid, but was wounded on the Normandy Beaches. One Korean veteran was with our sister regiment, the Northumberland Fusiliers. He has repeatedly asserted that the Gloucesters defied orders to withdraw, and that Col. Carne should have been court martialled!

The Australians celebrate ANZAC Day, since in 1915, reports of their valour at Gallipoli first established their national "identity". But your publication shows that valour was by no means restricted to the Australians (Miles' report on the extraordinary exploits of the Dukes on Page 19). Australians, however, should be singled out for their achievements on the Western Front, where on many occasions (eg. Fromelles, the Somme) they were chosen to lead various allied offensives.

Editor's note; Dr Reddington was RSO in Korea in 1952.

## **From Major David Miller**

Many thanks for another very readable "Iron Duke". The writer of the Modern Military Medals asks for any comments and info. I do have some concerning the United Force Cyprus medal which I was awarded in 1954 and perhaps you could pass this little snippet on to him.

For a period of three months in 1974, 1 Jul 74 to 30

Sep 54 the qualifying period was reduced to 24 Hours. This was the time from the Turkish invasion to the time of an agreed cease fire. I remember it well as I was sitting in the control tower of a deserted Nicosia Airport, having been dispatched to Cyprus at very short notice as a Forward Air Controller for two RAF F4s Phantoms from either 6 or 54 Squadrons based at RAF Akrotiri. Also at that time in the airport buildings was a company of Coldstream Guards and a squadron of a cavalry regiment, both units being in support of the UN. By this time the Turks had invaded Cyprus in the North at Kyrenia and had advanced to about a mile from the Northern edge of Nicosia Airport.

At this time I had been told that I could call for an air strike if the Turks crossed the Northern boundary of the airport and the RAF were longing for this to happen as it was the first they had carried "cluster" bomb for real. But it didn't happen and one morning at the end of September we saw the Turks were on the move but they by passed the airport and headed for Famagusta. And within three days my unit, self, Cpl Anderson my driver/radio operator and our Landover were on a plane back to the UK.

## **From Mr Les Rusby**

Re Geoff Nicholson. When I was PSI with 1<sup>st</sup> Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers at York 1968/69, I edged into the Sergeant's Mess at Strensall where Geoff was the Depot RSM, presumably on his last posting before his retirement. I last saw him at the luncheon for Korea veterans in Bradford, after we had marched through Halifax during the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hook. He complained bitterly about his long bus trip from down South!

## Illustrations from the archives



The Hook, showing the difficult and sandbagged emplacements. In the past year, this position has seen more enemy activity than any other in the Commonwealth frontline. 16 June 1953.

*See Jack Collins article.*



**A battle scene from WW2, assumed to be Dukes' soldiers in action.  
Can anyone identify the location?**



**CRIMEA**

The Battle of Alma. 20 Sept 1854.



**ANOTHER INCIDENT IN THE CRIMEA**

Pte Patrick McGuire achieves his escape.

See Victoria Cross article for the story of Pte M'Gwire.  
There seem to be several ways to spell this gallant soldier's name.