

Spring 2016  
No. 280

# THE IRON DUKE



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**Remembering  
the  
Somme**



**The graves of, from right to left, Lt Hammond, Lt Laverack, 2Lt Taylor, Private Field, and Capt Carpenter, at Brécourt Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery (CWGC). They died with D Company 10 DWR on 5 July 2016, in very confused fighting as the Battalion tried, eventually succeeding, to establish a block in Horseshoe Trench south east of Contalmaison. Their headstones are 6 rows back on the left side.**

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**Photograph at the foot of the front cover shows Brécourt Cemetery. The graves above are six rows back on the left hand side. It is a most peaceful place.”**

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

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



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

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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The Editor is expecting to move house this summer, probably late July but precise date and future address at present unknown. Email will remain the same, phone will almost certainly change, and post will be directed up to about the end of the year, but correspondents should be aware that there may be some communication issues from time to time as things settle down.

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## Editorial

### Waterloo to the Somme

We - the ID, the Regiment, pretty well everyone in one way or another I should think - have finally "done" Waterloo by fully and enjoyably celebrating the 200th anniversary last June, although an echo remains here with an account of some extravagant happenings in Dubai of all places, and in this issue we jump forward 101 years to the Dukes in the Great War, and in particular the terrible battles of the Somme beginning in July 1916, 100 years back from the time anyone will be reading this.

We also have an account of the Battle of Leswarree (76th Foot under General Lake), another of the death of Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd, commanding 1 DWR in the Boer War, whose memorial was pictured in the last Iron Duke, and the second part of former National Serviceman Jack Collins' story, whose exploits in Korea made interesting reading last time as well, and a follow up on Private McGuire (VC almost) as again mentioned last time. The President of the Association reveals an astonishing story of the head of a boar. All compelling stuff!

### Regimental History – a confession!

Some years ago I was kindly given on long loan an almost complete bound set of Iron Dukes which had belonged to the late Brigadier Tony Firth, by his daughter Robyn. Last year, as Brigadier John Greenway was clearing out his house in readiness for a move up the road, he bequeathed me another almost complete set which more than filled the gaps, together with some other military history books for which he was unable to find space.

I feel a confession coming on! As a young officer I read the regimental history books in a somewhat perfunctory way, cramming into my head enough to

get by on, but never truly getting to grips with the 260 or so years of selfless service given by my regimental predecessors. I claim to be something of a history buff, but I was too much taken by the Crusades and the warlike doings of the early post-conquest English kings to pay more than a smattering of attention to the detailed histories of the 65th and 84th Regiments, or, after 1968, the 33rd and 76th and, of course, there was the much more pressing day to day immediate need to keep my company commander and the adjutant off my back as I went on my thoughtless and merry way.

Of course such an attitude will not do for the Editor of your Journal, and I cannot begin to describe with what pleasure I have, some fifty years on, dug into the annals of our Regiment, of which the body of volumes of our Journal form such an important part. Thanks to Scott Flaving we have an index of all ID articles, and here is a vast ocean of information in which those of us lucky enough to have access both to it and the journals themselves can swim at leisure.

Better late than never I suppose.

### Cyril Ford

In my last editorial I concluded with a word or two of praise for some of those who give so much time and effort to keeping our Regimental Association alive and well, but one name I shamefully missed was that of Mr Cyril Ford, who has just retired. Happily his long years of dedicated service are properly recognised in this issue, with a tribute written by Major David Harrap. Cyril's contribution will be sadly missed.

### "RHQ"

Readers will please note the new contact details for the Regimental Association, given above.

## 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 suspect that we have all to some extent become accustomed to the various commemorations marking the centenary of the First World War. Yet with this comes the risk of familiarity which can diminish the full impact of the events being remembered and this may well be the case with the Battle of the Somme. The battle (which in reality was a series of hard fought engagements) will be marked by many events throughout the country all of which no doubt will remind us of the dreadful opening, a day that saw the largest number of British casualties (60,000) than on any other day in history. This combined with the fact that by 1916 the Army was dominated by raw volunteers has meant that The Somme has had a significant place in the collective memory of the nation. The Dukes, like all county regiments, were

heavily involved with the 2nd Battalion, under Lt Col R N Bray suffering more than 300 all ranks killed or wounded on the first of July. But it is easy to forget that the battle continued until November 1916 during which time the 1/4th, 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions were all heavily involved and it sobering the think that on 3rd September the 1/4th Battalion lost 11 officers and 336 other ranks on the banks of the Ancre River. With these thoughts in mind it is fitting that there is to be a dinner to commemorate the Battle of the Somme at St Paul's Street Drill Hall, a building redolent with the history of the Regiment and the 7th Battalion in particular.

Commemoration has been very much on my mind of late due to the proposal for a lasting memorial to the Regiment. I am delighted to say that the idea has met with universal approval and the consensus view is that the memorial be placed at The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire. The next stage in the project will be to determine the options at the NMA which in turn will give a guide as to the amount of money that we will need to raise. This will enable the fundraising campaign to be launched and at the same time work to commission the piece (whatever form that takes) can also get under way. As I have said on numerous occasions this project will take time to reach fruition but I am keen to ensure that we get this right: there will be no second chance.

As far as the Association is concerned, the office is now firmly ensconced in Bankfield Museum and I am indebted to the hard work of Bob Heron and his small team of volunteers who undertook the relocation with such success. The office is not the only aspect of the Association that is the subject of change: the Regimental website is being redeveloped due to the fact that the underlying software is unable to perform to the standards required. Thus in the next couple of months a new website will be launched and as ever with such matters the more it is used the better it will become. Doubtless one of the first announcements on the new site will be the details of the Association reunion planned for 9th July in Halifax.

And finally Bob Heron who has been at the centre of all things 'Dukes' for nearly two decades has announced that he wishes to hand over the reins of running the Association which he has been doing over recent years as a volunteer. He has kindly agreed to continue in post until we find a replacement, a process that is now under way. We all owe Bob a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done over such a long period, a contribution that will be more fully covered in a future edition of the Iron Duke.

## Cyril Ford

### *Tribute by David Harrap*



Cyril Ford, one of our most dedicated and long serving volunteers in the Regimental Archives at RHQ, has retired after almost 24 years of service to the Regiment; a remarkable commitment for a man who never served in the Regiment. Nevertheless throughout those 24 years he has been very much a true Duke joining us on numerous battlefield tours and Regimental reunions.

Cyril trained as a textile engineer and then, on completion of his apprenticeship, was enlisted for 2 years National Service with the REME. After National Service he returned to textile engineering for the remainder of his working life working for numerous textile businesses around Huddersfield and the West Riding. He retired in 1998.

Cyril's first contact with the Dukes was in 1992 when he visited Walter Robins, then Regimental Secretary, initially just to do some personal research into his interest in the battle of Waterloo. Walter introduced him to Bill Norman in the archives and they quickly discovered they both lived in the Holme Valley. It was the start of a close friendship which soon led to Cyril joining Bill to work together with him in the archives.

They were also both frequent visitors to the Brown Cow for long lunches over a Yorkshire pudding which many officers will remember as the venue of one of their earliest introductions to the Regiment. In 1998 when Bill died Cyril took over responsibility for replying to the many historical enquiries received in RHQ. He continued doing these till Cyril's own final retirement from RHQ at the beginning of this year. Throughout he has been a loyal dedicated supporter of the Regiment and RHQ for which we all owe him a great debt of thanks.

## Dukes News Round-Up.

### **Colonel Hugh Le Messurier receives the Legion d'Honneur.**

112871 Lt Col Hugh Le Messurier was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment on 31st December 1939 just after the outbreak of the second world war; he served in NW Europe with 1/7th Battalion DWR (TA) before going on to complete a full regular career which saw him serve around the world in Egypt, Palestine, Sudan, Bermuda, Korea, Gibraltar, Aden, Rhodesia, Kenya, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia and of course elsewhere in the UK. He was twice Mentioned in Dispatches - in NW Europe and Korea.

He served in the usual regimental posts of Subaltern, Coy 2IC, Adj, and Coy Comd (twice) and Battalion 2IC. He held Staff Capt and GSO2 appointments and commanded the Yorkshire Bde Depot in Strensall. He

finally left regular service in 1970 after a 30-year career but went on to run the Catterick Training Centre for a further 15 years before finally retiring in 1985.

He played rugby and hockey for the 'Dukes' and was Editor of the Iron Duke, for 5 years in the mid-Seventies.

The Légion d'honneur - The National Order of the Legion of Honour is a French order established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. The award is the highest decoration in France and is divided into five degrees of distinction, Chevalier (Knight) being the highest. The Order's motto is 'Honneur et Patrie' (Honour and Fatherland) and its seat is on the left bank of the River Seine in Paris.

During the French Revolution all French orders of chivalry were abolished. It was Napoleon's wish to



**Colonel Hugh receives his Honour from Colonel George Kilburn, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (Reserve).**



**After the presentation**

create a reward to commend civilians and soldiers and from this wish was constituted a Légion d'Honneur, a body of men that was not an order of chivalry, for Napoleon believed France wanted recognition of merit rather than a new system of nobility.

Napoleon is reputed to have said, "You call these baubles, well, it is with baubles that men are led. The soldier needs glory, distinction, rewards."

The order was the first modern order of merit. Military decorations had previously been reserved for officers; the Légion however was open to men of all ranks and professions. Only merit or bravery counted.

While membership of the Légion is technically restricted to French nationals, foreign nationals who have served France or the ideals it upholds may receive the honour.

In 2014, on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, President Hollande of France announced that surviving veterans would receive the award in recognition of their contribution to the liberation of France.

### Bankfield Museum Success

The Regimental Museum has been housed at Bankfield Museum on the Boothtown Road, Halifax for some years, and recently the Association HQ set up there as well. The Museum is celebrating after winning a prestigious national award for its 'For King and Country' exhibition. At an awards ceremony in London on Friday 27 November, the exhibition was awarded the Royal Historical Society's first ever Public History Prize, as well as winning the Museums and Exhibitions category.

The prize is intended to recognise work that improves people's understanding of the place of the past in today's social, political and cultural life. Historian, broadcaster and Professor of Early Modern History at Queen Mary,

University of London, Amanda Vickery presented the 'For King and Country' exhibition with the prize, beating competition from across the country.

Calderdale Council set up the 'For King and Country' exhibition to commemorate the area's contribution to the First World War, by sharing over 60 local stories, hundreds of objects and various archives from the Council's museum collections. Following an award of £98,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the third floor of the museum has been renovated, including new display cases, brighter surroundings and the uncovering of a huge dome window in the ceiling which was hidden for years. The Bankfield exhibition was nominated for the prize by a visitor from Leeds, who was so impressed.

**From left; Angela Clare, the original Project Officer, Amanda Vickery and Richard Macfarlane, Collections Manager, Bankfield Museum.**



### 50 Years On – five golden couples

A chance conversation between the Editor and Col Peter Andrews revealed that five Dukes officers were all married in 1965, thus all reaching that elusive milestone, the Golden Wedding Anniversary, in the course of last year.

**The Pettigrews.** Anne writes: I was informed by my future husband that the only Saturday that he would be free to get married - due to rugby Commitments - was 23rd January! The 23rd turned out to be a bitterly cold day with driven sleet from all directions? Poor Hugh Cartwright changed into his 'Blues' behind the church. Charlie Bunbury was best man. We were to be married in our local Catholic Church in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders - probably one of the coldest edifices in the area! We were the first couple of a mixed marriage, to be

allowed 'music'. We had an impressive Guard of Honour. The reception was at Kelso. We had planned to fly down to London but there was a B.A. strike. Fortunately, thanks to my uncle's intervention, a Main Board Director of B.A., we flew from Turnhouse to Heathrow. Peter's mother had booked us in to The Park Lane Hotel for the night. The following morning, an emotional waiter arrived with breakfast, the Sunday Papers and news of Churchill's demise! We were very grateful that he waited until after the wedding as most of the guests were of his era!!! London was a ghost city - not a soul about. We spent our honeymoon skiing in Switzerland.

**The Walkers** were married in the church of St Mary the Virgin at Hambleton near Henley on 12 June 1965. The Reception was held in the Officers Mess of RAF



Medmenham, Marlow, Bucks. The Guard of Honour included Robert Campbell-Lamerton, Alan Westcob, Andrew Nickell, Charles Bunbury, the late Hugh Cartwright, the late Tony Redwood-Davies, David Pugh, Simon Ogram, Ian Reid and Mike Stacpoole (attached to 3 PARA at the time) and I am trying to recall the other two. The Best Man was Chris Edwards.



**The Cumberleges** were married on 10 July 1965, at St Michael's Chester Square, London. Michael Cumberlege was Best Man, the reception was at the Goring Hotel (round the corner from Buckingham Palace and is of course the one taken over by the bride's family for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge), and the honeymoon was spent on the west coast of Ireland.



**Top, the Guard of Honour including Charles Bunbury and Wilf Charlesworth on the left, and Robert Campbell-Lammerton and David Gilbert-Smith on the right.**  
**Bottom, Charles and Jo in their garden recently**

**The Andrews** were married in Guernsey on 11th September 1965. At the time Annie's father, Lt Gen Sir Charles Coleman, was the Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey so they were married in the Town Church in St Peter Port and the reception was held at Government House. At the time of the wedding Peter was serving away from the battalion as ADC to Maj Gen Gordon Upjohn in Catterick and the battalion was in Quebec Barracks Osnabruck. Unfortunately there was an exercise in Norway at the same time so only Charles Bunbury managed to come over and was an usher and David Gilbert-Smith who was with 22 SAS also managed to come with the excuse of trialling a boat across the channel!



**The Nicholsons** were married on 18 December 1965, at the Parish Church of Shipbourne, Near Tonbridge, Kent. The Reception was at Hilden Manor in Tonbridge. It was very much a parents' party and we were shooed off early in our "going away" outfits. 1 Y&L, with whom I was then serving, was stationed in Cyprus from whence I had been sent on my Platoon Commanders' Courses, then at Hythe (Small Arms) and Warminster (everything else). On arrival I found that it wasn't me they wanted at all, but David Nicholson of the Green Howards (same Sandhurst intake, one digit apart in our P/numbers, then Benghazi based)), who arrived at the same time but it was decided that it would be easier to squeeze us both in than send either of us back. HQ Yorkshire Brigade's administrative error made our wedding possible. On such things are fates decided!



**Tim and Sheenagh in Copenhagen in 2015 and the Guard of Honour which included Robbie Reive RE, Sheenagh's brother, and a group of friends of many cap-badges from the platoon commanders' course.**

### The Hindoostan Shooting Club

Adam Brown is club captain of the Hindoostan Shooting Club. Dotted across rolling Norfolk countryside, his fellow seven guns were leaning into the wind and near horizontal driving rain, eyes straining as pheasant, partridge and woodcock tested their marksmanship.

The guns: Adam Brown (merciless), James "JC" Charlesworth (politely ruthless) Wilf Charlesworth (sharp and relentlessly on target) Stewart Dickson (tough and ruthless) Andy McNeilis (rough and toothless-gripped with hypothermia) Rob Harford (aka the silent assassin) Dan Hollingway (aka "the Sharpener") and at

peg 8, Peter Lee (wonderfully selective.)

The event was the annual Great Massingham Driven Shoot on 22 November 2015, the climax of an enjoyable season. At the heart of the Hindoostan Shooting Club are two wonderful truisms. Firstly, a bad day shooting beats a good day in the office. Secondly, in life you cannot get new old friends. Other events have included rough days on Liam McCormick's estate, night time stakeouts and superbly competitive clay days.

Any reader wanting to know more should get in touch with Andy McNeilis, [andrewmcneilis@me.com](mailto:andrewmcneilis@me.com).



**Back row from left – Rob Harford, Dan Holloway; middle row from left - Pete Lee, Wilf Charlesworth; front from left – Adam Brown, Andy McNeilis, Stewart Dickson, James Charlesworth” Note the natty hats, modelled on regimental rugby caps!**

### Waterloo Celebrations in Dubai. Report from Alex Liddle

Majors (Retired) Alex Liddle and George Triplow joined forces with Rod Sampson, the local Chair of the Old Wellingtonian Society (OWs), to arrange a lunch on 12 June in Dubai to celebrate the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Being in Dubai a suitable venue was not obvious so Wheelers of St James (in The DIFC) was chosen for its English flair, accepting hospitality and willingness to strike a deal (we are from Yorkshire after all)! An imaginative menu was chosen that was suitable and appropriate for the occasion which included the obligatory snails, frog's legs and beef Wellington and the rather more unique Blucher's Mess, Apsley pineapple and victorious fruit. British cheeses were chosen and non-French wine! We were entertained by a recording

of the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Band - kindly provided by Tim Mundell. I am quite certain the other diners in the restaurant appreciated "The Dukes are Coming Up the Hill" and "My Girls a Yorkshire Girl", and I am even more certain the locals enjoyed and understood "On Ilkley Moor Bar T'at"!

Over 30 guests attended from the Dukes, other Regiments and OWs. A full Orbat from the military side can be found below. During the meal Alex, George and Tim took turns to recount the various phases of the battle to the room and toasts were shared with members of the OWs. It was great to see Colonel (Retired) Phil Lewis, who managed to secure a green chit for the day from Abu Dhabi, and he kindly lead the Loyal Toast

Overall the day was a great success and the staff from Wheelers produced a wonderful meal and were very accommodating. It was great to see a few old Dukes and other old friends from the armed forces. The link up with the OWs also proved entertaining and something to develop in Dubai for the future. To round the day off, as "fortune does favour the brave", we headed off to deepest, darkest old Dubai to enjoy a few pints and enjoy some mandatory rock'n'roll played by a resident Philippino band. Bicentenary Dubai style!

#### Military Orbat:

Alex Liddle (DWR), George Triplow (DWR), Tim Mundell (DWR), Phil Lewis (DWR), Tim Stear (RM) - The Royal Marines, Steve Vaid, Stuart Macaulay (Highlanders), David Eydes (KOSB), Jonathan Dainty (Cheshires). With apologies from Mike Woolf (DWR).



**The Dukes on parade at the 200th Anniversary celebration of the Battle of Waterloo in Dubai.**

**From L – Alex Liddle, George Triplow, Tim Mundell, Phil Lewis**

#### Wellington College

Last year the College celebrated the 200th Anniversary of Waterloo, as did we, in a number of imaginative ways. A major display, which won a silver medal, was created



**The Contingent Colours on parade**

at the Chelsea Flower Show, and visited by The Queen. It has now been reconstructed at the College. Presided over by General Webb-Carter OW, one of the major halls at Wellington has been converted to a fine pictorial memorial to the Duke and renamed the Waterloo Hall. The present Duke took part in the planting of two trees, an oak from Stratfield Saye and a chestnut from Hougoumont Farm.

A magnificent banquet was held in the Guildhall in London, attended by Count Blücher, who could not arrive until part way through the luncheon; he was greeted by a fanfare and the announcement, "The Prussians have arrived." There were many other commemorative events, including a run/swim and cycle triathlon from College to Waterloo to raise funds for Help for Heroes, undertaken by 13 pupils and 18 members of staff. The CCF took into service a new Waterloo Colour, commendably Regimental from our point of view, shown in this picture.

Much of all this effort raised money for a relatively newly created foundation that provides a free education at Wellington for talented pupils from the State sector.

In this 200th year, it was pleasing to see that Wellington was rated top school in the Country for Innovation and for Pastoral Care and Service to the Community.

As an Association we can be proud to be regarded as



**Captain Mark Priest and Brigadier Michael Bray**

part of the Wellington College family and grateful to the College for giving us a warm welcome.

We were represented in the last six months at the CCF annual inspection, at their officers Christmas dinner and at the Remembrance ceremony when Captain Mark Priest and Brigadier Michael Bray laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association.

**Officers' Lunch 2016. Should any officer be reading this before April 30th, he is encouraged to make a late bid to attend the annual lunch at Wellington College, to Michael Bray on 01403 822737. Ladies welcome.**

### **Dukes London Group Golf.**

The competition for the Hindoostan Open Cup will again be held at the excellent Bearwood Lakes GC, Berkshire, on Thursday 21 July 2016, organised by Major Dan Holloway. There is still time to enter, although places are limited. Any serving or retired member of the Dukes, Green Howards, PWO, Yorkshire Volunteers or the Yorkshire Regiment is eligible to enter, and a guest or two may be possible, but enquire before committing to one. Send an email to danholloway1902@gmail.com will confirm a place or otherwise and supply full details. It is an excellent day out.

### **Surprise Russian General - guess who is in the Hermitage?**

Michael Bray writes - On a recent visit to the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, previously the Winter Palace, we came upon a remarkable gallery containing portraits of 332 generals in the Russian Army who had defeated Napoleon. Most of these were painted by an Englishman, George Dawe, including the one shown here of the 1st Duke.



These numerous generals, who may well have outnumbered the regiments involved, were the victors of the 1812 defeat of Napoleon in Russia. The Duke appears to have qualified by becoming a "General Field Marshal" of the Russian Army after 1815.

I don't recall that there were many Russians at Waterloo but they are not the only nation to have rather blinkered views on who won that war, and others since.

*Editor's note. Whilst on the topic of the Duke of Wellington, a recent correspondent to the Daily Telegraph, following a series of short letters about strange names for rooms in their houses, wrote "we call our cloakroom Stratfield Saye as that is where we keep the Wellingtons"!*



# 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>

## The Yorkshire Regiment Battalion Update

### 1st Battalion in Warminster

**Operations and Deployment** - The battalion deployment of 1 YORKS as the Lead Armoured Battle Group (LABG) to Poland, dominated the second half of 2015. The BG deployed by road, rail and air a total of over a 1000 personnel and 200 vehicles to Drawsko Pomorski Training Area in Poland. The BG worked with Polish and German Armed Forces to a Polish Brigade for a large-scale combined arms exercise as well as a live-fire demonstration. The training provided an excellent opportunity to develop tactics, techniques and procedures learned during the training year in BATUS and give some of the new soldiers in the Battalion some invaluable training in a complex environment. Since returning and taking some well-earned leave, the Battalion has handed over the LABG role and is now concentrating on other tasks and supporting the rest of the army on large-scale exercises.

**Sport and Adventure Training** - 1 YORKS continue to succeed on the sports pitch. Both the football and rugby teams are progressing well in their respective competitions and are hoping to bring home even more silverware this season! The 1 YORKS Alpine ski team won best infantry team overall on Ex FROSTED BLADE. The Battalion are holding an inter-company boxing night in March. Capt Duncan White has been selected to ski for the Army in the inter-services championships.

**Future Activity** - Alma and Burma Company are deploying on exercise to the Falkland Islands in the summer and Corunna Company are deploying to Canada to provide enemy forces and support other units training in Suffield this summer.

### 2nd Battalion in Catterick

Following the Battalion's return to Catterick from Cyprus, the pace of life has been frenetic but the Battalion has made huge strides. We have re-organised ourselves, broken the back of the conversion from Light Role to Light Mechanised Infantry and progressed through all of our individual and collective training goals. This has been an extensive process. Some 200 drivers and commanders have qualified on the myriad of vehicle platforms 2YORKS now owns. Light Mech is an exciting new capability, based around FOXHOUND vehicles. Developing the procedures and understanding of how

the capability should be fought and operated has been a challenge that the Battalion has grasped impressively.

**Training** - A trip to Germany saw Battle Group HQ and the Company's run through the full simulated training package in preparation for Exercise WESSEX STORM in Jan 16. It was a fantastic run-out and one that has set the BG up for real success. Recently, we were field firing in a snow-covered Otterburn ahead of a Combined Arms exercise on Salisbury Plain, which will validate us we prepare to take over as the European Union's High Readiness Battle Group later in the year.

**The Floods** - A third of the Battalion deployed to York, Cawood, Selby and Tadcaster within 6 hours of being mobilised to assist with the flooding crisis. This was particularly impressive given that the Battalion was not held at any notice and a clear testament to the dedication and commitment of the soldiers and officers. The effect we had, in support of the Police and Civil Authorities, was considerable and helped reinforce our 'Yorkshire in Yorkshire' commitment. The support and reception that was received from grateful locals was inspiring and humbling.

**Sport** - 2YORKS have fielded successful teams in football, rugby, skiing, shooting, golf and a variety of other team events with individuals also competing in cross-country and triathlon. A long anticipated Gold was achieved in the Cambrian Patrol competition by a team based on the Recce Platoon. The Gold was one of only three awarded to British teams this year and the only one to an infantry unit - a fantastic result. Finally, the Duke of Wellington's completion was concluded with a back-breaking tug-of-war competition, won convincingly by Helmand Company.

### 4th Battalion Army Reserve

As ever it has been a busy period with a change at the top as Lt Col Hallam relinquished command to Lt Col Mark Yates, who assumed command on 6 October 2015.

**Recruiting** - The Bn continues to grow and we have increased by 20% over the recent period. This is down to the efforts of the recruiters, especially in mentoring and nurturing the potential and new recruits. Working with Regimental HQ, 1 and 2 YORKS over the coming months we will look to see how we best employ our recruiters across the region to support the Regimental effort.

**Training** - The main focus before Christmas was preparing for a Short Term Training team deployment to Uganda. 4 YORKS personnel deployed and were supported by staff from 77 Brigade and soldiers from the US, French and Danish Armies. The training developed basic field skills all the way through to BG operations, culminating in a successful 3-day exercise.

We completed a well organised Christmas weekend on the back of completing the Brigade Military Skills competition and while not formally called upon, soldiers were eager to deploy and support the efforts of 2LANCS and 2YORKS as they looked to limit the damage caused by the floods. A small number of officers deployed over Christmas week to support Silver Command at York.

**Future** - 2016 will be an exciting year where we can continue to build on a strong base and make the most of our close proximity, working closely with 2YORKS – starting with Ex WESSEX STORM in Feb. A Platoon will go to Australia for a 2-week training exercise and 17 soldiers to Austria on Ex NORTHERN YORKSHIRE EAGLE, a ski training camp. 4YORKS are providing the project officer and will help organise the Regiment's 10th Anniversary celebrations in June. 4YORKS are also the Brigade lead for co-ordinating the sizable military

presence at the Great Yorkshire Show. Our training activities will culminate with our Annual Deployment Exercise in September 2016. Throughout early 2016, we will look to develop our relationships with the Civil Authorities and Employers across Yorkshire, promoting the Yorkshire Regiment whenever we can.

### Events

A parade to commemorate the 10th anniversary of new Colours to the Regiment will take place in York on Waterloo day, 18 June 2016. Details of the flyer below.

- Yorkshire Volunteers Reunion Scarborough 8–10 Apr
- Green Howards Sunday Richmond 15 May
- YRA Race Day York Racecourse 21 May
- Crepon 20th Anniversary France 4–6 Jun
- Yorkshire Regiment Officers' Dinner York 17 Jun
- Yorkshire Regiment
- 10th Anniversary Pde York 18 Jun (see above)
- PWO Imphal Day Lunch York 19 Jun
- Yorkshire Regiment Freedom Parades Yorkshire 20–25 Jun
- Main Freedom Parade York 24 Jun
- Armed Forces Day Rotherham & Sheffield 25 Jun



**All members of the Regimental family are invited to attend the 10th Anniversary Colours Parade at Imphal Barracks, York on 18 June.**

Doors open at 1030 – Be part of the grand ceremony that is the Exchange of Colours, followed by a free Family Fun-Day for kids of all ages!

All regimental Associations and Cadet organisations are invited to participate in the parade.

For your free tickets contact your Battalion RSM, RHQ, nearest YRA Branch or your Association Secretary. Watch the YRA Facebook and website for more details of this exciting event.



**The YORKSHIRE Regiment**

## The Dukes in the Great War - 1916

We are now into the third year of this conflict. There was only one of our battalions on the Western Front in 1914 (2nd Battalion); by April 1916 there were 13, and in January the following year, another 4, and one more, the last (13th Service Battalion), in July 1918. On 1 July 1916 all of those in theatre were within a few miles of Albert, on the Somme.

An article in the last edition told the story of Verdun February to December 1916, where French and German pride compelled both sides to continue to fight to the death, with enormous casualties, over a strategically not very important piece of Lorraine. It was this conflict that brought about the British and Commonwealth attacks on the Somme, as the French, desperate to hang on at Verdun but recognising that a diversion had to be created if they were to have any chance at all of doing so, begged the Allies to open another front.

This Journal cannot, and indeed will not try to, tell the whole story of the Regiment's activities in France and Belgium in 1916. What follows is a selection of narratives, first-hand accounts and formal records, which together should offer a vivid picture of what it was like to fight in the Ypres and Somme areas in 1916. The latter part of the Somme battles, and operations at Arras and in the Ypres area in early 1917 will be covered in the Autumn 2016 edition.

### *The story so far:*

Articles in previous issues of this Journal have brought us to the beginning of 1916, and the last offered an overview of the Somme area following a recent visit. It might now be useful to summarise where all our battalions were, and what they were doing, up to June 30th 1916.

### **January 1st – June 30th 1916.**

The 1st battalion remained at Sialkot (India) during the whole of this period. On March 1st the 2nd Battalion were in trenches south of Hebuterne. Between then and June 30th the Battalion marched all around the Somme region, from trench to billets, and back to the trenches many times, until arriving on June 13th at Bertrancourt where they remained until the last day of the month when they moved up into assembly trenches east of La Sucrierie (referred to on page 28 of the last edition) arriving at 11.40 pm preparatory to the attack of July 1st.

The 3rd Battalion (Special Reserve) and the Depot continued to carry out their training and reinforcing duties, the former at North Shields, and the latter at Halifax.

During the whole of the period the 147th Brigade of 49th (West Riding) Division (1/4th, 1/5th, 1/6th and



**This map shows the general area of the Somme front line around Albert and Bapaume. The BEF, supported by Commonwealth troops as they arrived in theatre, remained in the Ypres area from late 1914 to 1918.**

*Somme map and the Ypres map support the articles that follow. These clear and excellent maps are taken from Maj Gen Donald Isles' history of the Service Battalions."*

1/7th DWR) remained in the same general area, their trench line being about Authuille. For a much of the time they were actually out of the trenches, spending their time in working parties, training and resting. A good part of June was spent in preparing for the coming offensive, and on the 30th of the month the Brigade were still concentrated in the area of Authuille, in readiness for July 1st.



The second line Territorial Units of the Regiment (186th Brigade of 62nd (West Riding) Division, namely 2/4th, 2/5th, 2/6th, and 2/7th DWR), were at camp at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain until the second week in June, when they moved to Suffolk. The third line Territorial Units, 3/4th, 3/5th, 3/6th, and 3/7th DWR, (The West Riding Brigade), were at Clipstone Park in Nottinghamshire, where they were training and furnishing drafts. They remained on home service throughout the war.

The 8th Battalion, its fight at Gallipoli over, was based in Egypt, and on June 25th embarked at Alexandria, and disembarked at Marseille on 1st July. By July 30th the Battalion was in its brigade, 52nd in 17th (Northern) Division concentration area at Bois des Tailles.

The 9th Battalion was in action on "the Bluff", in February and March to the east of St Eloi, where it held the position despite the most strenuous opposition (see following article). It was relieved by the 2nd Wellington Battalion (NZ) in May and started its move towards the Somme in June 1916, where it went into trenches near Fricourt, a little east of Albert, on 1st July, moving from their bivouacs at Bois des Tailles.

10 DWR was in and out of trenches for the first half of the year, towards the northern end of the allied line in the area of Amiens, arriving at Croisy, some miles west of Albert, on 30th June.

The 11th (Reserve) Battalion remained at Brockton Camp, Cannock Chase, training recruits and furnishing drafts. On March 10th a new battalion, 12 DWR, was raised at Morton Hall, near Middlesborough. It was disbanded on August 31st, owing to a change in the system of training and sending out of drafts of reinforcements. The 12th (Labour) Battalion was raised on 10th March 1916, and embarked at Southampton for Le Havre on April 1st. It was initially engaged on tasks on the Poperinghe-Bergues railway, and then moved to the Somme, working in the front line.

#### **The Bluff – 9 DWR February/March 1916.**

Taken from an article by F.A.P in the Iron Duke No 10, 1928.

On February 5th 1916, 9 DWR were moved up from behind St Omer to the Ypres Salient again. They occupied a trench sector enclosing St Eloi, looking on to the mound with a crater in its side which formed a much coveted salient into the German lines. The land rose gently from the Allied front line to the Ypres-Dickebusch road and we could see a broad panorama including Wytschaet and the Messine Ridge to the right. Voermezele and its ruined church just behind us, Ypres in the far background, and, on our far left, only a mile or so away, a long, low embankment largely made

of clay thrown up when the Ypres-Commines canal was made.

This was the so called Bluff, a name given because it ended abruptly in a steep slope in front of the German lines, of which it gave an admirable view. It was covered in bushes and trees, many of them firs.

Our first days at St Eloi were uneventful but the presence of a Canadian mining company gave rise to grave apprehensions, by no means allayed by the grisly stories which they told us when we enjoyed their lavish hospitality, of hand to hand encounters with German miners, of the peculiar noises which would foretell the imminent explosion of a mine underneath us, and of the efforts the Germans were always making to seal up our saps<sup>1</sup>.

The German lines were so close that shell fire was almost negligible as a rule. On one occasion two Germans appeared at a listening post only 20 yards from our lines and treated us to several jocular speeches, which everybody was so amazed at that no attempt was made to interrupt. But after we had been in for a week and were expecting our first relief, early one fine afternoon a



**2Lt EAW Wood is buried in Spoilbank CWGC. His headstone is getting rather worn.**



**Hill 60 1915, where 2 DWR received the first gas attack on the BEF and took appalling casualties (see ID No 277, Autumn 2014).**

heavy bombardment began, so far as we were concerned of such a scattered nature that practically no casualties were caused. When, after half an hour it ceased, great glee was caused by the news that General Pilcher<sup>2</sup> and his staff had been caught in the front line in it and had lain as flat as was humanly possible on the trench boards.

Some of us had leisure to observe that the bombardment was heaviest on the Bluff, where great fountains spouting earth and trees seemed to have opened. Later we learned that on the other side of the canal a German attack had been launched and part of the Bluff taken. In front of it a company of the Lancashire Fusiliers had been trapped in the International Trench and destroyed. That night, and every night for a week, we watched sudden bombardments on the Bluff itself, wreathed in white smoke clouds, revealed by orange flashes, while giant tea trays were banged all round. These heralded night attacks, made by various units of our Division, and all we learned unsuccessful, highly

coloured reasons for the failure of which Dame Rumour was always willing to supply.

Shortly after we were at last relieved ..... but after only one day's absence from the trenches orders to relieve the 165th Brigade ... were given out, and the dawn of a miserable February day found us endeavouring to find our positions in somewhat impromptu trenches (the old support trenches) on the Bluff and its neighbourhood.

The days that followed were full of excitement and casualties. The Germans in their newly-captured trenches were full of nerves and "wind". Our own artillery, we thought, was a great deal too prodigal with their 9in shells, which made the most horrible gaps in our defences. Snow fell and one night the German very lights surprised a working party on a dazzling background, and a machine gun accounted for Wood, who was in charge. Of the two months he had spent in France, he had enjoyed it all with boyish ardour.

At last we left the Bluff, but only to sidestep a few hundred yards to the right, in front of one of the most famous spots of the war, Hill 60.

We were relieved by the Northumberland Fusiliers but we had hardly time to settle down in our new trenches before the most unpleasant preparations began to be made. Several 60-pound trench mortars made their appearance and began to register on the German lines. A new and most mysterious invention, afterwards known as the Stokes gun, was installed with great secrecy, and what seemed most wonderful for us, a section of 18-pounder guns was brought up within 100 yards of the front line.

When the Northumberlands and our Brigade headquarters callously vanished, relieved by the 165th Brigade, most uncomfortable feelings beset us all. That night the Brigade Major of the 165th Brigade came round to see that the stage was properly set for the performance for the next day. Some of us will remember the tall figure of Congreve, young in years but already practised and confident in the direction of war. He had that night explored No Man's Land and satisfied himself that the German wire had been cut by the activities of our trench mortars, now used for this purpose, we were told, for the first time.

At half past 3 all the witches in hell began to scream, and for more than half an hour every kind of thing was thrown at the Germans by us, and very little returned. When the din ceased we were left to speculate in quiet, and just as the eastern sky began to lighten we saw against it strings of men crossing No Man's Land on the right. A German counter attack? The 165th repulsed? No, German prisoners in scores. Our attack had been timed for a German trench relief. Into our trenches the grey gentlemen came, escorted by these strutting Gordons .... The greatest curiosity and excitement prevailed amongst us, for was this not the first attack we had seen? Alas, the curiosity was fatal to more than one man, standing on the fire-step, oblivious of the fact that many riflemen still existed in the trenches opposite.

Then the turn of the Germans began. All the well registered batteries in the Salient, it seemed, were turned on the Bluff and its neighbourhood. Trenches dissolved in dust, bomb stores went up in smoke, and forward guns were destroyed. One by one Cunningham's gallant bombers were killed as they manned the bombing post by the ravine. .... So the day wore on, our own shell-fire (as well as the Germans) being so heavy that no counter-attacks proved possible. Then when night fell we heard we were to be relieved. It was, however, many hours before the Borderers of the 51st Brigade came up and a long time before we got clear.

The Lewis gunners of the Battalion, who had perhaps

the hardest time of all, were the last to go, and as they got out of the communication trench behind Battalion headquarters, a shell burst in the middle of them wounding many and one, Wilfred Rhodes, so badly that he could not be brought in, but lay there suffering terribly until he died.

..... And so the Battalion arrived back in camp, after a tour of practically 30 days in front line trenches, ending up with an attack which, though not made by us, caused us 200 casualties. In Haig's next despatch the 9th Battalion was cited as one of a select list of New Army battalions which had proved their worth. We supposed that this was a consolation for having endured a good deal of the beastliness of an attack without the glory of having made it ourselves.

Note <sup>1</sup> "Any trench excavated under defensive musket or artillery fire that was intended to advance a besieging army's position in relation to the works of an attacked fortification was referred to as a sap. Saps of approach were excavated by brigades of trained soldiers, often called sappers, because they dug the saps, or specifically instructed troops of the line."

Note <sup>2</sup> Major-General Thomas David Pilcher commanded the 17th (Northern) Division before being removed from command in disgrace. The 17th was engaged on 1st July 1916, where it supported the capture of Fricourt and lost 1,155 men killed or wounded. Then it was involved in the capture of Contalmaison and Mametz and had taken a total of 4,771 casualties by the time it was relieved on 11 July. Many of these casualties stemmed from an unsuccessful attack on the "Quadrangle Trench Support" on 7 July; the division had captured the main trench system on 5 July and Pilcher ordered it to pause and prepare for a subsequent assault. However, he was over-ruled by higher command, who forced an attack the next night – which failed – followed by a daylight attack on 7 July, which Pilcher strongly protested but eventually acquiesced in. He ordered an attack with the minimal amount of men necessary, assuming it would inevitably be doomed to failure and high casualties, which outraged his superiors. Pilcher later wrote that "It is very easy to sit a few miles in the rear and get credit for allowing men to be killed in an undertaking foredoomed to failure, but the part did not appeal to me and my protests against these useless attacks were not well received. Following the division's withdrawal, Pilcher was promptly sacked by his corps commander, Henry Horne, along with the commander of the neighbouring 38th (Welsh) Division; Horne considered him lacking in "initiative, drive, and readiness", while Haig simply dismissed him as "unequal to the task" of divisional command.

### Into Action with 2 DWR on 1 July 1916 - A Reminiscence of the Somme.

This map may be of assistance with the articles that follow.



*Lieutenant ES Plumb wrote the following letter to Captain HG Griffin, at the time Adjutant of 3 DWR based in North Shields. Mr Plumb was writing from the Royal Free Hospital in London on 10 July 1916, recovering from wounds he received whilst going "over the top" with 2 DWR on 1 July 1916. Mention of this operation was made in the last edition, on page 28. There is some abridgement, mainly of names which add little to the reader's understanding of events. The letter was first published in an Iron Duke of 1935.*

"My dear Griffin,

Many thanks for your letter and enquiries. Pleased to say I am awfully fit except for this silly wound. I had a really lucky escape, as the bullet just missed the jaw and the ear, so I am rather bucked about it, and it's healing awfully well. Hope to be well again soon, and to go out again soon. Had a great time while I was out there, so am looking forward to it again.

You exactly express the situation when you say they saved the dirty work for the Dukes – they did it with a vengeance. We never had a chance to do anything, were simply mown down before we ever got to our own front line. We were told previously by our Brigadier it was going to be a walkover, but the Staff, I'm afraid, made a sad mistake.

You see the Huns had huge subterranean dugouts and passages which no gun could harm, and when our bombardment began they simply took their machine guns and men with them, and then the moment the strafing was over they popped out again and met us as we came over with them, and Gee! They did some

damage with them too. We had the best German troops against us too. As is usual with the regular battalions out there – all the dirty work and no praise.

The men were simply great. To begin with our assembly trenches were at the Sucrerie (top centre of the Somme map, between Beaumont and Serre) about half a mile or more behind our front line. We were supporting the Kings Own (KOYLI), who were about 800 yards in front; on our right the Lancashire Fusiliers were supporting the Essex, all four being in the 12th Brigade. Our front practically extended from Serre to Beaumont Hamel (brigade front of course), and our objective was Pendant Copse, a distance of about 2000 yards.

Our artillery was supposed to have cleared everything in front, and we were expected to get out of our assembly trenches and advance in lines of sections etc etc. C Company was on the left and A Company on the right. B and (other) companies behind. I was Scouting Officer and went ahead of the Battalion with some scouts. Just before going over we heard that the Huns' first and second lines had been taken, so anticipated that everything would go all right.

Well, we went over at 9 o'clock Saturday, the 1st, and had not gone above 100 yards when machine gun bullets began to fly all around us, rather uncomfortably so. However, we pushed on and got right into the open and then we got it. By this time we had advanced right into the enemy's artillery barrage and with shells, shrapnel and a perfect hail of machine gun bullets dripping all around we got an awful bad time.

The sections were all disorganised in crossing our own trenches; meanwhile two leading sections of A Company

had caught me up... no sign of any other sections could be seen. We slid into a trench, a short halt having been seemingly proclaimed. After a bit (we) decided things were becoming so hot (we) decided the one thing was to push on, and so we hopped out of the trench again and went on until we were forced to get down again. I took cover in a shell hole with some men and was working over when several bullets ripped up the ground in front of me and one went through my face, just as a huge clod of earth also hit me and dazed me. After that I know nothing of what happened.

We had not even got as far as our front line trenches. What possessed anybody to make us advance over open ground swept by machine gun fire in broad daylight I don't know, except that they really thought we should have a walk-over. However, on our part of the front the offensive was a ghastly failure. I heard after that the Dukes were withdrawn entirely quite early in the day, so apparently they must have been badly cut up, and all this in merely advancing over our own trenches. I heard a rumour that our CO, Colonel Bray, was wounded, but it is not confirmed.

The 29th Division on our right also had a very bad

time in front of Beaumont-Hamel. The 31st, on our left, got into Serre, but had to retire again, so you see between Serre and Beaumont-Hamel no advance at all was made. I was rather staggered to see in your letter that 18 officers had been knocked out. We went in with 24 officers, of whom it seems 18 were bowled over. I don't think the wounds can be very serious, the Huns were firing very low and wounds were mostly in the foot, leg or arm.

Well I think this is just about all I can tell you, not much I am afraid. Give my love to Elliott and tell him I shall hope to see him out here soon. Meanwhile, Cheer Oh! And many thanks for the letter.

Yours etc .  
E.S.Plumb".

*For someone who was wounded only 9 days earlier, Mr Plumb wrote an extraordinarily cheerful letter, being no doubt extremely relieved to have got off comparatively lightly. His account does not entirely tie in with more official narratives, but given his narrow role and brief, if uncomfortable, time on the field of battle on that fateful day, it is lucid and full.*

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### 1/6th BATTALION DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT WAR DIARY EXTRACTS 1 – 15 JULY 1916.

1st July. AVELUY WOOD, 2am. Battalion arrived at B Group assembly trenches in AVELUY WOOD and in conjunction with other units of 49 Division formed the reserve of the X Corps, which was to assume the offensive on this date. Throughout the night our artillery was very active, and at 6.30 am an intense bombardment opened on enemy defences.

7.30 am Zero hour at which time the assault was begun by the leading divisions, ie 32nd and 36th.

11.30 am Battalion moved to the east side of the ANCRE and occupied the northern half of CRUCIFIX dugouts. The day was spent here. Our artillery was very active all day, but the enemy did not retaliate at this point. A fine day with hot sun.

#### Casualties:

No 1663 Pte Barrett A., D Coy wounded in back and legs.

No 3109 Pte Smith F, D Coy wounded in back (remained on duty)

No. 2131 Pte Green T, D Coy wounded in back (remained on duty).

Editor's note – short casualty lists will be shown as above, to indicate the kind of wounds received; many could be just minor. Long lists will be reduced to statistics.

2nd July. CRUCIFIX DUGOUTS. Most of the day spent here, a few shells fell close to the Battalion but

little damage was done.

9.30 pm. The Battalion moved to BELFAST CITY in THIEPVAL WOOD with the idea that it was to support the 5th WRR who had been ordered to attack the enemy trenches opposite THIEPVAL. These orders were however cancelled. The Battalion had experienced the greatest difficulty in getting into position (2 am) which was caused by meeting numerous parties of troops coming down from the front line. The enemy shelled the wood very heavily and the Battalion was fortunate in suffering so few casualties.

11 am. The Battalion was withdrawn from THIEPVAL WOOD to AVELUY WOOD and occupied assembly trenches.

#### Casualties.

1 officers wounded, 11 ORs wounded, 1 OR killed.

3rd July. THIEPVAL WOOD.

#### Casualties:

12 ORs wounded, 1 OR missing, 1 OR killed.

4th July. AVELUY WOOD TRENCHES JUST SOUTH OF THIEPVAL WOOD.

A quiet day spent in wood. In the afternoon there was a very heavy thunderstorm, and rain fell for about four hours.

8.30 pm. The Battalion left the wood to relieve 8th South Lancs who were holding British Front Line

trenches just south of Thiepval Wood. Trenches were in a very bad state, and had suffered much during recent bombardments. Disposition of Battalion as follows:

HQ at Johnston's Post. A Coy on right, with two platoons in front line and two in support. B Coy in centre, two platoons in front line, two in support, and two platoons of C Coy in the front line. The remaining two platoons of C and the whole of D Coy were in trenches close to Johnston's Post. Enemy were quiet during relief and no casualties were sustained.

#### 5th July. THIEPVAL AVENUE.

The trenches were very very heavily shelled at irregular intervals during the day and night, chiefly with light shrapnel and small HE. Rain fell during the day and trenches very wet. Many dead were buried.

#### Casualties:

1 Officer wounded (shell-shock), 44 ORs wounded (16 shell-shock, 1 gas), 5 ORs killed.

6th July. Trenches were again heavily shelled during the day. Many more dead were buried, and much cleaning up was done.

#### Casualties:

No 3231 Pte Foter A, B Coy wounded in back.

No 1740 Pte Clarke W, C Coy wounded in knee.

No 2514 Pte Benson A, C Coy missing.

Editor's note – in several cases wounded men were also noted as having been buried, but were clearly dug out alive. Some of those noted as "missing" might not have been so lucky.

7th July. In conjunction with other operations the Battalion made a smoke barrage from 7.25 am to 8.50 am. Owing to an unfavourable wind the smoke did not cross no man's land and was blown back over our own trenches. Enemy shelled our front during the time of the barrage and continued to shell throughout the whole of the day at irregular intervals.

9.00 pm. The Battalion extended its frontage to the left at HAMMERHEAD SAP. The Battalion on this day came under the orders of GOC 148th Infantry Brigade. The 147th Infantry Brigade less 6 WRR was withdrawn from the line.

Casualties: 23 ORs wounded, 1 OR killed.

8th July. A quiet day, enemy artillery much less active. Odd shells were fired throughout the day, but little damage was done. The 147th Brigade came back into the line and the Battalion again came under their command. The Battalion diminished its frontage to what it originally held, and its left now rested on BUCHANAN ST.

Casualties: Nil.

9th July. A quite day and much work done. It was fine and trenches began to dry up. Many more dead were buried. The Battalion was relieved by 1/7 WRR and went into Brigade Reserve at the NORTHERN BLUFF.

#### Casualties:

6 ORs wounded, 1 OR killed.

Editor's note. 1/7 WRR is of course 1/7 DWR, but battalions were also known as being of the West Riding Regiment.

#### 10th July. NORTHERN BLUFF.

A fine day and fairly quiet. Enemy put over shrapnel and light HE at intervals throughout the day.

#### Casualties:

No 3371 Pte Thomas H, D Coy wounded in leg.

11th July. Another fine day, a few more shells than on the 10th. Battalion carried rations for the whole Brigade.

#### Casualties:

4 ORs wounded.

12th July. A fairly quiet day. Enemy sent odd shells throughout the day which caused some casualties. The weather was fine but cold for the time of year.

#### Casualties.

7 ORs wounded (one remaining on duty), 1 OR killed.

13th July. A quiet day. Enemy shelled ground west of the ANCRE. Our artillery active at intervals during day and night.

#### Casualties:

No 4166 Pte Tillotson J, D Coy shell-shock

No 2343 Pte Bamforth A, D Coy slightly wounded in hand.

14th July. Our artillery very active from 2am to 3am. Enemy did not retaliate on the BLUFF. Some rain during the morning but fine after 10am.

#### Casualties:

No 2223 Pte Thompson J, B Coy wounded in calf

No 2509 Pte Bower A, B Coy wounded

No 4164 Pte Garlick J, A Coy wounded in head

No 2112 Pte Hartley R, A Coy wounded in head.

15th July. A quiet day except at McMAHON'S POST, which shelled during afternoon.

8.30 pm. The Battalion relieved 1/7 WRR in the right sub-sector. The relief was carried out without any casualties. The night was quiet. Trenches dry and much improved since the Battalion was in six days ago.

Casualties. Nil.

### The 76th Foot at the Battle of Leswarree – 1 November 1803.

*Author's note – it will be appreciated if any reader can source a map of this battle. The illustrations used are not specific to this battle, but of the Mahratta Wars generally.*

Over the last few issues of this Journal we have heard a great deal about the fighting prowess in WW1 of 2 DWR, from Mons to (as is noted in this issue) the Somme 1916, and there will be more to come in due course.

Our second Battalion was, of course, the successor of the 76th Regiment, which formed with the 33rd to create The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) in 1881. The 76th was a fine Regiment with a distinguished record, initially gained in India and subsequently in the peninsular campaigns under Wellington. It was raised specifically for service in India, and took the field during the governorship of the (to be) 1st Duke of Wellington's elder brother, Lord Mornington, who succeeded Lord Cornwallis. India was still a trade monopoly of the East India Company, although by 1800 political control had largely passed to the British Government, exercised through its appointed Governor. The native parts (the vast majority) of the army in India were raised and recruited by the Company.

The following description of its conduct in the battle of Leswarree, 1st November 1803, is largely taken from two sources: from an article from the Iron Duke of 1925,

written by R. Maurice Hill, and with material drawn from the "Record of the 76th (Hindoostan) Regiment, 1787 – 1881" by Lt Col FA Hayden DSO. These sources show only too clearly that courage, daring, endurance and discipline in the face of the enemy were by no means new characteristics in 1914. It was how the Regiment had always gone about its business.

Leswarree was one of the most stubbornly contested, bloody and decisive battles ever fought by British troops in India. It was one of a series of campaigns necessary to subdue various Indian leaders and rulers who, unsurprisingly, felt the yoke of British dominion heavy on their necks. By the time the 76th got to Leswarree, where they were the only British infantry, they were veterans of a number of actions in the second Mahratta War, including Bangalore, Seringapatam, Oudh, Ally Ghur, Delhi and Agra, and several other minor engagements.

Leswarree was fought against the Mahrattas who were a hardy race, "inured to danger and hardship from early youth". They were able to boast of recent victories over the Rohillas and the armies of the Great Mogul, and were trained and disciplined after the European fashion by exiled French officers. Under its commander, Surwar



**Mahratta Horseman**

Khan, an army of 9000 infantry, 5000 cavalry and 74 guns had been assembled. Against this formidable force, General Lake led 4500 men, namely the 76th, seven battalions of Native Infantry, the 8th, 27th and 29th Light Dragoons, five regiments of Native Cavalry and some artillery which travelled with the infantry and so took no part in the early stages of the battle.



**General Wellesley leads the 1st/12th Madras Native Infantry into action at the Battle of Assaye, some two months before Leswarree.**

It is worth noting that the 76th had been engaged only six weeks or so previously in the battle of Delhi, at which it suffered 35 killed and 98 wounded. The 76th's Record notes with some glee that 3000 enemy had been killed, 58 guns captured and 37 tumbrils of ammunition and two tumbrils of treasure were driven off in triumph after that action. It was a somewhat mauled battalion that left Agra on 27 October 1803, to march 65 miles in 48 hours in extreme heat, and then, with only one hours rest, went into a four hour action.

General Lake, a daring leader, was concerned that the Mahratta force might break off without engagement, and vanish into the hills with which they were only too familiar. Consequently he decided on a cavalry charge, himself at the head of the Light Dragoons. The enemy was well placed, with guns concealed in long grass, chained together so that they could not be overrun and dragged away by cavalry charging through, and with many concealed obstacles to bring down riders. The Mahratta infantry, in a rare display of disciplined fire control, held their fire until the charging dragoons were twenty paces away, and then delivered a devastating volley. Despite their mounting casualties the cavalry charged and charged again, penetrating the enemy in several places and capturing a number of guns which, as noted, they could not take away as they were chained together and there were in any case no bullocks to drag them.

At last the infantry arrived on the scene. Surwah Khan won a little time by proposing a conditional surrender,

which he used to adjust his deployment. After the agreed hour for further communication nothing further was heard from him, so Lake ordered the advance, attempting to turn the enemy's right flank, which was the object of the 76th, who were the foremost British troops. They had a mile to cover. They were charged by Mahratta cavalry, repulsed these attacks, and were under heavy artillery fire from a flank. Despite these disadvantages, the 76th, with General Lake at its head and supported by the 29th Light Dragoons and some Native Infantry units, maintained their advance, meeting fierce resistance which was eventually overcome. In the desperate hand to hand *melee* which ensued the Battalion's casualties were six officers and over 200 rank and file killed or wounded. The enemy "lost all their supplies, camp equipment, baggage and transport animals, besides 72 guns with their ammunition and three tumbrils of treasure"; with as many as 6000 killed. (A "tumbrel of treasure" sounds a splendid thing, well worth a battle!). Their commander, a French officer, got away by getting off his elephant and transferring to a horse.

The good General Lake wrote fulsomely of the conduct of the Regiment in his despatches. He wrote of "this handful of heroes" and "this gallant body", and "it would be a violation of my feelings were I to close my despatch without bearing testimony to the gallant conduct of .... His Majesty's 76th Regiment, and of every officer and soldier of that inestimable corps, in the attack on the village of Leswarree". It would be fair to record that all who took part, not least the commander himself, were deserving of the highest acclaim.

In his "History of the British Army" Fortescue, writing of General Lake, says "His most famous battalion, the 76th Foot, which should at least bear Lake's crest on its colours, has now under a new organisation become associated with the still greater name of Wellington. None the less, it should always be remembered as the Fighting Battalion of one of Britain's greatest fighting generals"\*.

The 76th Record concludes its description of this affair with the words "In the campaign of 1803 a gong was obtained which is set up in front of the Guardroom; and it is still in the possession of the Regiment". Indeed it was, and for many more years to the writer's recollection. Where is it now? Let us hope it is still in front of a Yorkshire Regiment guardroom.

*\*Editor's note: Gerard Lake was commissioned into the Foot Guards in 1758. In a long and distinguished military career he took part in campaigns in America (War of Independence), Flanders (French Revolutionary wars), Ireland (1798 rebellion), and India, where he was appointed Commander in Chief in 1801. Whenever he could he led, quite literally, from the front. On his return from India he was created Viscount Lake of Delhi, Laswary (one of several spellings of Leswarree) and of Aston Clinton in the County of Buckinghamshire.*



## A National Serviceman 1952 to 1954; Part 2 – Gibraltar and Afterwards.

By 22659585 Private Jack Collins; Witton-le-Wear, Co. Durham.

*Editor's Note. In the last ID Jack described his call up for National Service and his time in Korea with 1 DWR, in the Machine Gun Platoon. He now tells of his departure from Korea, demob and continuing association with Korean Veterans.*

It had been decided to move the Regiment to Gibraltar and we duly embarked from Pusan on-board MS Fowey to sail to Gibraltar. Cabins and bunks this time as opposed to hammocks on the way out. The ship called in at Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, Aden and once more through the Suez Canal before arriving in Gibraltar early December. Incidentally, the shore leave at Hong Kong was enjoyed with gusto after spending many months in Korea. Naturally, the pleasant warm weather in Gibraltar was most welcome after winter in Korea.



**Jack and his wife Clare**

This was the first time an infantry regiment had been based on Gibraltar for a very long time, something the resident Royal Engineers and Royal Naval personnel did not appreciate. Especially as we took full advantage of the limited number of bars and other establishments, having come direct from Korea. The battalion now settled down to discipline and training and those of us who's 'knees were brown' were able to show the new recruits how things should be done. This particularly applied to dismantling a Vickers Machine Gun and re-assembling it at speed.

During my time on Gibraltar I was fortunate enough to spend a few days with the Royal Navy on-board an Anti-Submarine frigate charging up and down the Mediterranean on exercise at high speed. My attempt on the tiller was very short lived as the ship zig zagged through the water, a situation not appreciated by the Captain. It is surprisingly difficult to keep a ship in a straight line at a high rate of knots. I was told these frigates were capable of up to 40 knots!

Our intake in 1952 was 5204 and I was now coming to the end of my National Service and looking forward to demob. Most of the servicemen going home flew with the RAF but our batch embarked on-board HMS Maidstone, which was a submarine depot ship. The Mediterranean Fleet were sailing for their home port of Portland and on the way an exercise was carried out to simulate a nuclear attack. This involved shutting down all the systems on the ship including the engines. This was in the infamous Bay of Biscay and the Bay lived up to its reputation with very heavy seas. HMS Maidstone is, apparently, a round bottomed boat with large storage tanks for fuelling submarines and other ships. As a consequence the ship was rolling and pitching in a very unpleasant manner. Most of the army personnel were seasick and even some of the sailors succumbed.

Those of us who were not seasick enjoyed as much of the really good food as we could eat. We eventually arrived at Portland Harbour in the early hours of the morning and were surprised to be marched into an arrivals hall and confronted by a Customs and Excise team. I don't think most of us had enough money to have bought anything worth declaring. We were then transferred by lorry, courtesy of the RASC, to Bovington Camp, Dorset, for an overnight stay before our journey by train to Halifax. This was via London Paddington and King's Cross stations for the journey north. This was interesting to say the least, a group of demob happy soldiers negotiating the Underground across London and all travelling on one Travel Warrant. However, we all eventually arrived safely at Halifax and were met on the platform by an officer of the Pay Corps, given our pay, sent on demob leave and ordered to report to Wellesley Barracks on the 17th April 1954. We duly reported on the 17th April, were demobbed without incident and I



**From left, Peter Waddington from Warrington, Necati Kodal, a Turkish veteran, and Jack.**



Gibraltar 1954. 1 DWR march past the Queen carrying the Colours of the 2nd Battalion



Gibraltar 1954. The Queen invests Lieutenant Colonel F R St P Bunbury with the bar to his DSO

arrived home in Bradford, only 8 miles away, a few days later. Several of our intake lived in Halifax and their mothers did a wonderful job providing B & B as we celebrated our new found freedom.

Still only 20 years old, travelled the world and seen action in the Korean War. National Service wasn't that bad after all!

In November 2004 I was fortunate enough to be invited to Gibraltar with my wife Clare to celebrate 300 years of British rule. All military personnel who were serving on the Rock during the 250th anniversary year (1954) were invited as guests of the Gibraltar Government. The hospitality can only be described as superb. We were wined and dined "right royally" and taken everywhere by mini-bus. The only price we had to pay was to take part in a march down the main street to the barracks where we were billeted, incidentally now a shopping centre.

At this time I was a member of the British Korean Veterans Association, attending the Durham Branch and through this organisation my wife and I were able to visit Korea in September 2010 as guests of the South Korean Government to commemorate 60 years of the end of the war. This was a truly memorable visit. Again we were treated marvellously; the hospitality and entertainment had to be seen to be believed. It was interesting to note that each coach that we were travelling on had a trained

medic on board. No doubt the powers that be realised that we were all well into our seventies and were taking no chances. The visit to the 38th parallel was very interesting, the last time I saw that was in June 1953 and that time I had a bird's eye view!

We were taken to Pusan by high speed train to visit the United Nations War Cemetery. It was very sad to see all those headstones, row upon row of young men. I was able to see the headstones and pay my respects to two of my fellow National Servicemen who didn't return, Private Jock Hawthorn and Private Peter Mason.

During this visit to Pusan, by a remarkable coincidence, I met the officer who was in charge of the Turkish section to which our Machine Gun section had been attached. His name was Necati Kodak. He was a regular soldier and I cannot remember what rank he held. Although he was much older than me, he did remember having 8 English soldiers with their machine guns being attached to his section and we had a long conversation with the help his young translator, who I think was a relative, and had an excellent command of English.

Finally, I met Private Bill Hawke on the 17th April 1952 and we have been friends ever since. Bill lives in South Yorkshire and we are still in contact and exchange visits from time to time. I find it hard to believe that in April of this year it was 63 years since I joined the Regiment.

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### The interesting case of Private McGuire – Crimea 1854

By Major General Evelyn Webb-Carter

I was most interested to read in the last Iron Duke a short account of the incident of Private McGuire accompanying the illustration on the back cover. I am very familiar with this picture as the print hung in our home before my father died. In his will he left all his 33rd and 76th prints to the Regiment and it was always nice for me to see them in the Officers Mess whenever I visited.

However both my brother and I were allowed to keep a picture from the collection. I chose the other print of this scene as illustrated above. My father never really approved of the picture as the uniform was incorrect in almost every detail but for me it was a wonderfully vivid scene down to the pool of blood which as a bloodthirsty boy I appreciated.

There is perhaps more to the story than your editor could squeeze into his interesting article. Although Private McGuire did not receive the Victoria Cross for reasons already stated he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the French Medaille Militaire and these medals are still in private hands.

Patrick McGuire was born in Manchester in 1837 and

was probably employed in the spinning mills as a piecer. No doubt this was dull stuff so he enlisted in the 2nd Foot (now part of the PWRR) in Nov 1853. In Feb 1854 he was transferred to the 33rd Foot probably because the Battalion had to be increased in size for war. In due course he would have landed in the Crimea in Sept 1854. The exact date of his exploit is not known but it certainly is not 5th November as my print shows because a letter written by Colonel Gough-Calthorpe on October 23rd 1854 describes the story. As described McGuire was taken prisoner by a Russian picquet but he seized an opportunity to grab his musket and shoot one Russian and club the other. He was awarded gratuity of £5 (about £570 in today's money) by Lord Raglan. McGuire was recommended for the VC but was rejected for reasons given in the last ID. This today seems a rather puritan view of war and it was indeed bad luck that his name was withdrawn from the list of recipients. However he was one of the first to receive the DCM instituted in Dec 1854. In those days the DCM came with a gratuity of £5, so he made over £1000 for his escapade.

McGuire survived the War despite being wounded in



**Picture of the McGuire incident in the author's possession. This picture shows McGuire dealing with the second of his two guards, as the illustration in the last ID showed him dealing with the first. He appears to have changed his jacket between the two and there are interesting differences in his uniform, and as General Webb-Carter says, his Father did not like the picture for its lack of correct detail.**

the shoulder. This eventually led to his medical discharge in Nov 1861 at the astonishing young age of 25 whereupon he returned to Manchester. Sadly he lived for less than a year. So ends the interesting story of Pte McGuire and the

picture which hangs in my dressing room.

Author's note: I am grateful to the research done by RJ Wilkinson-Latham many years ago and published in the Iron Duke No 153 of August 1970.

### **Lieutenant Colonel George Lloyd CB, DSO.**

By Major General Evelyn Webb-Carter

In the last edition of the ID mention was made of a monument to the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Lt Col GE Lloyd who was killed in action in South Africa on 29th November 1900. A friend of James Charlesworth came across it whilst on holiday and sent in the snap. How was it that a Commanding Officer was killed in a comparatively minor action? Who was George Lloyd and was his death an 'H' Jones moment or something a great deal simpler?

George Lloyd was commissioned into the 70th Foot (2nd East Surreys) in 1876 but almost immediately transferred to the 51st Foot (KOYLI) and saw active service the next year on the North West Frontier and the following year he was involved in the 2nd Afghan War. In 1884 he was in Egypt on the Gordon Relief Expedition being mentioned in despatches and then he transferred to the South Staffordshires. This involved further operations in the Sudan for which he was

awarded the DSO and mentioned more in despatches once more.

In 1896 he assumed command of the 1st Battalion of the Dukes in Malta but further operations evaded him as the battalion returned to England taking up garrison duties at Dover. At this stage he was clearly well thought of as a promising Commanding Officer aged about 40 with a DSO; perhaps he was more an ambitious officer rather than "regimental" waiting his time in his regiment of adoption. However in December 1899 the battalion received orders to embark for South Africa and embark they did on the SS Orient. They arrived in time to take part in the siege of Kimberley and the shortly after they took part in the Battle of Paardeburg where Cronje was outfoxed and was forced to surrender. A few years ago I visited the battlefield and I remember seeing an enclosed Duke's Cemetery. During this battle Colonel Lloyd acted with great courage and coolness he

.. "bore a charmed life his 6ft 2 ins or more made him a good target but he continually walked about calmly in the open throughout and was not hit".

The battalion was not actively involved in operations until November of 1900 when the column in which the Dukes were, was engaged at Rhenoster Kop in NE Transvaal by Boer commander General Ben Viljoen. The Boers were defending a kopje with 1,000 men and Major General Paget's Division consisting of British and New Zealand troops attacked the feature. The leading infantry companies of Royal Munster Fusiliers and Dukes were placed under Lloyd's command. Remember that in those days a company was only of about 50 men and battalions consisted of 8 companies. They were required to attack the Boer force over open and sparsely vegetated ground and what happened next is open to considerable speculation as several accounts differ.

One version written by Captain Acworth commanding one of the lead companies states: "Colonel Lloyd led one of the companies to the top of a ridge but it was impossible to advance. After an hour's fighting with the line at a standstill Lloyd moved forward ten paces to obtain a better view but was shot dead." Captain Acworth had previously received a note from the CO and in the Iron Duke of February 1933 there is a photo

of the original note which was then framed and hung in the Officers' Mess. Does it still I wonder?

Another eye witness, Major Marshall, the Battalion second in command describes a slightly different version: "he went over to examine Lieutenant Exham's position, over 300 yards away and walked across with the Adjutant. About 9.15 am the Adjutant returned alone reporting that the Colonel Lloyd was dead. He reported that the Colonel stood up in front of the line with his binoculars when he was shot and killed on the spot.... He was hit by two bullets, one a clean Mauser wound and the other must have been an explosive bullet which traversed his abdomen... death must have been instantaneous". This account is more detailed but varies in some detail but basically the same in that Lloyd moved forward and then stood to observe; a risky business against the Boer.

Interestingly the Boer General also leaves an account which is altogether more flattering: "their first rank went down like a swathe of grass. But others pressed forward, the Colonel leading. We fired again, the Colonel reeled and fell forward shot through the leg but almost instantly he was up again, the wounded leg hanging horribly limp....."

Two monuments were erected by the Regiment at Rhenoster Kop, one was to the memory of Colonel Lloyd and the other to the eight members of the battalion also killed in action that day. In 1904 a War Memorial was unveiled in York Minster and Colonel Lloyd is at the top of those named. In 1963 the graves and the monument to Lloyd at Rhenoster were re-interred in Diamond Hill Military Cemetery, near Pretoria and it was here that James Charlesworth's friend spotted the grave. The accounts of the action differ in detail but the circumstances sound remarkably similar to Goose Green: an attacking force pinned down which could only be resolved by very direct leadership. In both cases the action was successful although in South Africa the Boers slipped away to fight another day leaving 85 British and New Zealand dead.

#### Notes:

1. This article was composed from other articles to the Iron Duke: ID of Feb 1933 and of autumn 1993 and I am indebted to the anonymous authors. I am also grateful for the research carried out by Scott Flaving our excellent archivist.
2. In Bruce's History of the Regiment 1881 to 1923 Lloyd is mentioned as follows: *Colonel Lloyd's death was a great loss to the Regiment. His one thought was the efficiency of the battalion and the welfare and happiness of everybody belonging to it. He won the admiration and even the affection of every officer, non-commissioned officer and private, and will never be forgotten by those who served under him. He never spared himself. The very same could be said about 'H' Jones.*

From	Colonel Lloyd	To	Captain Acworth
Place		Place	Rhenoster
Time	8 am	Date	29/11/00

Please hold the enemy for the present as you are now doing. I am going round the right to try and turn the enemy left flank. Major Marshall remains just behind you with the support companies.

W. Marshall  
 Recd. Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### A BIT OF A PORKER?

By Brigadier Andrew Meek

When the request was made for memories of the Colonel-in-Chief there was also mention that recollections of mouse racing and baby whales served for dinner should be avoided at all costs. But that got me thinking – they were not baby whales, they were trout! However further delving into the depths of a fast fading memory recalled that the event that had attracted these undesirable happenings was in fact centred around the acquisition by the Officers Mess of a particular piece of property belonging to the Colonel-in-Chief. To those who were not there at the time or who might have forgotten, let me explain.

During the late 70's the Battalion enjoyed the delights of West Germany and in particular the small provincial town of Minden famous for the River Weser and Melitta coffee papers but the latter is another story entirely. Life was a merry-go-round of FTX's and Op BANNER tours and thus a request from the Duke of Wellington to collect and hold on his behalf a certain item of sporting significance came as something of a much needed distraction. The item in question had been shot by the great man himself on the estate of Prince Ysenburg von Ysenburg which was some way to the South of Minden, not far from Frankfurt if I remember correctly. The item was in fact a boar and the head of said beast had been mounted and was ready for public display. Without further ado the junior subaltern (whose name is being withheld to save any embarrassment) was dispatched to collect the trophy and return it to the Mess for hanging and safe keeping. His departure in a Fiat 500 marked the beginning of what became something of a saga.

On arrival at the main entrance of the Prince's residence the officer was told in no uncertain terms that the tradesmen entrance was at the rear and that the trophy was awaiting him there. Up until this point none of us had any idea as to the actual size of a boar's head and had not been briefed that it would be suitably packaged for a long journey. Suffice to say that the crate was of such a size that there was absolutely no way that it would fit in to the rear of a family estate let alone that of a Fiat 500. Thus it was that the return journey was made with the crate on the roof of the car secured by means of ropes looped through the open windows, the lack of any form of roof rack being conveniently overlooked. After a distinctly cold and slow return journey the junior subaltern arrived at the mess to much curiosity and hilarity. The Pioneer Sergeant was summoned to assist with opening the crate and hanging the boar.

It was only when the beast was revealed 'in the flesh' for the first time that his full size became apparent: he was huge, a genuine trophy of major proportions so much so that you will accuse me of exaggerating when I say that he was some 3 foot high and measured at least 2

½ foot from snout to collar, mounted on a suitably large plaque with all the details of the 'prize' and his demise in smart Germanic script. And you should have seen his tusks! It was decided that this magnificent example of wild life at its best should have pride of place in the Mess and where better than above the dining room door, greeting everyone as they headed towards a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs. The other advantage of this situation for the boar was that it was about the first item to be seen on entering the Mess and would thus signify the delight we all felt at being asked to look after it by our Colonel-in-Chief.

His annual visit to the Battalion arrived with added excitement as the last time he had seen his prize it had been curling up its trotters in the depths of a mighty 'forst'. Thus the Commanding Officer said that the dinner night was to be one to remember for the Duke and Duchess, and this was achieved although as it turned out not quite for the reasons intended. The boar was inspected and admired at the start of the evening as well as on the way in to dinner which has gone down into the annals of Regimental history thanks to the trout as well as the dessert (non) poached pears. What was not known to those towards the centre of the table during the dinner was that the officers at the kitchen end were seeking a new excitement to replace that rather tried and tested challenge of an officer travelling under the table from one end to the other. Thus improving the boar's appearance seemed an excellent idea!

Quite why the addition of a Mark V respirator and an orange should improve the beast's image escapes me to this day but it was certainly a sight to see. I will pass quickly over the reaction, on leaving the dining room, of the Colonel-in-Chief, the Duchess and the Commanding Officer but thank goodness some games had been organised because these rapidly replaced any discussion of the correct way to decorate a boar's head! So ended part one of the Saga of the Boar.

A few weeks after the Colonel-in-Chief's visit the Mess hosted another dinner night this time for a group of senior American officers from the US V (Roman) Corps, a group that included the Corps commander Lieutenant General Sidney Berry. The Commanding Officer directed that this time the boar was to be treated with due care and respect and made it quite plain that no embellishment to its appearance would be tolerated. Thus a new game was needed for the post dinner 'entertainment' and inspiration quickly came from the title of the formation of our visitors – Ben Hur style chariot racing! The NAAFI was raided for the chariots (supermarket trolleys) and the scene was set for some memorable fun although quite what our guests made of the ensuing pandemonium I cannot recall. What I do remember though with dreadful

clarity is the thundering impact of one particular chariot against the dining room door frame and the even more thundering impact of the boar's head on the floor. How anyone was not fatally injured by the rapid descent of some 4 stone of dead weight I have no idea but there was relief at the realisation that the only damage was four very badly broken tusks.

As anyone who has been adjutant knows, part of the role is to expect the unexpected and this was certainly the case for me the day following the chariot racing as I was fully prepared for a major dressing down on the appalling behaviour of the officers when hosting such a senior group of allies. Instead the very firm instruction I received from the CO was that I was to ensure that the boar was put back to being as good as new and that this was to be done without further ado. Furthermore following repairs, the beast was to be re-crated and stored until the Battalion returned to the UK when said item could be despatched to Stratfield Saye. Now I could recognise a career limiting moment when I saw one and this was it. But how to get a boar's tusks fixed 'as good as new'? It was then that inspiration struck. For some now forgotten reason the major running the dental centre owed me a favour and this was clearly the moment to call it in.

*'Robert, do you mend dentures?'*

*'Well of course' came the answer 'what do you think a dental centre's for?'*

*'Excellent' I say 'The patient will be with you shortly but there is no real rush as, the repairs don't need to be done before the autumn.'*

*'Repairs? Ah that should be very straightforward'*

*'I have every confidence you'll manage it without any problem - good luck.'*

It did not take long for the expected 'phone call. 'Are you having me on or what?'

*'Robert, you always said that you welcomed a challenge and now you have one - you have no idea just how important it is for me to have the animal fixed and fixed properly. And you're the only chap I know who can do this.'*

And so it came to pass that a couple of months later I got the call to say the boar was looking as good as ever with sparkly new tusks and was ready for collection. Without delay a work party, under Cpl George Hayton, was despatched to hand over a couple of bottles of rather good malt for a job extremely well done and to retrieve the animal, put it back in its crate and store it in the Mess cellar for the duration of the upcoming Op BANNER tour. So ended part two of the Saga of the Boar.

On our return from West Belfast as memories of the Ballymurphy Gun Team were starting to fade I got a call from George Hayton. 'Sir, you'd better come to the Mess quickly - it's that pig. You need to see now sir' I sauntered across at coffee time to find a very agitated

Cpl H who quickly ushering me down to the cellar where I found the crate open for inspection. 'It's alive sir!' Sure enough there was life in the beast, maggots and thousands of them. They had obviously had a happy time in our absence as half the boar's face was now missing with the result that he displayed a distinctly rictus grin. Now this was a challenge: fixing teeth was one thing but reforming a partly rotted trophy was of another order altogether and was certainly beyond the dental centre let alone the local medics.

It was then I had another brain wave: the Services Liaison Officer was appointed to assist with all matters relating to Anglo German relations and I needed a local taxidermist. Time for another 'phone call: 'Roy' for this was his name 'I need you help in the form of an excellent local taxidermist.' I will spare you the details of the 'phone call as well as the scene of me being on bended knee (literally) in the SLO's office pleading for his assistance other than to say that a few days later the name and address of an expert in Hannover was supplied. The same Mess work party as before was despatched in the duty Land Rover along with the boar. With the arms plot move to Catterick looming time was not on our side but as luck would have it the names on the plaque seemed to mean something to the taxidermist who dutifully cracked on with the required work and a brand spanking looking pig returned to the Mess a few weeks later, indeed he had done such a good job I half wondered whether it was the original! But this was not the time to raise such a question instead a large bill had to be paid (thanks to Mess Guests) and the trophy re-packed ready for the journey back to the UK and onwards to Hampshire. Thus part three of the Saga of the Boar ended with it disappearing into a container along with all the other Mess furniture and me heaving a sigh of relief at the thought that I would never see it again as I was to be posted elsewhere.

In fact there was a fourth part to the Saga which occurred some 8 years later when I was asked to lunch at Stratfield Saye by the Colonel-in-Chief. We were greeted on arrival by the Duke and Duchess and given a quick tour of the house. The first port of call was a room filled with various Regimental items but in pride of place and dominating the whole of the room was my old friend the boar. 'I thought that this would be the best place for him' said the Duke 'given that the Battalion looked after him for so long and so well.' I did not have the nerve to explain the whole history of his prized trophy during its sojourn with the 1st Battalion and instead replied somewhat timidly 'Sir it was marvellous to be able to look after it for you and I know that many of us have happy memories of his stay in the Officers Mess.' It could have been a complete figment of my imagination but I am certain that the old porker gave me a quick wink as I left the room!

# BOOK REVIEW

## WHERE MY HEART USED TO BEAT

by Sebastian Faulks

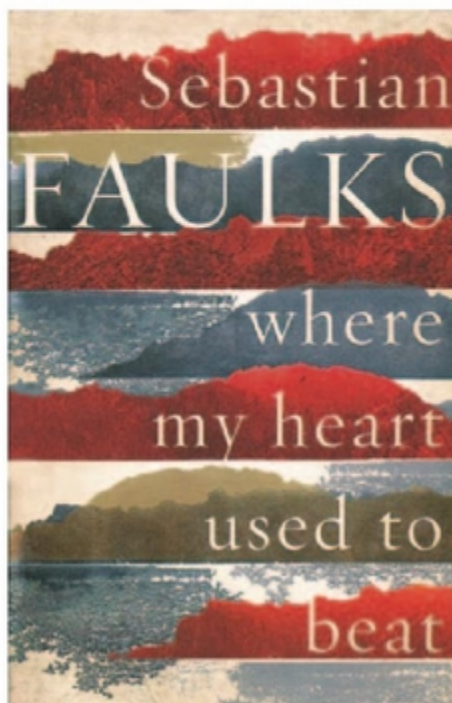
Softback @£8

I had been wanting to meet Sebastian Faulks for quite a few years as I knew he was the son of Peter Faulks, one of my Pa's company commanders in North Africa and Italy. I saw him at preview of War Horse in the West End some years ago and made towards him but he disappeared. So it was with some delight I was introduced to him at a book launch at the Belgian Ambassador's residence last year.

We agreed to meet and eventually we had lunch in my club and we had a most interesting hour and a half. He had some clear memories of his father telling him about the war and he said he had used some of these in his recent novel "Where My Heart Used to Beat". He was familiar with the expression my father used for his company commanders, "The Barons" and he knew all about the 1943-45 Officers Dinner Club. This Dinner Club was started by my father because after the War The Dukes Officers Dinner Club would not accept wartime commissioned officers so he started a separate dinner club as most of the 1st Bn officers in those days were such. This club only came to an end when Fred Huskisson died in 2004. As Sebastian left he gave me a copy of the book. In the fly leaf after his personal note to me he had put "Heroum Fili" which all Old Wellingtonians would know means 'sons of heroes'. Sebastian is also an Old Wellingtonian too but the phrase was very apposite in this case.

I read the book with great interest because there are some obvious references to his father's experiences and maybe, just maybe I could recognise some of the characters which were so familiar to me from my Pa's stories. The story follows several varied themes and is psychological story and dwells on the effects of war. Any Duke who wants a good read which has a genesis with the Regiment should buy a copy.

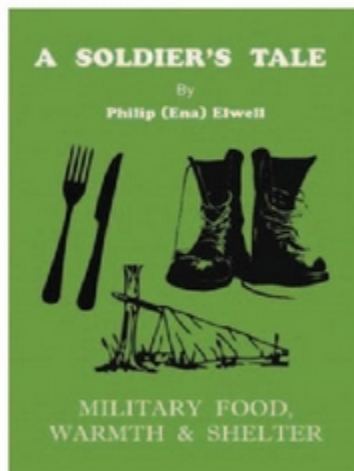
EW-C.



## A SOLDIER'S TALE – by Philip (Ena) Elwell

Readers will remember that Ena wrote "A Duke's Tale" (see ID Spring 2015) and this is a follow up.

A review of the book will appear when available, but meantime those who cannot wait can contact the author at philipelwell@yahoo.co.uk, 01904 668233 or 07787 703070.





# 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:** Last Friday of each month at Keighley Drill Hall, Drill Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 3DN from 1900 hours, meetings start at 2000 hours. *Secretary:* Dave Connor 07528 672114.

**London:** Joint meetings 16 April 2016, Union Jack Club, Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, Thursday, 10 November 2016 and Whitehall Cenotath

Parade Sunday, 12 November. Chairman and Hon Secretary Brigadier John Greenway CBE, 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:** Meetings are now held at the RAFA Club in Skipton as the White Rose Club has closed. Meetings are held Saturdays at 1300 hours, as required. Contact Gordon Bell gordon.bell6@talk21.com.

**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.

## Change of Address

Len and Ann Hepworth, 128D Woodsend Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 5RX, 0161 917 6359.

## Officers' Lunch at Wellington College. 30 April 2016

The annual officers' lunch was held on 30 April 2016 in the splendid setting of Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire. 50 officers with wives and family members attended, and the guests included His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Lady Jane Wellesley, Giles Orpen-Smellie, Chairman of the Old Wellingtonians' Association, and members of staff who helped with the organisation of

the day. There was no doubting the welcome received; with "open arms" sums it up.

At lunch The Duke spoke of his family's connection with the Regiment, and told of the great pleasure his late Father had had in being Colonel, and visiting the 1st Battalion on many occasions. During lunch the (Head) Master, Mr Julian Thomas, welcomed us, and



At lunch in the Wellington Room

**On a conducted tour  
of the main buildings**



**the school, Corps of Drums, with DWR cap-badges  
and other accoutrements**



**His Grace the Duke of Wellington addresses the  
company**

emphasised the value that the school placed on the relationship between the Association and the school.

Wellington is a very successful, independent, co-educational school with over 1000 pupils. The school was granted a Royal Charter in 1853, and had the active support of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, as well as leading figures of the day, including the Prime Minister, Lord Edward Stanley. The first pupils (76 boys, of whom 49 were Army orphans) arrived on 20 January 1859, and the official opening ceremony was performed by Queen Victoria a week later.

Officers and Guests.

Guests - The Duke of Wellington, Lady Jane Wellesley, Ian and Allison Frayne, Sam Gutteridge, Mark Lewin, Kylie and Chris Mitchell, Giles and Camilla Orpen-Smellie, Hannah Woods.

Officers and their spouses and guests – General Sir Charles Huxtable and Lady Huxtable, Major General Sir

Evelyn Webb-Carter and The Hon Lady Webb-Carter, Brigadier Andrew and Mrs Sandy Meek, Brigadier John and Mrs Judith Greenway, Brigadier Michael and Mrs Anne Bray, Brigadier David and Mrs Jo Santa-Olalla, Brigadier Johnny and Mrs Susie Walker, Colonel Charles and Mrs Jo Cumberlege, Colonel Peter Mitchell, Colonel Alistair and Mrs Carolyn Roberts, Colonel Simon Newton, Colonel Wilf Charlesworth, Lt Colonel Tim and Mrs Sheenagh Nicholson, Lt Colonel Peter and Mrs Annie Andrews, Lt Colonel Nick and Mrs Margo Newell, Major Mac and Mrs Bidy Dowdy, Major Peter Hoppe, Major David Harrap, Major Bob and Mrs Linda Heron, Major Don and Mrs Jilly Palmer, Major Robin and Mrs Jill Newell, Major David Pugh, Captain Simon and Mr Harry Morgan, Captain Simon and Mrs Suzy Dixon, Captain Peter Lee, Mr Robin Pugh, Mr Brian and Mrs Liz Landers, Mrs Dorothy Walker, Mrs Gel Westcob, Mrs Anne Pettigrew.

# Obituaries

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

## NOTIFICATION OF RECENT DEATHS

### Michael (Mick) Reddy

Former WO2 Mick Reddy died on 17th October 2015, at the age of 80.

Mick joined the army in October 1952 and went on to serve with the 1st Battalion of the Dukes in; Gibraltar (1953-55), Cyprus (1957), Kenya (twice, 1960 and 1961), Germany (Osnabruck, 1964-67), Hong Kong (1968-70), Northern Ireland (1972) and various UK postings. Mick was discharged from the army in May 1976.

### Howard Mann

Former Sergeant Howard Mann died on 1st November 2015, at the age of 72.

Howard joined the Dukes in 1963 and completed a full 22 years service. Most of his service was with the MT Platoon and his final appointment in the 1st Battalion was MT Platoon Sergeant. He was also a member of the Battalion's Bisley shooting team in the late 1970/80s.

His final appointment was with the King's Division Recruiting team, Strensall, before his discharge in 1985.

### Patrick Cornelius O'Keefe

Pat O'Keefe, who was a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion (Mortar Platoon, S Company) in Korea and Gibraltar 1952 -54, died on 13th January 2016, at the age of 82.

### Walter Thomas Johnson

Walter Johnson, who was a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion (B Company) in Korea 1952-53, died on 25th July 2015. His widow, Jacoba, passed away 3 months later.

### Joe Straw

Joe Straw, a member of 10 Platoon, B Company, in Korea 1952-53, died on 18th February 2016, at the age of 81.

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## The deaths of the following ex Dukes have also been notified:

### John A Toplis BEM.

Former WO2, died suddenly in late 2015.

### Gordon Harvey.

Former Sergeant, died 31 October 2015.

### Dave Withers.

Died 24 December 2015.

### Alan Tinnion.

Died 2015

### Brian Lingard.

Died 2015.

### Kevin Deakin.

Died 7th March 2016

### Lt RJM Birch



Lt Dick Birch, who held a three-year Commission in the 1st Battalion 1955-58, died on 17 March 2016. His Funeral and Celebration of his life was held at Barham

*\*Note, if any reader knew any of the above well enough to write a short obituary, please forward it to the Editor for publication in the next edition.*



THE COLOUR PARTY  
Lt. J. R. P. Cambridge (Queen's Colour), Lt. R. J. M. Birch (Regimental Colour), C.S.M. W. Norman  
C.S.M. F. Nichols, C.S.M. E. Williams

in Kent on 4 April 2016, at which Brig Johnny Walker OBE DL represented The Regiment.

Dick served as Platoon Commander and then as 2 I/C in D Company on active service in Cyprus, before moving with the Battalion to Palace Barracks in Northern Ireland, where he was an active and effective member of the rugby squad which that won The Army Cup in 1958.

A big man, he was a natural selection for carrying one of the Honorary Colours on Parade and during his service he well deserved the respect he earned from his soldiers and fellow officers alike.

### Captain Peter Pettigrew - 1940–2015

To those of us who knew Peter Pettigrew in the Army he was something of an enigma. On the one hand a highly intelligent and personable officer, a games player of considerable quality and an extremely able soldier. On the other hand he was puzzling. To describe him as 'boisterous' to some people in the Regiment would be polite. He had an unusual determination and was clear thinking, he did not suffer fools, he disliked authority, tact was not in his vocabulary, he could be unruly and yet was unique. The Regiment was fortunate to have him for the time it did.

Peter was born in Karachi in February 1940 where his father was in the Baluch Regiment part of the Indian Army. On return to England after the war, Peter went to Bedford School in 1951. This was a school that produced eight other officers for the Regiment during the post-war period. He played rugby and cricket for the school but it was as a gymnast that he shone as a youngster. Even before going to Sandhurst he played at outside half for Bedford Town, in those days a 'Premiership' club in the modern day parlance, and County rugby for East Midlands.

He went to Sandhurst (Normandy Company, Victory College) in January 1960 and immediately represented both the Academy XV at rugby and the 1st XI cricket team. That said during his time he did more than his fair share of wearing a white belt in uniform – 'Restriction of Privileges'.

In his final term at Sandhurst Peter won the Science, Military History and the Infantry prizes for his Intake – the latter a Wilkinson sword engraved with his name and date. He was a Junior Under Officer, passed out 4th in the Order of Merit and was commissioned into our Regiment in December 1961.

He settled into the Battalion quickly and did most of the jobs that would be expected of a young officer. In early 1963 he deployed with Alma Company to British Honduras (now Belize) under Major Rodney Harms MC. After a six-month tour he returned to the battalion in time for the posting to 12 Brigade in Osnabrück. The



Peter Pettigrew as a young officer

mid '60s was a golden period for 'Dukes' rugby with Peter playing a full role in winning the Army Cup four years in succession.

After a short spell in Gillingham under the late Denis Shuttleworth Peter deployed to Stanley Fort in Hong Kong and as Operations Officer was responsible for deploying the battalion several times a year to the border with China. Peter spent a great deal of his time on the Royal Hong Kong Club golf course at Fanling. Golf was to play a major part in his life and at his best he had a handicap of 4 but he was still playing to a single figure handicap towards the end of his life.



**Peter in Hong Kong after leaving the Regiment**

It was whilst in Hong Kong that in 1970 he decided to leave the Army. After a two-year training course he joined the British computer firm ICL on a five year contract in Hong Kong. Following this he established his own marketing company and spent the better part of 30 years in Hong Kong. On leaving Hong Kong he set up home in Chilmark near Salisbury and a holiday home in South Africa.

Peter married Anne Loch from St Boswells in the Scottish borders in February 1965 and later they had two children. Their son Alec was born in the BMH Munster in Germany in 1966 followed shortly afterwards by his sister Lara also born in Munster. Both became and still are hugely successful entrepreneurs. Last year Anne and Peter celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and Anne is planning to remain in her home in Chilmark.

After retirement Peter and Anne spent the winter months in their home in South Africa. And in the Summer he devoted his life to his garden in Chilmark and village life. 'Village life' for him was largely based on the founding and continuing support of the Chilmark Cricket Club now with a strong team well able to compete in local leagues.

Peter Pettigrew was an extremely competent individual; a caring and a wholly supportive and very proud father and grandfather, great fun and, as said earlier, a pretty useful golfer in later years to the very end - mini cigars and Appleton's rum permitting! A man who would have made a success of his life whatever he did. Denis Shuttleworth, himself an England international, remarked "Peter Pettigrew was the best player I know never to play for the Army at Twickenham". He was a devoted family man and grandfather of six granddaughters. Anne stood by Peter through thick and a lot of thin for over 50 years, but perhaps the last words on this should come from his daughter, now Lara Morgan, in an extract from a poem she wrote for the Service sheet at his funeral in Salisbury on 9th October last year:

### **Tony Williams**

Former 24331460 Warrant Officer Class Two Anthony Williams

(Tony) Williams, 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, died in his sleep on Tuesday 24th November 2015, aged 59.

Tony completed his basic training at Ripon in 1974, following which he joined the 1st Battalion. During his 22 year Colour Service and was posted to Aldershot (1975), Minden (1976), Taunton (1980), Gibraltar (1983), Bulford (1985), Belize (1986), Northern Ireland

(1987), Sheffield (1989), Ternhill (1990), Kenya (1991), back to Bulford (1992), Norway (1994), Bradford (1994) and finally Blackpool in 1996.

He completed tours of Cyprus, Hong Kong, Canada, Belize and three tours of Northern Ireland.

Tony, a keen boxer, boxed at Company level, winning all seven of his fights. In his senior years, Tony hung up his gloves and turned to coaching the Battalion team,

who were very successful during his tenure. Tony religiously attended Dukes reunions after his discharge to maintain his unwavering regimental ethos.



Tony is survived by his three children Sarah, Sally and Anthony. Sergeant Anthony Williams is now serving with 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment.



### COLONEL RODNEY MALCOLM HARMS, MC

Rodney Harms died in hospital near Smethwick on the 6th April in the presence of members of his family. Having expressed a wish to be buried in Yorkshire, his family in liaison with Major Bob Heron, the General Secretary of the Regimental Association, arranged for his funeral service in Halifax Minster (formerly Halifax Parish Church) on Saturday 23th April and buried on Monday 25th April at Lark Hill Cemetery Ripon. Rodney's daughters, Sarah and Clare, and his son Julian, along with their families attended each event. The service in the Minster was conducted by The Reverend Canon Hilary Barber, who in a moving address said it was appropriated for the service to be held in the Minster as it contained the Regimental Chapel of the Dukes and is therefore the home of the regiment. The first part of the eulogy, dealing with Rodney's time in the army was delivered by Lieutenant Colonel Walter Robins and the second part by Pastor Ted Bell of Ripon Christian Fellowship, who spoke of Rodney's strong faith and the

support of the Fellowship by Rodney and his late wife Elizabeth during their twenty six years in Ripon after leaving the army. A strong group from the Fellowship in Ripon attended the service in Halifax and there was a very good turnout of ex-members of the regiment from West Yorkshire and further afield.

A brief but moving committal and burial service was conducted by Pastor Ted Bell at Lark Hill Cemetery Ripon on Monday 25 April. In addition to Rodney's family a group from the Ripon Fellowship was present along with a small number of local ex-servicemen and Dukes including Walter Robins and Bob Heron.

Rodney Harms began his military career at the 30th Junior Leaders Training Battalion, Elgin, where potential officers and NCO's were trained, on 6th October, 1947 age eighteen. Whilst there he passed the Regular Army Selection Board and was provisionally accepted for a place in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. On completion of the six months course at Elgin he was

posted to The Yorkshire and Northumberland Training and Drafting Centre at Catterick where recruits who had completed their basic military training elsewhere, were given a further period of infantry training before being posted to units of the four Yorkshire Regiments or The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. Rodney was attached to one of the training platoons as a "Trained Soldier" to fill in time before Officer Training and to gain experience of Yorkshire and Geordie soldiers. The Platoon Sergeant was Sergeant Geoffrey France and Walter Robins was a Corporal Instructor with the platoon. The Company Commander was Major Louis Kershaw, who would earn a DSO and lose a leg in Korea. Rodney would serve with them all in the years ahead.

After a spell at Eaton Hall, OCTU, Rodney went to Sandhurst in September 1948, received the Special Language Prize for French in his final term. He was commissioned into The Dukes in December 1949, joining the 1st Battalion at Strensall, near York. The battalion's role at that time was to provide basic training for all recruits joining the Y and N Brigade, but this system was discontinued in October 1950 when the battalion was reformed as a Field Force Unit and moved to Chisledon in Wiltshire as part of 6th Armoured Division. Following this reorganisation Rodney became the Commander of the Battalion Anti-Tank Platoon, a plum job for any young officer, with 17 pounder guns towed by Oxford carriers to play with. His platoon Sergeant was Geoffrey France. In December 1951, 6th Armoured Division moved to Germany to become part of BAOR and the Dukes went to Minden. However in early 1952 the battalion was warned for service in Korea and almost immediately preparation began, which included the disbandment of the Anti Tank Platoon. Rodney was re-employed first as Weapon Training Officer, then Assistant Adjutant and finally as the Intelligence Officer. A post he continued to hold in Korea.

The battalion arrived in Korea in late October 1952, joining 29 Infantry Brigade, moving into a quiet sector of the line in mid November and in early December to a more active area. At this time the line was static and both sides were well dug in with deep trenches, bunkers and fighting bays with overhead cover. There was shelling, mortaring and a lot of patrol activity particularly by night. During this period Rodney continued in his role as Battalion Intelligence Officer. In December the Chinese could be seen constructing new defences and digging tunnels. The Commanding Officer, having decided to mount a daylight raid to destroy the tunnels and new defences, appointed Rodney to command it. The raid was a complete success and Rodney was awarded an immediate Military Cross for his actions. The citation for the award appears below.

In March 1953 Rodney moved to HQ 29 Infantry Brigade as Brigade Intelligence Officer. A post he held

till leaving Korea in August that year. The 1st Battalion left Korea in late November 1953 for Gibraltar.

From October 1953 to December 1954 Rodney was on an Arabic Language Course in the Lebanon, after which, as a Captain, he served for two years at the Libyan Army Training Centre as a Training Officer. On his return to the United Kingdom in February 1957 he became the Adjutant of the Dukes TA battalions, initially in Milnsbridge and later Huddersfield but returned to the Middle East in January 1959 for a two year tour as a Military Intelligence Officer in Aden. As a Major he attended the Army Staff College, Camberley in 1961.

In January 1962 he returned to the 1st Battalion Dukes, initially in Colchester and later in Barnard Castle and Catterick as OC Corunna Company and in October 1962 taking over Alma Company and forming the second Company group to be detached from the battalion for service in British Honduras (now Belize) from May 1963 to February 1964. The role of this Group was to provide protection from incursions by Guatemala and to secure the airfield to allow extra troops to be flown in if needed. Geoffrey France was his Company Sergeant Major at that time.

From September 1964 to August 1966 he served at Headquarter British Army of the Rhine as GSO 2 – Security and in September 1966 Rodney returned to the 1st Battalion in Osnabruck, initially as OC Alma Company until being appointed Second in Command of the battalion in January 1967. Later that year the battalion carried out a six month tour in Cyprus as part of the United Nations Force to maintain the cease fire between Greek and Turkish Cypriots of the Island. Battalion Headquarters was in Limassol but Rodney was established in a subsidiary Headquarters in Paphos to control that area and Polis.

The following is a summary of his appointments after leaving the 1st Battalion in April 1968:

From April 1968 to September 1970 he was Deputy Head, as a Temporary Lieutenant Colonel, of the British Military Mission to the Saudi Arabia National Guard, based in Riyadh.

From September 1970 to February 1971 he had a short spell as Training Major of the 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers in York.

From February 1971 to February 1973, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded the 1st Infantry Regiment of the Abi Dhabi Defence Force.

From February 1973 to February 1976 he served at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces in Wilton as GS01 – Intelligence and Security. He remained at Wilton until December 1974 working on a special project titled "Intelligence for Home Defence".

From January to December 1977 he worked between MOD in London and HQ Northern Ireland as a Project Officer – presumably in Intelligence or Security.

From March 1978 to August 1980, on promotion to Colonel, he was appointed British Defence Adviser Caribbean based in Jamaica.

From August 1980 to October 1981 he was again at the MOD working between London and BAOR, as Project Liaison Officer, producing a film on "Soviet Army Tactics". He was also receiving Turkish Language training to prepare him for his next job.

From November 1981 to November 1983 he was at NATO HQ LAND SOUTHWEST in Izmir, Turkey as Colonel GS Org and Trg.

Rodney retired from the army on 3 March 1984 after over 36 years service.

It is quite clear that Rodney was a very capable and talented Officer with a considerable range of experience who has served Queen and Country loyally and well over many years. He proved himself in action and acquired vast experience in the fields of intelligence and security. He also built up a wide knowledge of the Middle East having served in six countries of that area armed with the language skills to communicate.

He was popular with colleagues and soldiers. His manner was not loud or volatile but naturally calm, measured and determined.

In his youth he played rugby for the battalion (1950 -52 and 1962-63) and later whilst at HQ BAOR. In athletics he ran the 1 mile for Sandhurst and the Battalion. He also boxed at Elgin and Sandhurst.

Whilst off duty he had an easy manner and was good company. He enjoyed a drink and a laugh but fairly strong held principles kept things within bounds. He was a devoted husband and father to Sarah, Clare and Julian. Much credit must also be given to his dear wife Elizabeth for maintaining a loving home and caring for the children during Rodney's frequent absence from home on unaccompanied tours abroad.

On leaving the army Rodney and Elizabeth lived in Ash in Kent and Rodney initially worked in London, but was later employed by British Leyland, selling Land Rovers in Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East. When that job ended they moved to Ripon, where they spent many happy years but when Rodney's health deteriorated they moved to Smethwick in October 2013 to be near their son Julian. Sadly Elizabeth died suddenly in August 2014 and later as Rodney's health deteriorated further he was moved to a Nursing Home in 2015 and later to the hospital where he died. WR

### MC Citation – Colonel Rodney Harms

On the morning of 24 January 1953 Lt Harms was in command of a raiding party with the special mission of destroying an enemy strongpoint that was being extensively developed in the enemy's defensive position. In daylight, under artillery preparation, he led his raiding party of two officers and fifteen other ranks across the 1000 yards of No Man's Land on to a spur of ground between two strongly fortified Chinese defensive localities. When only twenty yards from the objective he disposed his covering force to enable to assault party to deal with the tunnel and the trenches.

Whilst the assault was in progress a Chinese officer, armed with a machine gun, appeared unexpectedly from a trench and was killed by Lt Harms with a grenade. Meanwhile, shells and mortar bombs were falling round the position.

Disregarding his own safety Lt Harms moved among his men giving encouragement and instilling confidence. When the tunnel and strongpoint, together with its occupants, had been destroyed he collected his force and led them back, bringing with him the dead Chinese officer on whom were found documents of military value.

Throughout the action he sent back on his wireless a flow of information which enabled the commanding officer to keep in touch with the battle and adjust the supporting fire accordingly. The raid was entirely successful, killing about ten chinamen, and no casualties were incurred by the raiding party. During the whole operation Lt Harms displayed initiative and leadership of the highest order, whilst his courage and coolness were outstanding.





# LETTERS

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

## **From Scott Flaving**

### **Thank you.**

In the last edition of the Iron Duke, Autumn 2015, page 4, was a picture of the superb presentation made to mark my retirement from RHQ. I have been involved in the organisation of many such presentations in my time at RHQ and am well aware that these things do not happen on their own. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the concept and administration as well as, particularly, the generosity of all those of my friends and comrades which made this presentation possible. I was humbled and honoured by this incredible and unexpected gesture from the Regimental family. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Regiment and at RHQ and I know that many of those who experienced my gas chamber sessions in the 80s also had a great time.

I would also like to point out that I have by no means severed my links with the Regiment, continuing to act as Hon Secretary to the Museum Trustees, among other duties. As such, I would like to make an appeal to all readers and their comrades to continue to submit named photographs and articles, of all descriptions, to the Regimental Archives to build up the history of the Regiment for future historians. Please send all such items to: DWR Archives, Bankfield Museum, Akroyd Park, Boothtown Road, Halifax, HX3 6HG.

## **WO2 John Sargeant.**

### **From Lt Col Peter Mellor**

On re-reading the latest ID and rummaging through old photos I believe it was WO2 Johnny Sargeant who was in between myself and the Editor when we marched off the old Colour's at Stanley Fort circa 1969? (Indeed it was – editor).

Sasha and I were also rescued from our March Out by John when we were shortly to leave Strensall Park and our daily, the wife of a Green Howards Sergeant, offered to prep our first Quarter whilst we took a few days leave. On returning I discovered wide white lanes on the garishly blue carpet in the upstairs bedroom. She had used bleach in the machine!! Phoning the West Yorkshire carpets firms produced even more gloom so we had to own up to Mr Sergeant who clearly had a supply of spare carpets and of the correct colour. Lesson learnt, and thereafter we cleaned ourselves!

## **From Brigadier Michael Bray**

As a young officer, it was never my privilege to serve close to JES but I much appreciated making up for lost time on General Evelyn's battlefield tours. John was a great character with a fine sense of humour which he deployed to full effect on those tours. He was the life and soul of the party and great parties they were.

He always spoke with great pride about his section from the Korean campaign; most of them were still meeting up with him on a regular basis 50 years after the war, and I am not surprised. This was a tribute to his character and leadership qualities. He was a charming man of great honesty and integrity, always cheerful; a man you would always want to have in your team.

Too late in life, I came to regard him as one of Yorkshire's best.

## **From John Goldings**

### **Hougoumont**

I regularly use properties owned by The Landmark Trust and in one of their Landmark News dated Spring 2015, I noticed that they have raised funding and completed restoration before June of last year of a first and second floor apartment actually in the building at Hougoumont at Waterloo that on one side overlooks the farm court and the other across the farmland from where the French troops launched their desperate assaults. I can imagine that the situation lends itself to an atmospheric and fascinating experience.

I do not know if you or any member of the Regiment have received notice of this apartment but should they wish to stay there, then they can go online for Landmark Trust or call 01628 825925.

## **From Mr Ernest Tyson**

I hope you are keeping well. (Content about subscription extracted). You will remember Major General Donald Isles. He was my OC B Company in Belize, British Honduras in 1962, and I was his driver in Osnabruck when he was OC of B Company until I left the Army on 18 January 1967. After that I lost contact with everyone as I went to Manchester to work nights for a security company. I did manage to see and visit major General Donald Isles before he passed away. Such a lively chap.

Mr Tyson's address is 31 Bunnewell Avenue, Bradwell, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8RQ.

**From Mr Ernest Ramsbotham  
(ex Duke 1959 – 1961)**

I worked many years with two men who fought with the Gloucestershire Regiment in Korea, who tell the same report about Colonel Carne's refusal to withdraw. The first was George Wright RASC, who drove a wagon to pick up members of the Gloucesters to withdraw. Colonel Carne refused the order. The second was Corporal Ralf Austin of Skipton in the Gloucestershire Regiment in this action.

He was only six feet away from Colonel Carne when the Colonel gave the order "every man for himself", being overrun with enemy. Ralf and what was left of his section made off, laying up during the day and moving on a night.

Daylight one morning (they) saw some ROKs (Republic of Korea soldiers) so made their way down the hillside to make contact. Unfortunately these were enemy in ROK uniforms. Ralf was captured and became a POW, walking the length of Korea to a camp near the Chinese border.

When released Colonel Carne was despatched to GB; the main body of men followed shortly afterwards. When Colonel Carne came to meet his Regiment he was booed by his men. No disrespect to anyone but these are two men of good character and never waiver from the truth. George Wright went on to become a TA captain. Hope this adds weight to the ex-member of the RNF.



**Memorial to all Welsh men who died on the Somme**



**The Windmill Site, near Pozieres. From 23 July to the end of August Australian soldiers fought to capture the ridge on which the windmill stood. In the words of Charles Bean, Australian official historian, it is "a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth"**



**This statue of a British and a German soldier cautiously extending their hands over a football stands outside the tourist office in Messines (south of Ypres). The battle zones of Ypres and the Somme contain many interesting memorials and other physical imagery; there are at least two large red Welsh dragons and a Newfoundland stag; there are memorials of many different kinds, from plaques commemorating such as the Glasgow Tramways units, and the Footballers' Battalion (17<sup>th</sup> Middlesex), and specialists, such as the tunnellers, surely among the bravest of the brave. And of course there are many more usual memorials, often tucked away in little villages, partly hidden by trees and shrubs, to regiments and formations, some bearing messages that will be hard for today's generation to understand; They win or die, who wear the red rose of Lancashire, and Sans Peur Sans Pitié (La Division Marocaine). I wonder what the French and Belgian youth of today makes of them.**



**“HRH The Duke of Edinburgh talks to Major Rob Palfrey (on left) and Major Jimmy Nash in front of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment’s and the York and Lancaster Regiment’s plots respectively at the Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey on Thursday 5th November 2015. To the Duke’s right, in the black coat and hat, is Mrs Sarah Jones, President of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, and widow of Lieutenant Colonel H Jones VC, CO 2 Para, killed at Goose Green, Falkland Islands, on 28 May 1982, leading an assault on an Argentine machine gun post that was holding up his battalion’s advance. The Duke was followed a few paces behind by a bearded ‘Captain Wales’.”**

