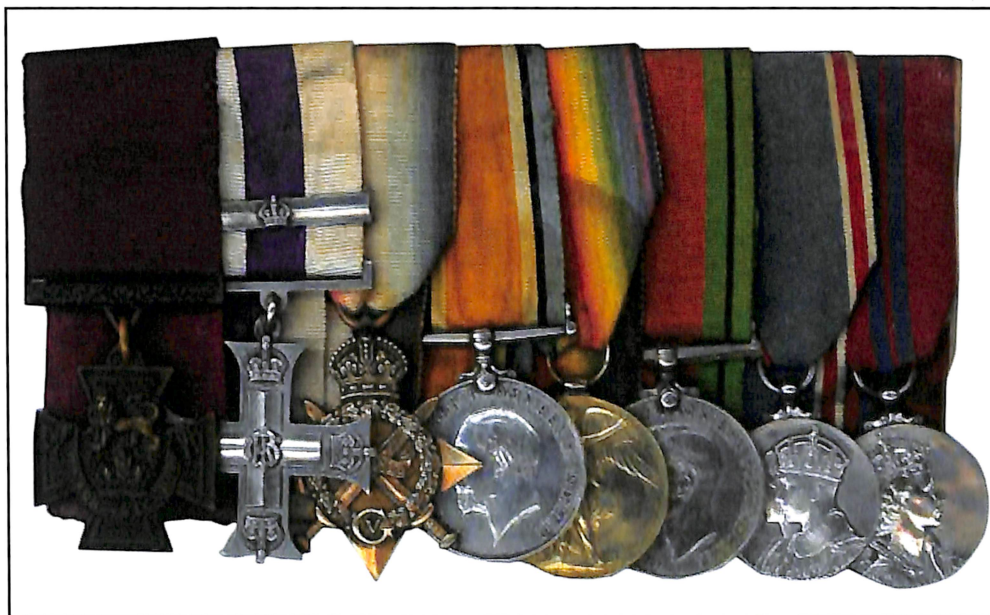


# THE IRON DUKE

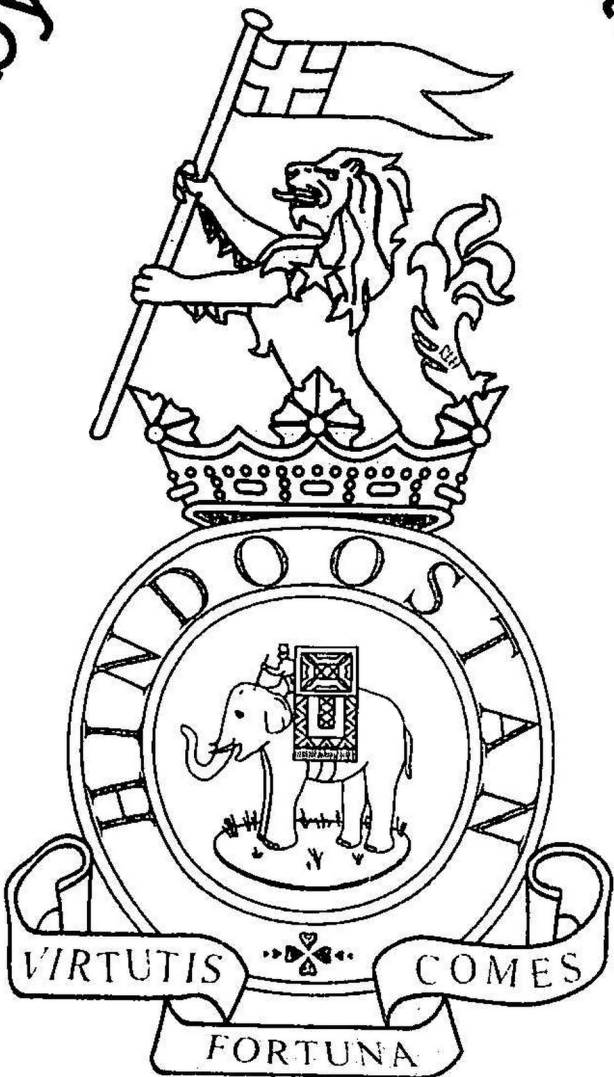
## In This Issue

- Dukes in WW1, September and October 1916
- 2Lt Henry Kelly VC
- The 76th in India
- HMS Iron Duke's History
- Private Sidney Lewis, aged 12¼
- Memories of Korea
- The DNRC



The Victoria Cross and other medals of 2Lt Kelly VC MC, 10 DWR.

Digitised by The Regimental Archives





A company of today's Maratha Light Infantry on the march. Many of their countrymen fought against the British in three Maratha Wars in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, whilst others, formed as three battalions of the Bombay Sepoys, fought for the combined King's and East India Company's forces. The 3rd Battalion was with Wellesley at Seringapatam, where they distinguished themselves. The 76th Regiment's part in the Battle of Ally Ghur against the Marathas is described on page 26.

Four battalions of the Maratha Light Infantry fought with distinction in the First World War in Palestine and Mesopotamia, and some sixteen battalions fought with the allies in WW2, in South East Asia, North Africa and Italy, winning two VCs in the last named theatre.

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Photograph at the bottom of the cover shows the medals of 2Lt Henry Kelly. They are, from left, VC, MC and Bar, 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal (the last three known as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred" – see inside back cover of ID No 277, Autumn 2014), WW2 Defence Medal, George VI Coronation Medal, Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. See article on page 24.

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

(WEST RIDING)

*Dettingen  
Mysore  
Seringapatam  
Ally Ghur  
Delhi 1803  
Leswarree*

*Deig  
Corunna  
Nive*

*Peninsula  
Waterloo  
Alma*

*Inkerman  
Sebastopol*

*Abyssinia  
Relief of Kimberley*

*Paardeberg  
South Africa 1900-02  
Mons 1914*

*Marne 1914, '18  
Ypres 1914, '15, '17*



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

*Lys  
Piave 1918*

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

*Dunkirk 1940  
St Valery-en-Caux  
Fontenay-le-Pesnil  
Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943*

*Anzio  
Monte Ceco  
Burma 1942, '43, '44*

*Sittang 1942  
Chindits 1944  
The Hook 1953  
Korea 1952-53*

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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*Editor:*

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Nicholson, Forge Farmhouse, Cranbrook,  
Kent, TN17 2QE. Tel: 01580 714035  
E.mail: t.nicholson@btinternet.com

The Editor has not yet moved but still hopes to do so in the foreseeable future  
but should still be contactable as above.

*Business Manager:*

Major R. Heron, Regimental Association, The Duke of  
Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), Bankfield Museum,  
Boothtown Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 6HG.  
E.mail: dukeshrq@btconnect.com. Telephone 01422 356795

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## Editorial

### The Somme

There has been extensive coverage in all the media of the 100th anniversary of the Somme 1916. Personally I particularly enjoyed Peter Barton's three part television programme on the conflict, using his research amongst the German archives to shed fresh, and extremely disturbing, light on the whole British operation. I also re-read John Harris' book, "Covenant with Death", the story of the raising, and eventual virtual annihilation on 1 July 1916, of a Sheffield City Pals Battalion. And, for my own education, I "walked the course" to see the key battlefield areas and memorials of late 1916. Like most topics that capture the media's eye for a while it is likely that attention will fade fairly soon, and perhaps even before the 100th anniversary of the end of this phase of the Great War which concluded in November 1916.

Meantime, back then, the Dukes' battalions continued their operations, with mixed results and heavy casualties, and this issue tries to portray some of that. And yet the more that anyone reads about the Great War, the more surprising it is that no-one, at least on the Allied side, seems to have learned much from what had gone before, because the same "barrage and charge" tactics would be used again and again.

If one takes nothing else from these revelations about those terrible days in France in the second half of 1916, it is to be astounded that the determination, fighting spirit and general morale of the men and units that were in the forefront of the fight rarely faltered. How they kept going in those horrendous circumstances is almost beyond comprehension.

As you walk along the silent rows of headstones in any of the thousands of Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites in the Somme area (all together the CWGC maintains 23,000 cemeteries and memorials in

154 countries), reminding yourself that each and every one represents a man like us, with all our own failings and hopes, and yet they somehow continued to fight on until they reached their own end, one tiny drop in a huge ocean of death and destruction. They have not been forgotten, nor will they be. How could we?

### Keep the flag flying!

Dukes "old comrades" are, by definition, a dwindling band. In the Association News section we learn, for example, that the London Branch has had to close for want of numbers, and several other branches are rarely heard of or from, at least by this Editor. Sad though that is, there are still lots of us scattered about, and we are no doubt getting out and about a bit, doing this and that, meeting each other and telling tall tales of days gone by.

I am always grateful to those that write, email or ring me with news or information that will be of interest to others, and would love to get more of it. My contact details are on the first page.

One plea; just use "ordinary" formats, please, (so no headers, footers, columns, special spacing, indents, nor any of the other enormously clever things that one can do if one has a mind to) and avoid anything complicated. It can take me a long time to unravel the careful work of enthusiastic authors, anxious to see their work in a certain way, but it will not look like that in the Journal as I have to present material to the publisher in a way that he can quickly upload to his much more sophisticated Mac software. And photographs and illustrations always separate and never embedded. And of course, handwritten notes and letters and photos to be scanned, equally welcome. Thank you for your past, present and future contributions!

## 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**

An abiding purpose of the Association is to provide comradeship for all those who served in 'The Dukes' and whilst this is an easy aim to state, translating into action is somewhat more challenging particularly given the fact that we now rely totally on volunteers to organise everything. The good news is that there are a number of individuals who happily continue to meet this challenge with the result that there are a number of gatherings across the country every year. These include: the twice yearly events in Halifax (in October and April); the 33/76 evening in Strensall; the officers and wives lunch at Wellington College; as well as other less formally arranged affairs. Nevertheless I am aware that there continues to be a desire from many within the Association for a major function to be organised given the fact that the last one we had was the Waterloo 200 celebration in 2015 in Halifax. We do need someone to come forward with their ideas for a reunion event and to subsequently organise it so if you feel that you would like to take this on please do not hesitate to get in touch - without someone stepping forward it cannot happen..

Another matter than I am aware is of interest across the

board is the financial health of the Association. There are in fact 3 trust funds: the Association Fund; the Friends of the Regiment Fund; and the Museum Fund. At the end of March this year the total value of the 3 funds was £447,000 with an excess of expenditure over income of £15,000, a figure that was planned for by the Trustees for three reasons the first of which was the Waterloo 200 celebrations. A conscious decision was made to make that event as successful as possible and I believe that the aim was most definitely achieved. Additionally there was the need to update the Association website and this has been achieved but as ever with anything IT related it has come at a cost but the result is that we have a website that will require no further major work for a number of years to come (it has been 'future proofed'). Finally there was the move out of Wellesley Park and into Bankfield museum which again came at a cost though these were driven down wherever possible. Since the end of our last financial year the results achieved by the Armed Forces Common Investment Fund (in which our funds are invested) mean that the worth of our three funds has recovered significantly.

Another vital purpose of the Association is that of maintaining and sustaining the history of the Regiment and in this there are currently three strands. The first is the work done by our small band of volunteers in Bankfield (Gordon & Mary Bell and David Cochrane) who look after our archives, respond to all historical enquiries and at present are formally cataloguing our extensive photographic records. Linked to this is our stated aim of getting all our records digitised which is a major and potentially costly undertaking. The intention is for this to be part of a larger project to be undertaken by the Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT) which is submitting a bid for a major Lottery grant for a project to support digitising archives across all military museum collections. And third there is the proposed memorial to the Regiment. Work on this has started and, as I predicted at the outset, there is much to be done. I have asked Brig Michael Bray, Col Alistair Roberts and Lt Col Richard Ward to assist with this and I will be asking others to join the team in the near future. We have set out what we want the memorial to achieve (the objectives) which constitutes the preparatory work which means we are some way from the start line. However once we have a design that we feel fits the requirement it will of course be publicised widely and it is from that point that the fundraising effort will start.

I have already mentioned the new website and I have been heartened by the positive comments I have received from many who have visited it: it would seem

we have got something about right! As ever comments are welcome as the intention is to ensure that the site is useful, informative and thus much used. I am indebted to Richard Harvey for his unstinting work in populating the site and subsequently keeping it up to date. Finally there is the administration of the Association, work that has been undertaken for the past decade solely by Major Bob Heron. Bob has decided that the time has come for him to pass the baton on and thus the search for a successor is now underway. This is not to say that Bob is heading directly for the exit as he has kindly agreed to remain until someone is found to replace him. In the meantime this change presents an opportunity to look at how we manage our affairs and there are a few changes that we

are looking to make in the coming months, changes that will not alter what the office at Bankfield does for us all.

Looking further ahead, I do believe that it makes sense for us to look at developing closer, practical links with the Yorkshire Regiment and it was that thought in mind that I recently had a most useful meeting with Lt Col David O'Kelly, the Regimental Secretary of the Yorkshire Regiment. As a start point we agreed that we will work towards amalgamating our two separate data bases so that communication can become seamless and easier for all. Beyond that it is too early to state with certainty what the future might look like but we do need to get closer to each other over the coming years and not simply in a formal setting but in all that we do as well.

## Dukes News Round-Up

### DONATION BY GRAYS SOLICITORS, YORK, OF MAJ WILLIAM COBB FILES

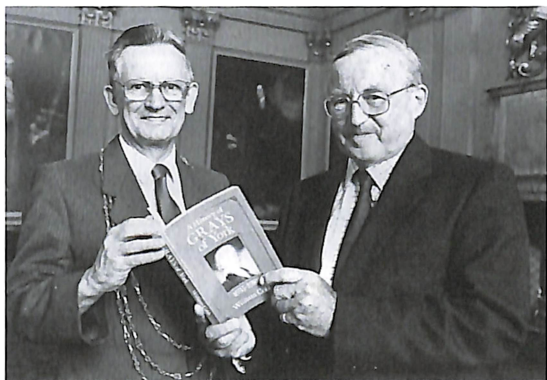
Grays Solicitors in York have donated a collection of correspondence and drawings recently found in their archives. The correspondence was initially found by Mr Iain Milne, a trainee solicitor with Grays when he was sorting through old paperwork originally belonging to Major William Cobb who served with 2 DWR during WW2 before returning to his father's solicitors practice,

then Gray Dodsworth and Cobb, in York.

William Cobb initially joined his father's solicitors practice as an articled clerk in 1939 after completing his law degree at Oxford. But he had no time to complete his legal training there before enlisted into the Army at the outbreak of war and was commissioned into the Dukes, the Regiment his uncle had served in during



**Mr Brian Mitchell, Managing Partner, and Mr Iain Milne of Grays Solicitors donating the Major William Cobb 'files' to David Harrap and Scott Flaving**



**Major William Cobb**

the Boer War. We have been able to establish very little about William's career with the Dukes beyond his being posted to 2 DWR in 1940, though his name does not feature in the records of those fighting with the battalion during its long retreat through Burma back into India following the Japanese invasion. We do know he was awarded an MID for actions in 1945 before he was demobbed in 1946. He then returned to York and his father's firm to complete his legal training and become a full partner in the practice on qualifying in 1948.

During the war the York Minster Dean and Chapter Clerk had moved their offices in with Gray Dodsworth and Cobb. No doubt, with both this and William's service in the Regiment it was not a long step to ask William to take on responsibility for looking after the Dukes' Regimental Chapel in the Minster hence this collection of correspondence finishing up in his care.

Scott Flaving has now completed an initial cataloguing of the correspondence and documents given to us which he will no doubt write more about in future issues of the

ID. Suffice to say here it is proving to be of great interest with letters and records covering the South African War Memorial Fund and memorial unveiling, the WW1 Memorial Pension Fund and welfare cases, the planning and design of the Regimental Chapel in the Minster, and the Regimental War Memorial in the Chapel at RMA Sandhurst.

### DUKE'S EMBROIDERY

Colonel Peter Mitchell sent the photograph below, of an embroidery that he bought at the Three Counties Showground near Malvern in the late 1990s. It is thought to have been done by a POW during captivity during WW2 and on the back is a small remnant of a German shop sticker.

He reports that he did some limited research at the time but without success, and it has been hanging at his home ever since. It may be that this short note in the Iron Duke will bring some information to light about the embroiderer and the circumstances of its history up to its eventual arrival in UK.

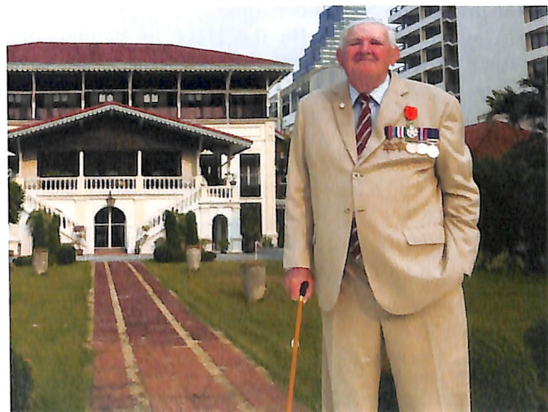


### MAJOR BOB DUNCAN AWARDED LEGION D'HONNEUR.

Report from Scott Flaving

In our last ID we were able to report on the award of the Legion d'Honneur to Colonel Hugh Le Messurier. A second Duke to receive this honour is Major Bob Duncan. On 29th February, 2016, Dr R A Duncan, originally of Harrogate, was awarded the French Legion d'Honneur in the French Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. This was in recognition of his services in liberating France during the Normandy campaign in 1944, as a part of the French initiative to honour all surviving Normandy Veterans. He was accompanied by his three children and the British & French military attachés and the local British Legion Chairman also attended.

Bob was commissioned from Sandhurst in November, 1942, into the 147th Regiment RAC (10th Hampshires, 34th Tank Brigade) and was sent to Dunbar for his armoured course. After being qualified to command a



**Major Bob Duncan**





**Family gathering outside the Embassy**

troop of Churchill tanks the War Office, in its infinite wisdom, transferred some of these newly trained officers to the infantry in November, 1943.

He joined the 1/7th Bn the Duke of Wellington's Regiment 147 Brigade, 49th (West Riding) Division at Yarmouth and, later, joined the remnants of the 1/6th Bn replaced in 147 Brigade, and sent back to UK, July 1944, at Colchester.

He recently related his gallant service with the 7th Battalion to the author: "I joined B Company, 1/7th DWR, billeted at South Town Road, Great Yarmouth, which was under the command of Bernard Kilner; Hugh Le Messurier was my Company 2ic. (Our troopship) SS Cheshire had sheets on the bunks and we were given a full English breakfast before a fairly dry landing near Coulombes sur Mer. We dug in for a while and watched the tracer flying, presumably at the Typhoon planes overhead.

I was wounded leading 10 Platoon in the attack on Hill 102, outside Cristot, on Waterloo Day, when Frank Scholes, OC Support Company was killed. My friend from Sandhurst, David Smith, a subaltern in 1/6th DWR, was also killed in the Park."

After recovering from his wound, Bob was posted to the 1/6th Bn at Colchester, commanded by Lt Col C R T Cumberlege, involved in training recruits. At the end of the war he was offered a Regular commission in the Royal Tank Regiment but, as he was unable to remain with the 'Dukes', declined and took a Government education course and was discharged in 1947.

He qualified as a dentist with a thriving practice in the Seychelles and, after retirement now spends time between the Seychelles and Thailand, where the medal finally caught up with him and the award ceremony was organised by the French embassy.

## CEREMONIES TO MARK THE 72ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MONTE CECE AND LIBERATION OF PALAZZUOLO-SUL-SENIO

In 2003 General Evelyn led a battlefield tour to follow in the footsteps of 1DWR from their first landing on mainland Italy at Anzio in February 1944, where his father, Brian Webb-Carter, was CO, to their last battle of the war capturing Monte Cece in October 1944 during the Allies fighting to break through the German Gothic and where Richard Burton earned the last 'Dukes' VC and the new CO, Lt Col F St Maur Sheil, was killed.

Memories of the war and its bitter, hard fighting in the steep Apennine mountains, not least by the Italian partisans, and its place in their history as a liberation from under a cruel regime was still very much alive in the towns and villages the Allies had fought through. One of the consequences of the tour was that the town of Casola Valsenio, in whose domain Monte Cece lies, decided to erect a plaque on the mountain top as a record of the battle and Palazzuolo-sul-Senio further up the valley commissioned a commemorative memorial erected beside the town square to mark the town's liberation by the 1st British Infantry Division, of which the Dukes were part.

Each town has since held an annual ceremony to mark the battle and liberation. Casola Valsenio with a small simple event led by the Mayor on the top of Monte Cece; and Palazzuolo with a more formal event led by the Mayor supported by the Mayors of Florence, Casola Valsenio, Riolo Terme and Imola. This year the Regiment was represented at these by Majors David Harrap, Bob Heron and Captain Alex Redshaw of the

Yorkshire Regiment together with Major William St Maur Sheil, son of Lt Col Sheil who was killed on Monte Cece and Major Jim Llwellyn RE representing the British Defence Attache. At each ceremony a Regimental wreath was laid in memory of those from the Regiment who lost their lives on Monte Cece and the wider Italian campaign.

Because of intense rain the day before and the difficult road to the summit the ceremony for Monte Cece was held in Casola Valsenio at their monument to the partisans from their town who lost their lives in the fighting the wreaths being taken to the mountain top by the Alpini once the road had dried out. Major Harrap gave the speech below in response to the Mayor's at Palazzuolo

" Mayor and Citizens of Palazzuolo-sul-Senio It is a great honour for myself, Major Heron and Captain Redshaw to once again be in Palazzuolo to represent the Duke of Wellington's Regiment at your ceremony to mark your town's liberation in September 1944.

Maj Heron and I first visited Palazzuolo in 2003 on a battlefield tour when we had with us a few who had fought with the Regiment in Italy during the Second World War. On the tour we followed in the Regiment's footsteps from their landing at Anzio and its bitter fighting in the mud of its hidden valleys to their last battle of the war here in the Senio valley at Monte Cece.

There were two overriding memories I took away of those veterans. First was the deep sadness in their eyes when we visited the lovely, simple church of Santa



Parade arriving at Liberation Square, Palazzuolo-sul-Senio

**Captain Redshaw lays  
the Dukes wreath at the  
Liberation Memorial**



Appolinare in Mercatale where the bodies of those killed on Monte Cece were first brought, but tinged with grateful appreciation that it was such a dignified and restful place to be laid after the cruel violence of the battle, and second the great pride they felt as they later walked round Palazzuolo seeing what a good place it now is and knowing that they had played a part at a critical time in history in helping to make this possible.

This year I was sent a wonderful small book written by Giorgio Barlotti of your community called “I Ragazzi di Quadalto” – ‘The Quadalto Boys’ - based on his memories as a small boy witnessing the war as the British forces fought their way down the Senio valley and the relationship he builds with a British Army officer during this brief time.

What shines through his book is the profound relief and gratitude of the whole community as the tensions of living under a cruel regime are lifted from them and the gift of shared friendship between the British officer and the small boy which meant so much to them both. The book is a reflection of the selfless qualities and humanity of those men which so impressed him then and does so to this day.

On behalf of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment could I thank you all for continuing to honour and remember the commitment, hardship and sacrifices they, and all those in the British First Division, made alongside their American comrades in arms fighting just to their north and, of course, the Italian partisans who played such an important part in the battles here in the Apennines.”

**Waiting to lay wreaths at  
Casola Valsenio.  
L-R; Maj Harrap,  
Capt Redshaw, Maj Sheil  
(son of the CO killed on  
Monte Cece.)**



**DUKES' LONDON GROUP GOLF DAY**

**The participants, with the 1st fairway and 18th green in the background**

James Charlesworth reports. "On Thursday 21st July, for the 9th year running, serving and retired Dukes and Yorkshire Regiment men and guests gathered to compete for the fiercely contested annual 'Hindoostan Cup'. Once again we had the privilege of playing at the prestigious Bearwood Lakes Golf Club in Berkshire courtesy of Gary Holloway and our sincere thanks to him for allowing the group to play on such a fantastic golf course (in particular given I am sure he has to deal with a significant number of strongly worded letters from the resident members regarding the extremely questionable standard of golf they witnessed setting off from the first tee!).

However the golf pro shop did do a roaring trade in club regulation white golfing socks and once all were correctly turned out (Toby Smart) and shirts tucked in (Gary Knight/Chris Johnson) we teed off as 5 x 4 balls, after a light lunch of sandwiches, chips and lager in glorious summer afternoon sunshine.

The day consisted of a very 'mixed' standard of players with an impressive 5 handicapper (Richard Aspinall), through to half the players taking the full 28 handicap (including Dan Holloway who was quite rightly heavily fined for being so bad at golf, given his father owns a golf course!). The competition was an individual stableford score with prizes for the longest drive (James Kennedy...suspiciously close to the edge of the fairway!) and closest to the pin (Andy Brewer... by virtue of the fact he was the only player who actually managed to land a ball on the green, with everyone else falling foul of yet another inconveniently placed lake!).

The cup this year was won by Ed Colver (playing off 9 and scoring 35 stableford...but clearly unfairly assisted by unapproved buggy use - struggling to carry his own kit it seems...?), second was Rob Douglas and third was Mick Shipp. The illustrious wooden spoon this year went to Sean Bowman scoring 8 stableford off 28 (claiming he was unfairly distracted by having

**Dan Holloway hands over  
the Hindoostan Cup to  
winner Ed Colville**



to negotiate a job offer and 'significant' salary increase during his round!). However as a score of 8 is double last year's wooden spoon, the competition is delighted to see the standard of golf has improved dramatically!

We all then retired to the club house for a well-earned beer and an early supper with prizes being awarded and monetary fines handed out for the numerous misdemeanours in standards, etiquette and decorum over the afternoon. This year's fines collection was donated to Cure4Charlie, a charity set up to fund cancer treatment for a young Mum ([www.cure4charlie.com](http://www.cure4charlie.com)), selected by the winner Ed Colver.

Overall a great day out and a definite date for the diary next year, with all serving and former Yorkshire Regiment and Dukes warmly welcome. Our thanks again to Dan Holloway and his father for the excellent organisation and use of Bearwood Lakes Golf Club.

Players this year were Dan Holloway, Charles Cumberlege, Tim Nicholson, Baz Barrett, Sean Bowman, Andy Brewer, Richard Trounson, Mark Crawford, Will Peters, Simon Morgan, George Groucher, Ben Brading, Dan Brennan, Chris Johnson, Ed Colver, Gary Knight, Richard Aspinall, Toby Smart, James Kennedy.

**Winners of the  
various prizes on the  
Clubhouse balcony**



## CRICKET IN THE TRENCHES

A commemorative cricket match between Settle and Skipton took place on Sunday 12th June 2016, to celebrate a match between men from those towns, all in 1st/6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on the Western Front in 1915. Skipton, the losers in France one hundred years ago, secured a 30 run victory this time.

Lance Corporal Jack Morphet led the Settle (with

Guisley) team. Settle had won the Ribblesdale League in 1914, and he and one other member (Arthur Parker) of that victorious side played in the match on 12 June 1916. Morphet wrote to the Craven Herald from France after the match, describing the match. "(the pitch) was dotted here and there with shell holes and during the progress of the game shells were bursting not far away on both left and right."



**A short Act of Remembrance by both teams before the game, and Lance Corporal Jack Morphet**



**The Settle side, including several relatives of those in the original match, and Former Dukes Gordon Bell and Geoff Summersgill at the match**



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MAGAZINE



Arthur Grundy is on the right of the upper photograph, and is far left standing in the group below

In an article in the June 2016 edition of the above journal Mr John Richardson remembered Private Arthur Grundy, his grandmother's brother (and therefore his great uncle), who died near Morval, on the Somme, on 25 September 1916. The article states that he was serving with 10th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry at the time. Interestingly, the photographs

which accompany the article, one showing him and his comrade Private Arthur Cox, and one of a group of soldiers, are all wearing Dukes cap badges. Can anyone unravel the mystery?

### HENRY TANDEY VC

John Lobanow-Rostovsky found a Times article last year, in which Michael Morpurgo (War Horse author) told of the tale of Henry Tandey VC, under the explosive title "The soldier who could have stopped a world war with a single shot". It explores the possibility that after the battle at Marcoing in September 1918 (to be covered in the Iron Duke in due course), where Tandey won his Victoria Cross, a lone German soldier emerged out of the smoke and was about to be shot, when Tandey ordered those around him to hold their fire, waving the German away. That part of the saga is undoubtedly true.

However, the story later emerged that the German whose life had been spared was no other than Adolf Hitler! Mr Morpurgo used this story as the foundation of his book, published last year, "An Eagle in the Snow".



The canal at Marcoing, where Tandey won his VC, taken from the bridge

### WHO WHEN AND WHERE

A reader sent in the photograph below (and is in it himself) challenges all-comers to say who the men are, where they are, and when it was taken.





# 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>

## Change of Colonel of the Regiment

Brigadier Andrew Jackson took over from Major General Graham Binns on 21 May 2016.



Major General Binns on the left, with Brigadier Andrew Jackson

### Battalions

**1 YORKS** remains at Warminster, equipped with the Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV), and is expert in mounted close combat. It is part of 12th Armoured Brigade, one of the Army's "deployable" brigades.

**2 YORKS** is now based in Catterick and is a light mechanised infantry battalion, part of 4th Infantry Brigade.

**4 YORKS** is an Army Reserve Battalion. Its task is to train and prepare part-time soldiers for mobilised service when required to support their regular army

counterparts. It is also in 4th Infantry Brigade, with detachments in Yorkshire and Cleveland.

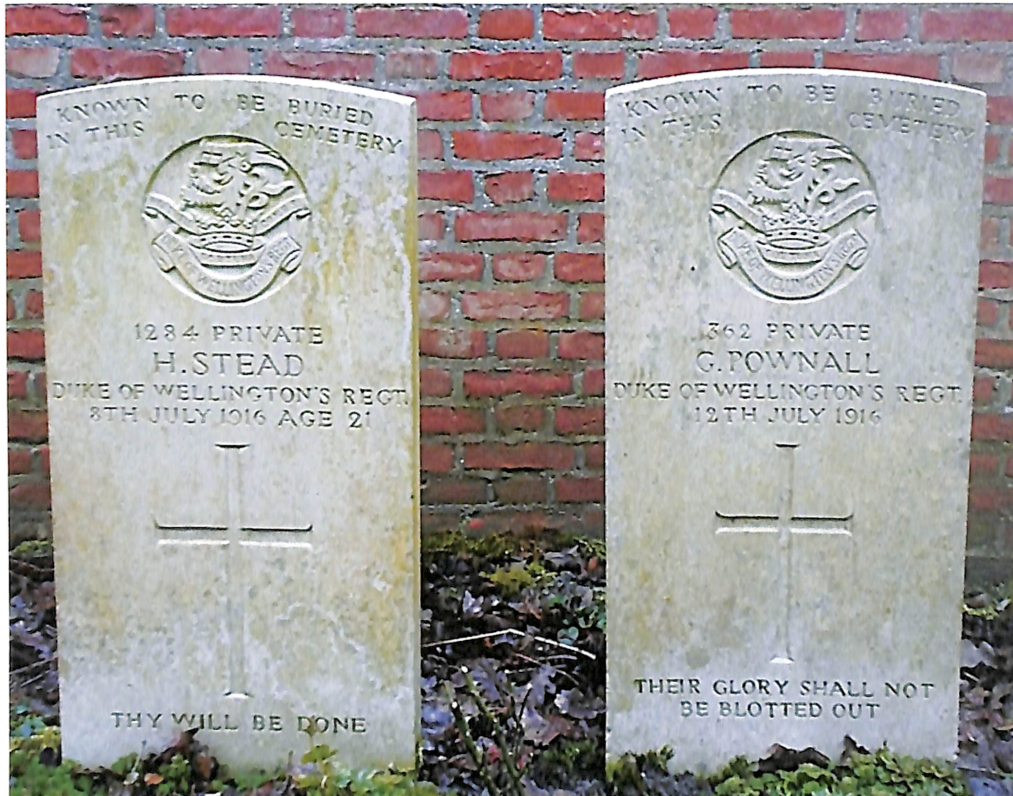
### Anniversary Parade.

General Sir Nicholas Houghton GCB CBE ADC Gen took the salute at a tenth anniversary parade in York on Waterloo day, 18 June 2016, in front of nearly 1500 people. In addition to celebrating ten years since the creation of the Regiment, the parade also marked the annual exchange of the 76th Regiment's Honorary Colours, which are held by a different battalion of the Regiment each year.



## The Dukes in the Great War: September and October 1916

The last issue of this Journal offered material to cover the period up to 1 July 1916, and then, through the medium of a letter written by Lt ES Plumb of 2 DWR and the War Diary of 1/6 DWR, went “over the top” in the first days of the Somme. We will start this time with a summary of where our Somme battalions were, and what, in outline, they were doing, after the first days of the Somme. From mid-September onwards, some real progress was being made in terms of pushing the front line eastwards.



**The graves of Privates Stead and Pownall, both killed in early July 1916.  
They lie in Aveluy Wood cemetery, about 5 miles north of Albert**

Although there was not another assault across the whole front, much narrower objectives were chosen, and formations ordered to take them on. The area of activity that most applied to our battalions was the approach to Thiepval.

2 DWR, after its unsuccessful 1st July assault from the sucricie on the D919 south west of Serre, pulled back to its trenches for ten days, until it was withdrawn to a rest camp between Bertrancourt and Acheux. The Battalion entrained at Doullens on 21 July, arriving the same day at Cassels, back in the Ypres sector. The time there was mostly spent in absorbing intakes of new officers and men. On 16 September the battalion was sent back to

the Somme, for a period of intensive training, until mid-October, when it deployed forward.

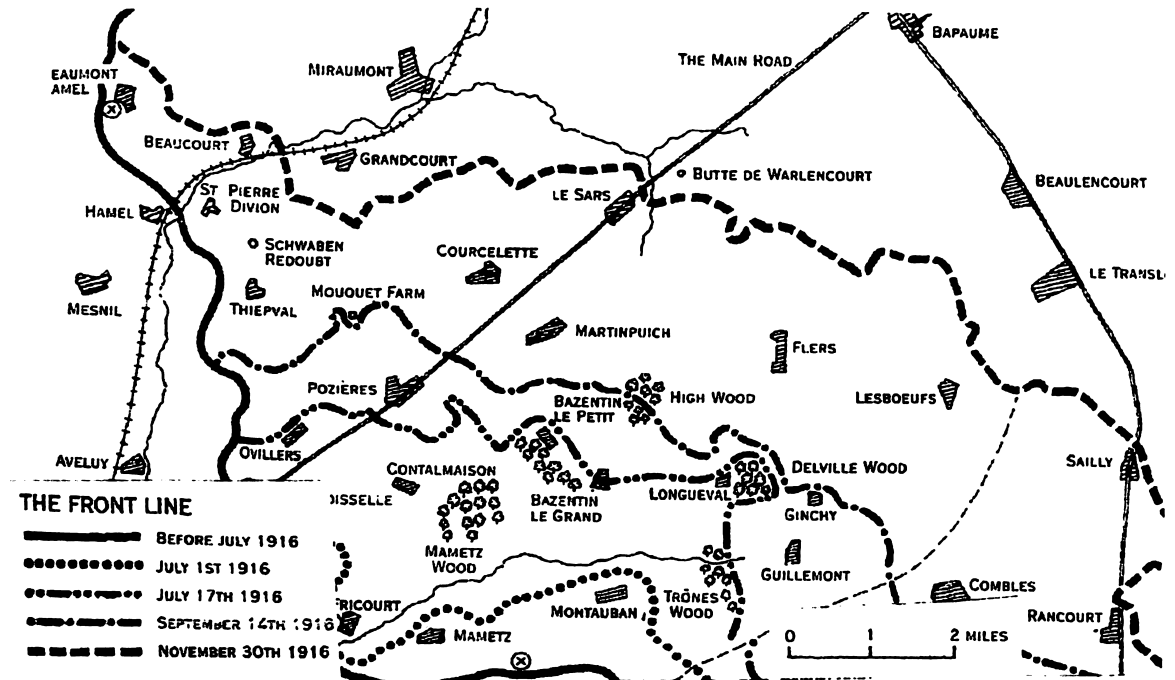
After their exploits on 1 July, 147 Brigade (1/4, 1/5, 1/6 and 1/7 DWR) were in trenches in the Aveluy and Thiepval woods areas until the beginning of September, when they went into trenches at Authuille. Through a carefully researched article by Scott Flaving and extracts from the War Diary of 1/7 DWR, (also, and at the time probably better, known as 7th Battalion West Riding Regiment (WRR), rather as the Green Howards are often referred to as The Yorkshire Regiment (YR)), we can follow their fortunes through two major attacks in September.



1916 France 5DWR in trenches at Thiepval Wood



An interesting memorial on the Somme, commemorating the 17th Middlesex Regiment, and especially men of Leyton Orient Football Club (then known as Clapton Orient), whose players and staff volunteered for service en masse



## THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME, JULY TO NOVEMBER 1916

Our 8th, 9th and 10th Battalions moved with such frequency throughout the sector in the period from July to October, in and out of the front line trenches and with periods in reserve, that any description of their movements would be utterly confusing to say the least. 8 DWR, its Gallipoli action behind it, had arrived in the Somme sector on 6 July and stayed mostly in the eastern half of the Somme battle zone. It had stiff fighting ahead of it, as the extracts from WO2 Miles' diary (below) describing the assaults on the "Wunderwerk" and

a "revenge raid" near Thiepval show. 10 DWR, after heavy action on the Somme were sent to the Ypres sector, returning to the Somme in time for the attack on German positions at Le Sars, as described on Major General Webb-Carter's account of 2Lt Kelly's VC.

Thus our focus in the issue of the Journal is on actions in September, by both our territorial and regular (Service) battalions. We start with 147 Brigade (1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 17 DWR).

### 49th Division Attack; Sunday 3 September 1916

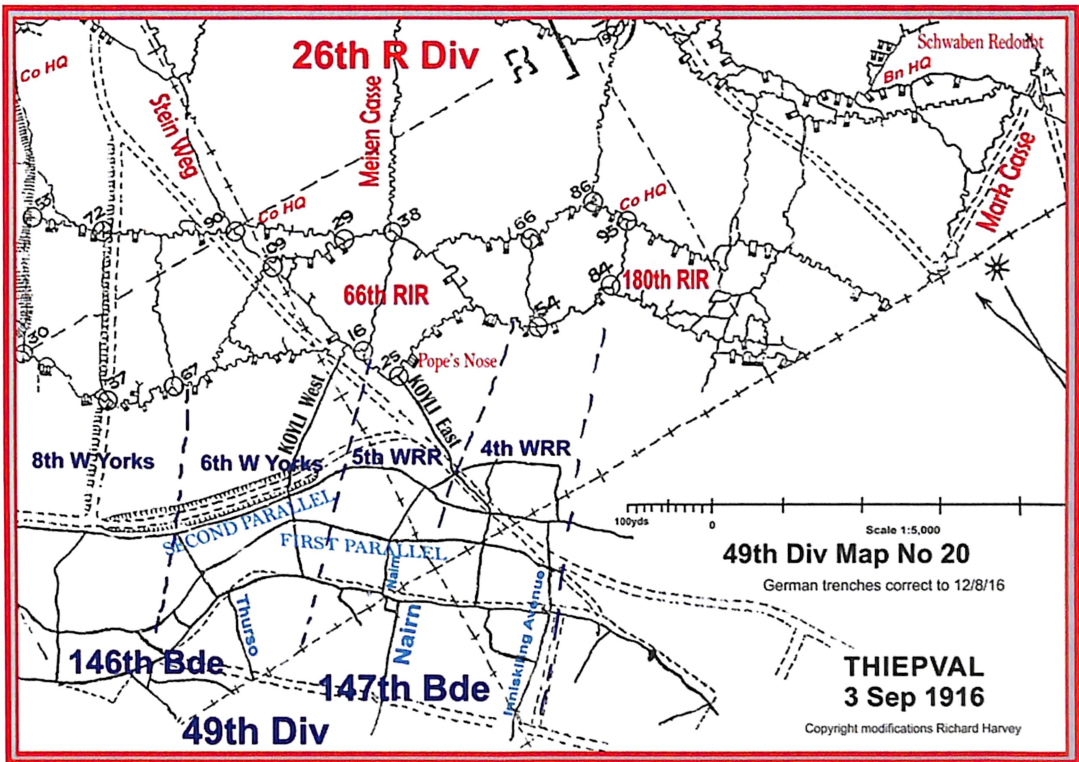
(73° F and windy)

The following article has been compiled by Scott Flaving from documents and maps held in the Regimental Archives and extracts from original German accounts supplied to Dave Cochrane, and translated (loosely) by the author, from the Imperial War Museum. Richard Harvey input to the maps and illustrations.

#### INTRODUCTION

Since the disastrous opening day of the Battle of the Somme, originally conceived as a joint Anglo French offensive but overtaken by events like the unexpected German offensive against Verdun, hardly a day had passed without some British or French units battering against the German defences. Some with success, such as at Fricourt and La Boisselle; others not so successful, Mamez Wood and Trones Wood. Larger attacks had been launched on 7th July, 23rd July and 18th August.

On 3rd September, 1916, another large effort was planned: 14th Corps, in the Guillemont area, 15th Corps, in the Delville Wood area, the ANZAC Corps in the Mouquet Farm area, the 2nd Corps, in the Thiepval area, and 5th Corps, on the north bank of the Ancre, were ordered to continue these attacks. 2nd Corps attacked with 25th Division on the right, towards the Wonder Work, and 49th Division on the left, towards a line between St Pierre Divion and the Schwaben Redoubt.



**GROUND**

North of the River Somme, the River Ancre, flowing south east through the rolling chalk uplands of North Eastern France skirts the Thiepval Ridge. By early 1915 the German armies had firmly established lines of trenches on this high ground and fortified many of the farms and villages. By 1916, they had made full use of the natural features and the remains of farms to

create a series of strongpoints surrounding the village of Thiepval: the Schwaben Redoubt, Stuff Redoubt, Goat Redoubt, Mouquet Farm, Wonderwork and the Pope's Nose. The Ancre was the left boundary of 49th Division, the attack was made in a north easterly direction, with the right Boundary being an extension of Inniskilling Avenue running along the right edge of Thiepval Wood towards the German front line to the left of the Schwaben Redoubt.



The ground looking north towards the enemy lines from the edge of Thiepval Wood, with Mill Road cemetery on the skyline

## ENEMY FORCES

The 26th Reserve Infantry Division (Res Inf Div), comprising 51st Bde (119th, 121st and 180th Regts) had been reinforced by 66th Inf Regt from 52nd Res Inf Div. (A German Regiment was the equivalent of a British Brigade).

## OWN TROOPS

49th Division, 2nd Corps: Left, 146 Bde (8th & 6th Bns West Yorkshire (WY) Regt); Right, 147 Bde (4th Bn WRR Major J Walker & 5th Bn WRR Lt Col H A S Stanton supported by 57th Fd Coy RE with a working party of 150 men from 1/6th WRR & elements of 19 Lancs Fus (Pioneer Bn). Bn assault parties - no more than 13 officers per Bn & 137 men per Coy.

Formation: each Coy to form two lines, front line objective tps to wear white armband.

## OBJECTIVES

To capture and consolidate the German Front Line and Support Trenches – River Ancre to R.19.c.1.6, and subsequently German B Line R.19.d.1.9 to R.19.c.3.8.

## THE PLAN

The barrage was an enfilade barrage of short duration, probably five minutes, about 3 minutes on front line, 2 minutes on support line. Zero Hour was at the hour the barrage commences. It was necessary for troops at Zero Hour to move forward in their allotted formations as close to the objectives as our artillery admits. To carry this out, it was necessary for rear lines to move out of their trenches to within the correct distance of the lines they follow and for the whole of them to move forward till the leading line halts prior to the barrage lifting. The Companies detailed to capture the Support Lines, after passing the Front Line, had to wait for the artillery barrage to lift off the Support Line.

Equipment: The men carried a heavy load. Every man in the attack carried: rifle and equipment (less pack and greatcoat), 170 rounds SAA, water bottle, iron rations, 1 days preserved rations and unexpended portion of the current day's ration, 4 sandbags in belt, 2 grenades, one in each pocket. In addition, 25% of men carried picks and shovels, 1 pick to every three shovels. Every man who carried wire cutters had a piece of white tape prominently fastened to shoulder strap on each shoulder, and wire cutters were to be taken from men who became casualties.

Arm bands: All ranks of companies detailed to capture German Front Line had to wear a white arm band on each arm. D Coy, 1/4th Bn, wore a distinguishing arm band of red: (D Coy formed the flank guard for the Division). A small number of black discs were issued to troops to carry to indicate position of troops, especially on the flanks.

Signals. Red flares will be carried by all officers

and full rank NCOs. These flares were primarily used in answer to Contact Aeroplane Calls. The calls are a succession of short blasts on the Aeroplane's Klaxon horn but if no attention to Klaxon, aeroplanes threw white lights. Contact aeroplanes are marked by one black band on one of the lower wings and a flag on one of the struts. Flares should be fired in groups of 3.

## WHAT HAPPENED?

German Accounts (extracts): "At the end of August, with the build-up of the English on the left flank of the Regiment and a large amount of material was gradually being amassed, the hour of decision at Strong Point Thiepval could not be far off. Even though Thiepval did not lie in the centre of the battle, it was so close to the flank that it felt as though it was. The number of dead, wounded and missing was increasing. Major Mejer, previously a field railway unit commander, took over 1st Battalion of 180th Regt. With great energy and enthusiasm he devoted himself to the improvement of the defences. He was increasingly active and so he was in the afternoon of 28th August when he went to inspect the work at the medical bunker when he was hit on the back of the head by shrapnel from a distant shell burst and severely wounded. He did not regain consciousness. Capt Schaal, 10th Coy Comd, took over command."

"Towards the end of August the left wing of the 26th Wurtemburger Reserve Division on the left flank, through the strength of the English opposite, became endangered. To strengthen this wing, held by 180th Regiment, which is now to concentrate nearer Thiepval, the vacated positions being occupied by the 66th Infantry Regiment [from 13 Bde, 52nd Div]. On the morning after a short bombardment the enemy attacked the newly arrived disorientated troops. At 5.15am the artillery opened up, at 5.45am English storm columns appeared on the left and right Battalions' flanks. The 9th Company, which had suffered heavy casualties during the relief were overrun by the enemy. 4 officers rallied all available men and threw themselves against the enemy. Those that did not flee were killed."

British Accounts: Attack by 49 Div, 3rd Sep 1916, Report on Causes of Failure by Maj Gen Perceval, GOC 49th Div (extract):

"Previous to and during the assembly the troops appeared eager and confident. There is no evidence that any men remained in the trenches, the advance to the enemy wire appears to have been steady enough. From that point onwards many appear to have failed their officers. The result was that those troops who did advance were sufficient only to occupy the German trenches at intervals. The most considerable gap was caused by the failure of the 6th West Yorks. Those men of the 4 WRR who reached the German Support Line appear to have maintained their positions with

determination as long as their bombs lasted. When they had no more bombs they retired across no-man's-land suffering very heavy casualties during the retirement. The reason why the right Brigade was not reinforced was that the situation was not appreciated at Bde and Bn level until the troops had retired.

I have received drafts amounting to 181 Officers and 4962 ORs since 25 June. From that date the time available for training has been very limited. 6 W Yorks went into action with a strength of 506 ORs. Of these 366 were recent drafts from no less than 26 different Regiments. The older soldiers appear to have followed their officers."

Sgt Frank Cocker, 1/4th DWR. Letter. 10 Sep 1916, Dear old Homefolks, You will have been anxiously awaiting further news from me, to supplement what you have already heard. I think I may now tell you that the Battalion has taken part in an attack of some consequence and has suffered rather badly. I myself was not in it, I was a reserve NCO which, in some lights, was a fortunate thing. Anyway, I am not feeling so fortunate when I think of poor Charlie. Where is he? God knows! Also Wilf. Both are missing and that is the sum total of information I can get of either. Frank Kear proved himself a hero and was rewarded with a nice 'blighty'.

So long, excuse short measure. Your loving son and brother, Frank.

Pte H Bailey's report. In a letter to his father, Pte H Bailey of Siddall, wrote, "I left him (Cpl Charles Wood) unconscious but dying on the Tuesday following the charge of 3rd September. I was lying with him until then. He had his leg off just below the knee. We should not have been more than 30 yards away from the German front line but, happily for us, they only came to their second line after we had retired....he could not have lived long after I left him. I was wounded and reached our lines more dead than alive. I was shot through the thigh, in the shoulder and in the chest, so could not help him."

### CASUALTIES

180th Regiment reported German casualties as 48 dead, 115 wounded and 16 missing. The number of dead and badly wounded English soldiers in and around their positions was in the region of 500. In addition they had captured 8 Lewis guns, 7 unwounded prisoners and 8 wounded prisoners.

The 147 Bde reported, "8 officers killed, 12 wounded, 4 missing; ORs: 81 killed, 359 wounded, 26 shell shock cases and 386 missing" many of whom were killed or died of wounds. The Thiepval Memorial lists 202 WRR



The headstones of 3 Dukes buried in Mill Road CWGC, who were killed in action on 3 September 1916. The beautiful wreath had been laid just moments before this photograph was taken by relatives of Private Smith. There are 91 Dukes graves here, of which 86 died on this day, and of course many more who were killed in the same operation are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

soldiers, presumed killed on 3rd September 1916, with no known grave. 86 of the Dukes who were killed that day are buried in Mill Road Cemetery. Others, who died of their wounds on the long route back to hospitals in England, are buried in many other cemeteries.

#### AFTERMATH

Among those killed on that day was CSM John Walker MM, 1/4th Bn WRR. In early 2000 his daughter, 3 months old when he died, contacted RHQ DWR to see if we could tell her what had happened to her father on the 3rd September, as the letter sent to the family by his Company Commander at the time did not give details. Incredibly, he was mentioned in a number of Regimental sources and a casualty reported that he was last seen leading a small party of men in the German trench holding off a German counter attack. This information was gratefully received by his daughter, along with a display case containing copies of his medals, put together and kindly donated by Bob Garside, a great friend of the Regiment.

The continuous attacks from 1st July, along with the introduction of tanks and rolling barrages, during the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme became a great drain on German resources, still embroiled in the struggle at Verdun. The Chief of the General Staff, General Falkenheyn, had been replaced by Generals Hindenburg and Ludendorf on 29 August, 1916. After experiencing the scope, along with the technological and tactical developments of the 'Big Push', they ordered the construction of the Hindenburg Line and a withdrawal from the battlefield, to be complete by March, 1917. The German Army never fully recovered from the Verdun

and Somme battles of 1916 and, by August 1918, it was impossible to continue to resist the victorious Allied armies approaching the German frontier.

The Somme has become ingrained in the nation's psyche, along with such as the Charge of the Light Brigade, Dunkirk and Arnhem, as a heroic failure, something the British seem to relish, along with favouring underdogs and loving animals. The patriotic fervour buoying up the morale of the troops and the country began to dissipate after the Somme, as the casualty lists became longer and the country's medical services in every district grew to accommodate the great numbers of injured and shell shocked soldiers returned from the front.

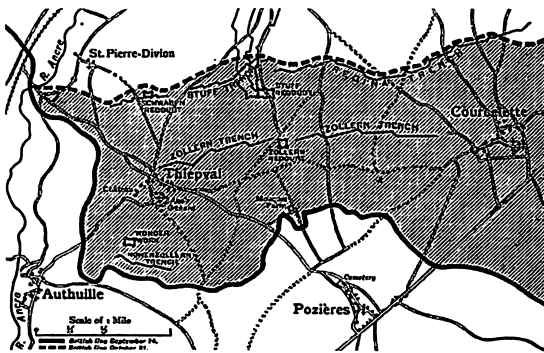
The introduction of conscription in early 1916 and food rationing in 1917 went further to sap war spirit. It is notable that, unlike Waterloo, the Crimean and Boer Wars, few, if any, roads were named after battles of the First World War and it was some time after the war that soldiers' memoirs were written and published in any number. However, there was a great interest in preserving the memory of the war and the Imperial War Museum, along with many other public and private collections were created towards the end of the war and in the immediate post war years, alongside the parish war memorials, to preserve the memory of those who had fought and died for King and Country. 100 years later, despite the revisionist views of the 60s and 70s, the nation has once again come together to commemorate those who served in the War to end all Wars through national and local museum services and the media. Lest We Forget.

M S Flaving, August 2016.



**The Thiepval Memorial at dusk**

## Assaults on the “Wunderwerk”, 14 September 1916, and Thiepval, from 24 September.



To the south east of the Thiepval Spur was a trench known as ‘Turk Street’, and a strong point named ‘The Wunderwerk’. The Wunderwerk had been constructed in the two years that the Germans had been in possession of the area, solidly built of reinforced concrete, it in turn was defended by deep fields of barbed wire and innumerable machine gun emplacements, each perfectly sited to form a deadly cross fire, a wicked killing field for anyone attempting to take the position.

An innovative feature of the Wunderwerk was a revolving platform of machine guns which had the ability to drop into protected space when the British artillery bombarded the position, to rise up again when the danger was over. Underground the position was a labyrinth of interlinked tunnels and bunkers, some thirty feet deep, which connected it to other positions nearby.

The Wunderwerk had to be captured to enable further eastward assaults to be carried out. The task was given to 11 Northern Division, who tasked 32nd Infantry Brigade, consisting of 9 West Yorks, 8 DWR and 6 YR – or Yorkshire Regiment as the Green Howards were often titled - with 6 Y&L in reserve. The assault was to commence on 14 September at 6.30 pm. The attacking companies were to go forward in two waves, Dukes on the right and West Yorkshires on the left, each with a full complement of bombers and four Lewis guns. Every man carried 220 rounds of ammunition, six bombs, extra rations and pick or shovel.

The artillery barrage crept forward, so close to the advancing infantry that some own casualties were caused. The operation was a success, but a costly one; 8 officers and 250 other ranks were killed or wounded. The battalion held its ground against counter-attacks, in which the enemy suffered heavy losses, until relieved by 1/6 DWR. From this newly captured line the assault on the Thiepval ridge was launched on 24 September.

There are many Dukes names on the Thiepval Memorial. All of 147 Infantry Brigade was involved, and 8 DWR again went into the assault on 30 September, near Mouquet Farm and the recently captured Stuff

Redoubt. This was all raw and bloody work, and more was to follow through the remainder of September and October.

## Extracts from the diary of WO2 Miles, 8 DWR (with some abridgement)

### The Wunderwerk

“Sept 13 1916 – Tomorrow we go into the line and the following evening we are going to take, or try to, Thiepval Wood. We have had encouraging news imparted to us that seven divisions have previously tried to take it. The sector we are responsible for is called “Wunder Works” by the Germans, so called because it consists of a revolving platform containing innumerable machine guns, which disappear when our artillery starts to bombard, but which quickly “pop up” again as our infantry commence to advance. Cheering news! Eh?

Sept 17 – Phew. Those three days seemed like an hour’s nightmare. We went up on the night of the 14th with three days’ rations in our haversacks, and on our way up we passed field guns wheel to wheel from Crucifix Corner to Railway Alley (a trench leading up into the front line). There must have been thousands of guns there, and I think it was that that gave us victory. We lost about 200 (out of 500) killed and wounded, and unfortunately my chum was amongst the wounded, being hit in the elbow soon after we went over.

There was a tremendous amount of old iron thrown about, but I was lucky enough to be missed. The chief praise is due, I think, to one of our companies and a company of West Yorks who, as we came forward, came behind and dug a communication trench from “Jerry’s” front line to our own. How those poor devils worked while new held on was marvellous. The Brigadier General, as we came out of the line, shook hands with each of us (those that were left).”

### Thiepval

“We went into the line just to the right of Mouquet Farm immediately in front of Orvillers. I lost a lot of my chums here; one was killed next to me. I did not stop anything but had a very severe shaking up when a part of a trench I was in got blown up. I had a touch of shell shock, but was practically myself in an hour or two.

I must record this episode just to show that the Germans were not particular what dirty tricks they played. One of our companies was in a part of a trench which was quite close to the Germans, a matter of 80 yards apart, when one of the Germans stuck a white flag up. Of course, when our fellows saw it they immediately eased firing and watched for “Jerry’s” next move. Presently some stretcher bearers climbed over the parapet and ran out with stretchers. Naturally we thought they were going to pick up their wounded, so we sent our stretcher bearers



to do the same. No sooner were our fellows out of the trenches when the Germans dropped into shell holes, whipped off their machine guns which had been hidden on the stretchers, and commenced to mow our chaps down. – a dastardly trick.

You can guess we pasted them for that. Our Commanding Officer immediately notified Brigade Headquarters about the dirty trick they played on us, and the General at once ordered a concentration of artillery fire on the spot where the white flag went up. There was a noise while it lasted. That same night, after a good rum

issue, we went over on a bombing raid to again show our displeasure at their mode of fighting.

It was a mad half hour while it lasted. I know the rum must have got into my head; I went over with a steel helmet full of bombs, and I remember bombing the dugout where the Germans were hiding, but I can't recollect returning to the trench, until I found myself shaking hands with my chum, who had also got back safely. I was minus a puttee and had my trousers torn in several places, but that was when we tore our way through the barbed wire."

### WAR Diary 1/7 DWR, 17 – 19 September 1916. THIEPVAL LEIPZIG SALIENT

#### 17 September.

Arrangements made for an attack on the German trenches in the evening. The operation was carried out as follows & was most successful. An objective 350 yards in advance of that ordered was gained & held on the Left.

1. The objective was the line R.31.a.9.1. - R.31.c.6.9.a-7.2. - R.31.c.4.7.

2. C D & B Coys (less 2 platoons) Coys were employed and in addition 4 Battalion Bomb Squads. 2 Platoons of B & 2 platoons of A were in support.

C Coy 1/5th WR Regt formed the reserve. A Coy less 2 platoons 1/7 WR Regt held the line PRINCE STREET. 23-91. two consolidating parties of R.E. & 4th WR Regt.

Three bomb carrying parties of 4th WR Regt

3. Troops assembled as follows:

C Coy & 1 Btn Bomb Squad, Trench 91-78-68

D Coy & 1 Btn Bomb Squad, Trench 68-R.31.c.4.7.

B Coy & 2 Btn Bomb Squad, Trench leading to 46 with head at 46.

Support (a) 2 platoons a Coy in TURCK ST  
1 Consolidating Party in TURCK ST.

(b) 2 Platoons B Coy in HINDENBURG.  
1 Consolidating party in HINDENBURG.

Bomb etc Dumps & Carrying parties at 91-76 & 45.

4. Fighting order. S.A.A. 120 rds. 2 sandbags per man.

5. C & D Coys were ordered to assault in 4 waves. Each wave of one Platoon per Coy. Distances 15x, 20x, & 15x. B Coy Det attacked with one platoon leading - half on each side of the OG line. Supported by a second platoon similarly. One Btn Bomb Squad proceeded along trench supported by

one Coy Bomb Squad to clear dugouts & followed by one Btn Bomb Squad in Reserve. The Btn Bomb Sgt led the Bombers.

The Battalion Bomb Officer was placed to assist in supply of bombs & to move up trench as a reserve officer if OC Det required him for the Bombers. Each half Coy of C & D had one Coy Bomb Squad.

Each Bomb Squad consisted of 1 NCO & 8 other ranks with Mills Caps & Mills Rifle Grenades. Reserve Coy (C 1/5th WR Regt) was placed in LEMBERG. BHQ at R.31.c.2.1.

6. Each man of the last two waves carried a tool (1/2 picks & 1/2 shovels)

When assault started the support moved from TURCK ST to Trench 91-68 and from HINDENBURG to Trench 68-46 respectively.

7. An advanced report centre was established at 76. HINDENBURG under the Scout Officer, two alternate lines of wire were laid by separate routes from here to BHQ & and party of runners was posted, in case both lines were cut.

The Btn Scouts (1 NCO & 10 men) were employed between this Report Centre and the troops engaged. A subsidiary Report Centre was similarly placed at point 91. (TURCK ST).

8. Special parties were told off to deal with the following enemy bomb stops. R.31.a.8.1. - R.31.c.6.9. - R.31.c.4.7. & R.31.c.6.7.

9. All troops were reported in position at 6pm.

10. When the Stokes Mortar bombardment started a number of rounds fell into the assembly trenches near 68 and 45 causing a number of casualties and blowing up the bulk of the Mills Bomb Store at 45. This caused confusion which was quickly rectified. The trench running W from 91 to a block 100x W of 91 had been cleared to avoid casualties

from the artillery and from any men who might lose direction on the right.

- (a) C Coy assaulted from 91 to 69 in 4 waves. The Platoons were kept together in the assembly trench and not mixed up owing the narrowness of the trench and its shape. The first wave consisted of half of each of the flank platoons the second wave of half of each of the two centre platoons, and the third & fourth wave of the remaining halves similarly. The objective was captured with little loss, most of the enemy were killed or wounded by the barrage, the remainder were dealt with, and a party pushed up to 72 where a few enemy were dealt with and the position was consolidated.
- (b) D Coy assaulted trench here was wider and the platoons were all distributed among each other, and each wave consisted of a separate platoon. Parties of the enemy were found in 76, 58, 59, 47, 68, 30 and the triangle at 69, and were dealt with. A number had suffered from the barrage. Only positions of the trench were found good & the Coy pushed on and occupied trench 66-75 & commenced to consolidate. A white trench in front appeared empty & it was proposed to occupy it, but before this could be done, it was manned by the enemy. Part of the Coy, including both Lewis guns & their detachments, inclined to the Right & have not been seen since. It is believed they advanced towards the line of APPLE TREE. They may have become prisoners or may have been wiped out by a machine gun which was firing from this direction. The irregular line of start & the ground which is much broken made keeping direction difficult.
- (c) B Coy (less 2 platoons) with 2 Btn Bomb Squad suffered a number of casualties from Stokes Mortar bombs, in their position of assembly, and were thrown into confusion but Capt Lupton jumped on the parapet & rallied the party who advanced up in time. The Platoons advanced half on each side of the trench & 3 bomb Squads up the centre. After about 30 yds there was no trench left and it took some little time to find the direction & then the party advanced about 300x & waited for the barrage to lift. When it lifted, a further advance of 40 yds was made and then consolidation was begun. The front German Line was much battered but the portion where the dugouts are, was occupied. A number, estimated at 80, retreated but were shot down.

B & D Coys joined hands at point 66.

(d) General

About 7pm reports were received at BHQ that the objective had been captured. There was doubt as to where the Left Flank had reached.

B Coy asked for supports at 8pm. The 2 remaining platoons were sent up and ½ the Reserve Coy was

moved to point 45 and later the remainder of this coy was sent there and half sent up to join B Coy but these were sent back as being no longer required. One Coy 1/6 WR Regt, received as a new Reserve, was moved into HINDENBURG. The remains of the consolidating parties who had suffered from shell fire were sent up to work. Patrols were sent out who located the relative position of the enemy. The actual position was wrongly reported owing to our own exact position on the map not being established. The night was very dark & rainy.

Later a second Coy (A) of 1/5 WR Regt was received and as it was believed the advanced party were at 42, this Coy was sent to seize 66. But lost its way and returned at 5am. It was not again sent out as the light was too bright.

Two Vickers Guns were also ordered at 42 (66) but lost their way. There was a shortage of tools in the advanced party. The Artillery barrage was reported as excellent. The Coys got much mixed up during advance.

11. Casualties. Practically none during advance. Majority due to shell fire after the objectives had been reached. At point 66 a number were caused by snipers.

TOTAL 5 officers, 215 other ranks.

12. Lessons.

- (a) It is possible to get troops to advance in waves of Platoon from a single narrow trench.
- (b) To assist in keeping direction, the jumping off trench should be parallel to the objective.
- (c) Every man must carry a pick or shovel, fastened to his body by rope or tape.
- (d) The method of supply of bombs seemed satisfactory & worked well due to the excellent work of 1/4th WR Regt squads.
- (e) The consolidating parties require dugouts or should be kept further back till barrage stops.
- (f) The Stokes Mortars appear to be inclined to fire short. They should open well over & then reduce range if required.
- (g) The method indicated above para 7 of obtaining information appeared to work very well. Information received was accurate & reasonably quickly brought in.

### 18 September.

The Battalion was relieved on night of 18/19 & moved into Support in LEIPZIG & LEMBERG trenches, except B Coy which moved to AUTHUILLE.

### 19 September.

Early on 19th Sept Btn (less B Coy) moved to CRUCIFIX CORNER & SOUTH BLUFF AUTHUILLE (A Coy). Command handed over at 12 noon. Just before noon the Army Comdr, General Gough, arrived at BHQ and stated he was much pleased with the operations etc.

**‘DUKES’ VC on the SOMME.  
By Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter.**

This year we are commemorating the Battle of The Somme, always described with the definite article as if it were something quite exceptional, which indeed it was. At the time of writing, in August this year, I was transported back to 100 years before when the battle was still in progress (if that is right word) and remained so until 19th November, 141 days after the battle commenced on 1st July.



**Second Lieutenant Henry Kelly VC MC and Bar**

For us as ‘Dukes’ it is worth remembering that the Regiment won a VC in the Battle and the purpose of this article is to tell the story of Henry Kelly. He was born in Collyhurst in the NE outskirts of Manchester on July 10th, 1887, the eldest of 10 children, his father, from Dublin, had moved to Manchester where he married and raised a family. Young Henry was educated St Patrick’s School and the Xavieran Brothers’ College in Manchester. His father died when he was 17, by which time he was working as a sorting clerk at the Newton Street Post Office. In 1914 amidst the hysteria of the outbreak of war Henry enlisted into the Cameron Highlanders on 5th September but, shortly after, transferred to the Manchester Regiment and, by 1915, he had been promoted to Company Sergeant Major<sup>1</sup>. He was selected for officer training and, on 12 May, 1915, he was commissioned into the 10th Battalion of the West

Riding Regiment (Duke of Wellington’s) and joined them in France.

The 10th Service Battalion of the Regiment was formed in Halifax as part of Kitchener’s New Army. This army was raised outside the normal chain of command and was reliant on the administration of local councils and businessmen. There were some 400,000 men who joined the New Armies and they were described as K1, the first 100,000 volunteers, K2 the second and K3 the third, of which the 10th Battalion was part. The Battalion assembled in September, 1914, at Frensham in Surrey, where the men were issued with blue serge uniforms and old Lee-Metford rifles. Their artillery pieces were 90mm French guns and the Commanding Officer was 44 years old. Fortunately perhaps it was going to be some time before they would be deployed to France. Interestingly, J B Priestley had joined the Battalion as a 20 year old Private soldier and was evacuated in June as a casualty from The Somme<sup>2</sup>.

Having been inspected on Hankley Common by the King, Queen and Princess Mary (of Christmas box, 1914, fame), the Battalion embarked for France in August, 1915, as part of 69 Brigade, 23 Division. They were not involved in the first few days of the battle but were in action around Contalmaison on 6th July and, later in the month, at Becourt. Their casualties were substantial. In that month alone they lost 21 Officers and 419 other ranks killed, wounded, missing or suffering from “shell shock”. As a result the Division was moved to the Ypres Sector, where it was reinforced and re-equipped. But they re-appeared on The Somme in September and one wonders what they thought about returning to the maelstrom.

On 30th September the Battalion, back in the Contalmaison area, moved forward to assembly areas North of Fricourt, called Shelter Wood; the irony of the name would not have been lost! There they were warned for a two divisional (23 and 47 Divisions) attack on Le Sars and, on the 2nd October, they moved forward in daylight along concealed trenches just North of the Bapaume Road to take over the new line from 8th KOYLI in front the village. Each of the four Companies were equipped with 200 bombs and every man carried 170 rounds of ammunition and 2 sandbags. 2Lt Kelly was in D Company, which was initially placed in reserve just south of the road. The purpose of the attack was to take the village as a prelude to another Division taking the Butte de Warlencourt, a very prominent landmark which was described as “a dome of gleaming white chalk from which all vegetation had been blown away by shellfire, it was the most conspicuous object in the landscape by daylight or moonlight” and one which gave the Germans good observation over the whole sector.

The front line for the Battalion was the Old German Line 1 (OG1) and the enemy were defending Old German Line 2 (OG2) less than 100 yards apart. OG 2 was strongly held and the trenches were deep. The wire was intact and would have to be cut by hand. The approach to OG 2 was slightly uphill and was pock marked with shell holes. All sounds pretty discouraging. On the 4th October orders were given for an attack at 6pm and A and D Companies were designated for the attack which could only be supported by 18 pounder guns as the distance to the objective was too close for the mediums. This little detail, which meant that OG2 was largely untouched by artillery, was not good for morale!

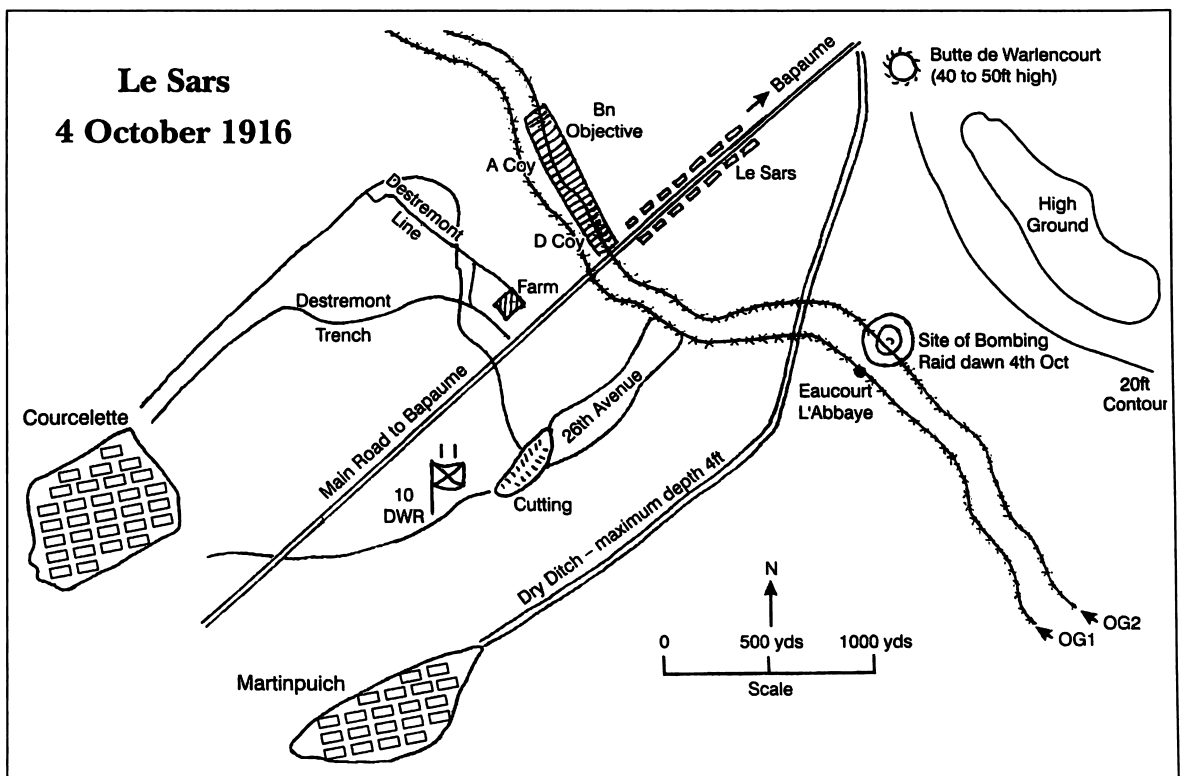
The attack was a complete failure with all officers except Kelly either killed or wounded. Lieutenants Harris, Stafford and Graham were killed. However Kelly with CSM O'Shea and 3 or 4 men managed to get into OG2, which was a remarkable feat. This small group managed to hold off the Germans for two hours in the failing light. CSM O'Shea and two men were wounded. Kelly concluded the 'game was up' and withdrew to the OG1 line, carrying CSM O'Shea back. Then, under cover of darkness he went back and picked up three more men and brought them back too. During the night A and D Companies were withdrawn to Martinpuich. On the 6th October the Battalion returned, by the same route. This time 11 West Yorks, supported by just one Company of 'Dukes' (there was not much more left)

succeeded in taking Le Sars. The surviving 'Dukes' were relieved by 6th Camerons and returned to Ypres. It was from there that the 10th Battalion embarked for the Italian Front in December, 1917.

Temporary 2/Lt Henry Kelly was awarded the Victoria Cross on 25th November, 1916, and his citation reads as follows: "*For most conspicuous bravery in attack. He twice rallied his company under the heaviest fire, and finally led the only three available men into the enemy trench, and there remained bombing until two of them had become casualties and enemy reinforcement had arrived. He then carried his Company Sergeant Major, who had been wounded, back to our trenches, a distance of 70 yards and subsequently three other soldiers. He set a fine example of gallantry and endurance.*"

Henry Kelly went on to serve to the end of the war and, in 1918, whilst serving in Italy on the Asiago Plateau (some may remember the Dukes Battlefield tour there in September 2011) he was awarded an MC and a Bar, but that is another story.

He was described as an outstanding fighting soldier of whom the Regiment was justly proud. After the war he served briefly 1922-23 in the Irish National Army during the Civil War. There is some thought that Kelly later fought in The Spanish Civil War, in 1936, and received the Grand Laurelled Cross of San Fernando (nothing to do with the last train!). However this phase of his life is veiled in mystery and several contradictions. Such a



conspicuous personality involved in either side would have been documented and yet it is not. What is clearer is that he and his brothers opened grocery shops on Rochdale Road and Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester. At some stage he became a landlord in Beeston, Leeds, and later in Bradford where he ran the Rawson Arms and it was not long before 10th Battalion reunions were held there. J B Priestley vividly describes a Battalion reunion after the war in his book, *English Journey*, maybe in the Rawson Arms.

During World War II he served briefly as a Lieutenant in the Cheshire Regiment, but by then he would have been in his early 50s. There is some question of a Court Martial in relation to a false claim for £2.10s. Facts on this are understandably hard to find. He left the Army and returned to the Post Office. He died after a long illness (since 1955) on January 18th, 1960, aged 73. He is buried in Manchester Southern Cemetery. His medals are on display as part of the Regimental Collection at Bankfield Museum in Halifax (see photo at bottom of cover page).



<sup>1</sup>This was a new rank as, up to 1915, there was just the RSM and the eight companies were administered by Colour Sergeants.

<sup>2</sup> For a full account of his experiences readers should refer to 'Margin Released' published in 1962.

<sup>3</sup>Lieutenant Harris is commemorated on Spec Memorial B4, Adanac Cemetery; Lieutenants Stafford and Graham are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Evelyn Webb-Carter 31 August 2016

## The 76th Regiment in India.

The last Iron Duke contained a description of the Battle of Leswaree. On reflection it seems a little odd to have begun the 76th's story there, skipping over the preceding battles in that campaign in the Maratha (I have adopted current spelling) Wars. In this article we drop back to the beginning of 1803 (Leswaree was in November of that year), when the 76th were stationed in Cawnpore.

Incidentally, in the last piece I asked for any maps of the Leswaree battlefield. Later I discovered that my copy of the "Historical Records of the 76th Foot" should have a map in it, but at some point it has been removed and lost. If anyone has a copy of this book, I will be most grateful if they will they please look at the map opposite page 34, and send me a hard or scanned copy, to complete my volume.

Back to the battlefields of India. The Maratha Confederacy was born out of the combining of a number of minor kingdoms, states and ruling families, initially in western India, but was successful in expanding both into Central India and in a northerly direction. The leadership of the Confederacy was frequently contested, and it came into conflict with the British when a candidate for the chief role sought British support to oust the then leadership. Seeing an opportunity for further expansion of influence and territory, this support



**Viscount Lake of Delhi and Leswaree  
and of Aston Clinton**

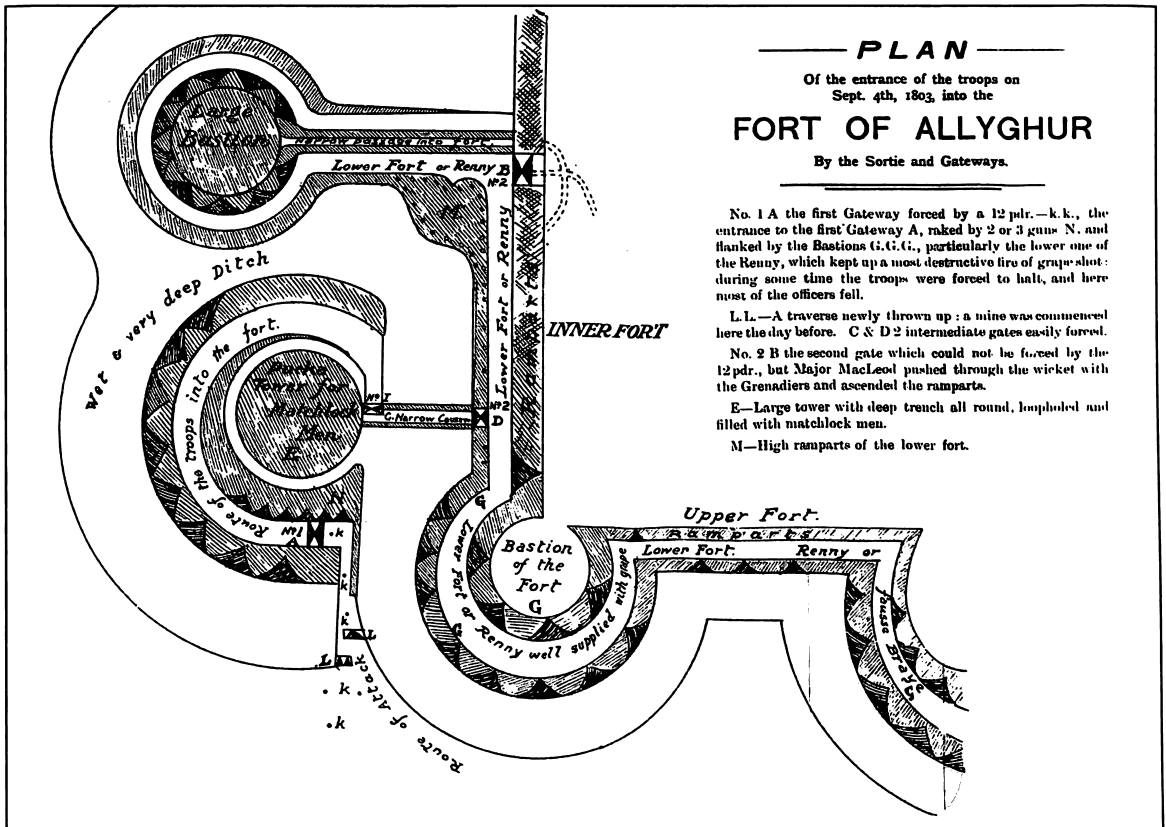
was offered, leading to three Maratha Wars between 1775 and 1818. The engagements described in this and the previous article took place in the second Maratha War 1803 – 1805.

At the same time that Lord Lake started his operations, the topic of this article, Major General Wellesley was in the Deccan, in a campaign that included success at Assaye and Argaon. By the end of the year both Lake and Wellesley had substantially enhanced their reputations as successful, fighting generals. The command structure was somewhat blurred, although Wellesley was the C in C and he and General Lake were in general accord, even if they agreed to differ on tactical priorities, and so each led his army in accordance with his own reading of the situation. There were in any case two main bodies of enemy.

Lake's army, a mix of King's and Company's troops, concentrated at Cawnpore between July and August 1803. It consisted of three King's cavalry regiments of light dragoons, five regiments of native cavalry, 200 European manned artillery pieces, one King's Regiment of Foot (the 76th), and eleven battalions of native infantry, in all some 10,500 men. Camp followers would number at least another 100,000! To quote the Records, which in

turn is quoting Lake's Memoirs, "It is estimated that in this campaign there were ten camp followers, all told, to every fighting man..... Of transport animals there were enormous numbers - several thousand camels, some hundreds of elephants, and immense numbers of draught bullocks for the artillery and ammunition columns, and from 80,000 to 100,000 pack bullocks carrying grain." The mind boggles and one would not want to walk along behind such a column, as of course some had to, to provide protection on the march. However, the entire military force was in good order, well disciplined, regularly exercised and rehearsed in their duties. Lake was an experienced professional soldier, who had campaigned in the American Revolutionary War, the French Revolutionary War, and had put down an armed uprising in Ireland. He was 58 when he set out from Cawnpore in 1803.

The Army set off from Cawnpore on 7th August, and by the 28th was encamped in sight of Ally Ghur (Aligarh now, but, inconsistently, I have stayed with the Battle Honour name), some 112 miles from their start point, and in imminent contact with the enemy. The French led enemy force was about 15,000 strong. After a brisk cavalry action up to the Walls of the fort, the main



Ally Ghur Fort

Maratha force withdrew, leaving the fort of Ally Ghur well manned with 2000 infantrymen, 200 artillerymen and a cavalry regiment. The Fort also contained the majority of the entire Maratha Army's stores, including 300 guns and great quantities of powder and shot. The garrison was instructed to hold out with the promise that the main Maratha army would soon return to drive off the "invaders" – which indeed they were. Lake was now in Maratha territory, and area also called "French India" by contemporaries.

The French garrison commander, Colonel Pedron, was inclined to come to terms which would allow him to surrender the Fort, not least as a large sum of money was offered, but a Rajput officer, made of sterner stuff, put him under arrest for treating with the enemy and assumed command. The siege was on.

As our illustration shows, assaulting the Fort was a formidable undertaking. It was surrounded by a ditch up to 200 feet wide, and 32 feet deep, in which was at least 12 feet of water. There was a single entry point.

The Hon Colonel Monson, himself of the 76th but in command of the brigade at the time, himself led the initial assault; with Major McCleod, acting Commanding Officer of the 76th, at the head of his battalion. Both remained in the forefront of the fighting throughout the entire action. They crept forward and surprised a 60 strong picket outside the fort and overwhelmed them so that not a man survived. The plan had been that the picket would retreat in disorder, giving the attackers a chance to "bounce" the gate as it opened for the fleeing defenders. Dead men can't flee. The 76th Grenadier Company then encountered a small three gun emplacement, which was also surprised and overrun, but the gunners retreated with such speed that the pursuing infantrymen could not get to the gate in time.

The gate could not immediately be forced, so guns to blow it open were called up and meantime scaling

ladders were used, but the assailants were thrown back. Having cleared the ladders some defenders even climbed down them to engage with swords and spears the attackers, whilst their comrades on the walls above poured down a deadly fire. In the open and ill positioned to defend themselves, it was a difficult time for the leading elements of attacking force, and most of the casualties came at this stage of the battle. After some 20 minutes a 12 pounder gun blew in the outer gate.

Two further inner gates were smashed in, but a fourth defied even the attentions of the 12 pounder. However, Major McCleod managed to force the wicket in the gate, and in rushed the 76th, who threw back the locks and charged up onto the ramparts, closely followed by native infantry troops, and a great slaughter began. Bodies, living and dead were hurled into the moat below, and the 27th Light Dragoons cantered round cutting down survivors who did not at once surrender. I doubt they were given long to make up their mind. The Fort, considered impregnable by the Marathas, indeed by all India, was taken. General Lake, who had been fretting anxiously whilst the assault was held up by the gates, galloped to the scene of the action, but drew up at the gate reputedly with tears in his eyes when he saw the carpet of slain British and native troops lying there.

Nevertheless he was delighted with the outcome, and wrote in the strongest terms of the achievements of Colonel Monson and all the attacking force. Six officers and 49 other ranks had been killed, and 11 and 194 wounded, an astonishingly low number in the circumstances, considering the strength of the Fort, and the several thousand enemy dead, on top of which the guns, ammunition and powder that was captured was of invaluable help to Lake's further actions. Wellesley was greatly cheered by the news and made clear his admiration for General Lake and his army.

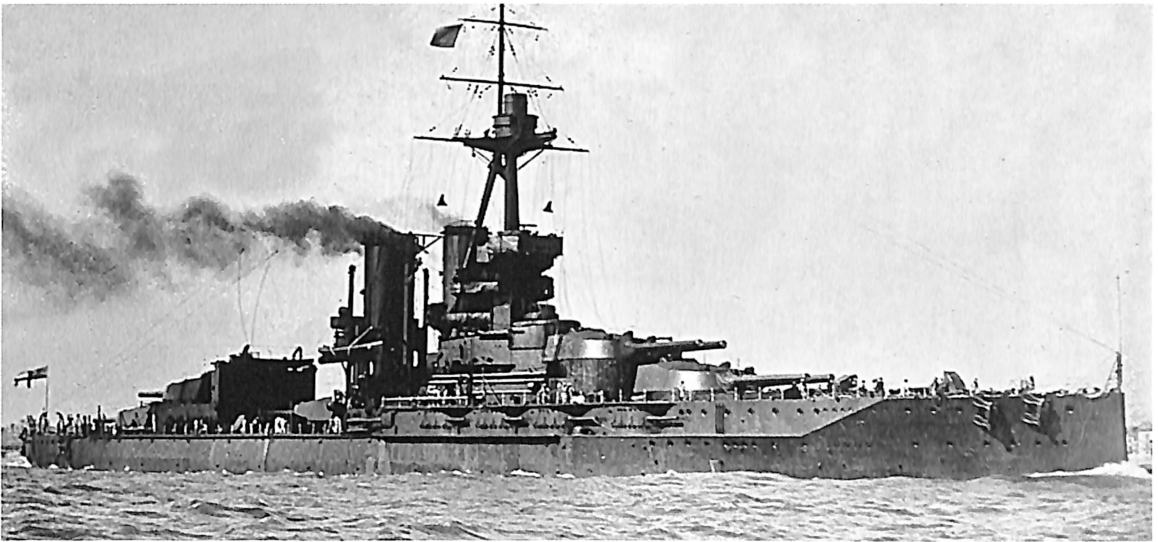
In the next issue – The Siege and Battle of Delhi.

## HMS IRON DUKE

The Regiment has had a long association with HMS Iron Duke and as we have recently commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Battle Jutland readers may be interested to know that a ship of that name was the Flagship of Admiral John Jellicoe at that great battle. There have been three Royal Naval ships bearing this distinguished name. The first was a battleship an Audacious-class battleship – not entirely dissimilar to HMS Warrior, which is today a well preserved visitor attraction in Portsmouth Harbour. She was launched in 1870. However she became the first battleship to pass through the new Suez Canal on her way to take up her role as the flagship of the China Fleet, where she spent much of her active career. She was paid off in 1893 and

converted to a coal hulk, and sold 1906 for scrap. An altogether ignominious destiny for a vessel so named! So much for the first Royal Naval ship but before we pass on let us dwell on the name for a while.

Interestingly the first ship so named was not a Royal Naval vessel; it was a merchantman and it was because of this naming in 1840 that the sobriquet, Iron Duke, became a name we all recognise. The Great Duke acquired the label quite late in life, probably in the 1830's at about the time of the Irish Emancipation Bill. The Duke as Prime Minister had been emphatically against such reforms and was variously described as having an 'iron manner' or using his 'iron hands'. In a leading Liberal Pro Emancipation newspaper, The Freeman's



**HMS Iron Duke as she was during the Battle of Jutland**

Journal Wellington was referred to as an iron Duke implying criticism of him from a liberal perspective. In 1832 the paper referred to the iron shutters being placed in the windows of Apsley House to protect the glass from rioters but the sobriquet was not coined for this as is popularly believed. It seems that in 1840 an ironclad three masted merchant ship was made on the Clyde and the owners knowing of the current talk of the Duke being iron minded decided to name their ship the Iron Duke. By 1844 the pun was in common use whilst the merchant ship was not; it was wrecked in 1841!

The second HMS Iron Duke was a dreadnought battleship of the Royal Navy, the lead ship of her class. Renowned as Admiral Jellicoe's flagship at Jutland, she was built in Portsmouth Dockyard, and her keel laid in January 1912. Launched ten months later, she was commissioned into the Home Fleet in March 1914 as the fleet flagship. She was armed with a main battery of ten 13.5-inch guns and was capable of a top speed of 21.25 knots (24.45 mph).

Iron Duke served as the flagship of the Grand Fleet during the First World War and particularly at the Battle of Jutland. There, she fired 90 rounds from her main armament and 60 from her secondary and in so doing she inflicted significant damage on the German battleship SMS König early in the main fleet action.

After the war she remained on active service through the 1920s until she became a training vessel in the 1930s. She spent World War 2 in Scapa Flow as a base/port defence ship before being scrapped. David Harrap has come up with an interesting post script:

*"As Regimental Secretary in Halifax I was sent in*

*the late 90's some pieces of shrapnel by a chap who had served on HMS Iron Duke in the Second World War at Scapa Flow. They were originally from the bombs that had badly damaged her in the attack of October 1939 and which lead to her being beached to prevent her sinking. He had saved the shrapnel pieces as mementoes of the day. I forwarded them on to the then Captain of the current Iron Duke who I think had them framed and mounted in the Wardroom. Whether they are still there I have no idea."*

The third Royal Naval Ship, in service today is a type 23 Frigate of the "Duke" class of which there are thirteen, eg Kent, Richmond etc. As an aside another Duke class frigate is HMS Northumberland whose predecessor in 1815 conveyed Napoleon to St Helena. She was launched in 1991 in the presence of our late Colonel in Chief and the Duchess. Based in Portsmouth and Devonport, the ships were designed to deal with the Soviet submarine threat – but in the 20 years since the fall of Communism, the frigates have proven their versatility by dealing with virtually every mission imaginable in the four corners of the globe. They can be typically be found east of Suez, safeguarding Britain's vital maritime trade routes or Britain's interests in the South Atlantic. However she was very much in the news in 2009 when she seized a £240million cocaine shipment - the biggest haul in Royal Navy history up to then. HMS Iron Duke's crew sank the 138ft drug boat with bursts of cannon fire after confiscating its deadly cargo and arresting the gang of smugglers. The high-seas drama happened off the coast of South America. She is armed with among other weapon systems a 4.5





**HMS Iron Duke today, launched in 1991**

inch naval gun, which is a far cry from the 13.5 inch guns of the Jutland Iron Duke. But then there were no anti air and anti-ship missiles which today's Iron Duke are armed with.

After the amalgamation in 2006 The Yorkshire Regiment formed a "Bond of Friendship" with the ship so the link continues.

Evelyn Webb-Carter

**The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) Regimental Association website  
'The Dukes'.**

**[www.dwr.org.uk](http://www.dwr.org.uk)**

This website is for you, the Regimental Family, which includes all those who have a link to the Regiment – Regulars, Reserves, Cadets, Families and Friends.

It aims to be a source of information about the Regiment, its members and its history, to provide news of Association events and activities and to share, through photo galleries, memories of service and comradeship in the Regiment.

For the 'Dukes' family it is a means by which we can continue to foster that unique spirit and camaraderie we all shared during our time in the Regiment, be that on operational tours or when serving in the less well known corners of the globe. To be successful it needs to be more than just a source of information. It is also a means by which all of can pass on details of events and activities that any of us may be planning that may be of interest to the wider Regimental family as well as passing on important news about fellow 'Dukes' and sharing memories through the photo gallery.

### Private Sidney Lewis, aged 12 ½.

Local pride in their young men who went to war between 1914 and 1918 remains strong, and is both praiseworthy and moving. The Editor attended a ceremony in Tooting, south west London, on 25 September, where a



Colin Lewis, son of Sidney Lewis, invites the crowd to remember all those who gave their lives in the war, before unveiling the plaque



The Mayor of Wandsworth addresses the crowd of around 150 people who attended the event in outside 934 Garratt Lane, SW17

blue plaque was installed on a house from where young Sidney Lewis set forth to join the Army – and succeeded, being enlisted into the East Surrey Regiment. His Mother – one can guess how she felt about this when she discovered what her boy had done – showed his birth certificate to “the authorities” and eventually he was pulled out of the line and sent home, but not before he had seen action at Delville Wood.

Colin Lewis, son of Sidney Lewis, served with 1 DWR 1951 – 53, and was with the Battalion in Korea. He was accompanied by 14 members of his family; Chris Lewis, one of his sons and so Sidney’s grandson (he remembers his grandfather well), made the telling point that if young Sid had not been pulled out of the conflict and had not survived more time at the front, none of them would have been there.



**Ché Shimmin, aged 12, in appropriate uniform, reads a specially written poem “For King and Country”.**

### **Rodney Harms MC and experiences of the Korean War.**

*The following was sent in by Mr David Gascoigne in letter form, in response to the obituary for Colonel Rodney Harms MC in the last edition. However, as it covers quite a wide range of material, is certainly of great interest, and quite long, it has been “brought forward” from the letters section and is presented as a stand-alone article. – Editor:*

I was very sorry to learn from the latest issue of ID of the death of Rodney (and also the earlier demise of his wife Elizabeth).

In mid-1952, immediately following commissioning leave, I together with Peter Chester, Doug Hollands and John Keatley, joined the 1st Bn just in time to embark for Korea. On board HMS Devonshire we were quickly absorbed into the Dukes family and got to know the other subalterns very well, including Rodney, and also the draft of QARANC nurses travelling out to Kure in Japan, among whom was Elizabeth, who Rodney eventually married.

Once in the line in Korea as commander of 3 platoon my contacts with Rodney, who was Bn IO residing in the lofty environment of Bn HQ, became infrequent. In Dec 1952 and Jan 1953 however my platoon was involved in the deception plans for Ian Orr’s recess leading up to Rodney’s raid on the Pukchang Spur, for which he and Ian were both awarded the MC. I see that in the official citation it reports that the raiding party brought back the body of a Chinese officer who was found to be carrying “documents of military value”. The raiding party was in fact on its way back to our lines when Rodney reported this enemy casualty, whereupon the CO directed them to return to the scene to collect the body and bring it back. Quite fortuitously the Chinaman turned out to be a political officer who was seemingly visiting the position to encourage the rank and file in their zeal for the Party.

It transpired much later via intelligence sources that the Chinese mistakenly believed that had suffered a major security breach, with the raid specifically targeting this man, and when they failed to find his body feared

he had been taken alive. They would have continued in this belief had it not been for a rogue news reporter. The gentlemen of the press had been invited to interview the raiders on their return and although there was no formal censorship, Divisional Intelligence requested that all reports should be vetted by them for “suggested amendments” before publication. As a result none of the British reporters mentioned the Chinese officer in their submissions to their editors. However, when an agency reporter filed a story stating that the raid had brought back a dead enemy officer, all the editors ditched their less interesting in-house reports in favour of this more newsworthy one, no doubt to the considerable relief of Chinese intelligence circles.

In late February 1953 I was summoned to the Colonel’s office to be told that I was to join 29 Brigade HQ as a liaison officer, replacing Peter Chester who had been there for several months. My respectful protests were to no avail and I quickly found myself installed as Bde LO 3 at the beck and call of the Brigadier and Brigade Major – feet did not touch the ground. However I discovered one friendly face, Rodney, who had been appointed Brigade IO a couple of weeks previously. The Brigade Int Section comprised Rodney and two corporals, Harrison and Howard.

Following a few weeks of this dogsbody existence I was posted to be Brigade Liaison Officer with the 7th Regt US Marines on our left flank. Serving with them was a much more enjoyable experience. A marine regiment was equivalent in size to our brigade but commanded by a full colonel – in this case a very colourful character, Col Glenn C Funk. With a jeep, driver and WS62 radio



**Corporals Harrison and Howard, with Rodney Harms on the right, gazing skywards at a flight of American ground attack aircraft, hoping that our air recognition panels were sufficiently visible**

I was on standby to coordinate operations during the hours of darkness and then commuted daily back to 29 Bde HQ with intelligence reports, briefings etc, in which I had again much more contact with Rodney. After a month the Marines went into reserve and their place was taken by the Turkish Brigade under command of the US Army's 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") whereupon I expected to be recalled to 29 Bde. To my relief I was told to stay on and liaise with them, attached to a US Command Advisory Team, which was led by a 1-star general to give him equivalent rank to the Turkish Brigadier, Siri Acar. This was another interesting experience, especially as the Turks were very pro-British but mildly anti-American.

In June 1953 I was posted back to the 1st Bn as a platoon commander and then eventually left Korea, anticipating the expiry of my two years National Service in November. I never joined the 7th Bn in Milnsbridge as on my return to UK I was recruited by the British Government to do scientific research in Nigeria for two tours of two years each. I was aware at this time that Rodney was learning Arabic somewhere in the Middle East, and later had a training post with the Libyan Army. Much later he was again in the Middle East with the Saudi Arabian Army.

I next saw him around 1973/4 at RARDE Fort

Halstead, where I was working as a Military Operational Researcher. Late one evening I encountered the Superintendent of another Branch with someone in plain clothes, who I instantly recognised as Rodney. They were deep in conversation so I didn't interrupt but as they passed Rodney grinned broadly at me and winked. Next day when I saw the Superintendent I mentioned that I'd recognised Rodney and explained my connection with him. It transpired that his visitor was an army officer from HQ UKLF at Wilton but his name was NOT Harms! This was during the height of the Northern Ireland troubles, when we were all involved to a greater or lesser extent, so I took the hint and said no more,

Rodney and I had "corresponded" annually by Christmas card for many years but I'd heard nothing from him since 2012 – I now know that in 2013 he and Elizabeth had moved to Smethwick, whereas I continued mailing to their Ripon address.

I found the ID résumé of Rodney's career very interesting and references to Messrs Walter Robins and Geoff France reminded me of encountering them in Korea. – Walter with the Signals Platoon and Geoff as 2 Platoon Sergeant in A Company. My own 3 Platoon Sergeant, Alwyn Arundel, was a great character who eventually became Bn RSM and I believe his son ultimately followed him into that post.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WELLINGTON BOOT?

*The President's recollections of one of the strange duties that fell to his lot as Adjutant ("A bit of a porker" ID 280, Spring 2016) sparked a recollection from another former Adjutant of 1 DWR, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Mellor.*

Early in 1971 The Dukes began their first ever Public Duties in London. Having returned from Hong Kong before Christmas and flying into Teesside Airport, families and soldiers felt a distinct drop in temperature from that which they were used to over the previous two and a half years.

Some preparation for the task had begun in Hong Kong at Stanley Fort when the Advance Party of the Irish Guards offered their Drill Sergeant for rehearsals and even Major David Webb Carter, (brother of Major General Sir Evelyn) took the Young Officers for some 'warming up' Drill sessions behind the MT sheds.

By February the Battalion was in Chelsea Barracks for six weeks relieving a Grenadier Battalion for its training in Kenya. As the task was only for a few weeks the Battalion was not issued with 'Blues' but instead wore the Khaki greatcoat; much needed as the blood was still thin after Hong Kong. It was the Guards' custom for the Commanding Officer, Second in Command and Adjutant to share the same office, which felt very strange to ourselves. One morning, as Adjutant, I noticed the Chief Clerk frantically beckoning me through the eye hole in the door to the Orderly Room where I found the RSM, a gentleman from the Metropolitan Police and the publican from the nearby Duke of Wellington pub. It seemed that some of 'The Boys', having discovered the pub in Pimlico, spotted Wellington Memorabilia which they thought should rightfully belong in the Battalion.....and so an embarrassing Room Search had to be conducted in Chelsea Barracks and various items were returned.

During the Battalion's stay in London, BP chemicals had been producing a new child's Wellington Boot and their PR department were researching a suitable launch venue and struck upon the idea of a photo shoot at Wellington Barracks. When they discovered that we were on Public Duties what better than launching their new boots during a Guard Mounting in the Barracks. And so it was one morning in mid-February, during a routine Guard Mounting, that I noticed a group of young children dressed in mock Chelsea Pensioners scarlet coats and hats standing beyond the railings accompanied by photographers.

After the usual inspection by the Adjutant the Band and Guard marched off to the Palace forecourt and I and the RSM were about to 'Fall Out' when I spotted a young child walking through the gates carrying a large wooden shield. As I felt I could hardly ignore the child I stooped down and found myself being presented with the shield on which was mounted a child's Wellington Boot.



**Peter Mellor is presented by the mounted boot**

The RSM took this back to his office in Chelsea and the following day, whilst sharing the office with a slightly bored CO, (there being nothing much to occupy his time whilst the remainder of the Battalion were on Drill Parades every other day) he was reading the Times newspaper and was horrified to find that the paper had published the photograph covering half the back page, (which was their custom in those days). How would this go down with the Household Division as clearly this was not a Drill Movement in their hallowed Drill Manual? Shortly afterwards my phone rang and a voice said "this is the AMA to the CGS and you are required to report to his outer office at 1200 hrs today".

Wow; not only had we apparently succeeded in upsetting London District protocol but they must have complained to Head Office across the road in Whitehall! The CO's face clearly paled and he was not amused. Adjutant about to take a career nose dive? I duly reported

to the sixth floor of MOD and was greeted by Captain Roger Wheeler, an old friend, (later to become CGS). If any complaint had been heard from those across the road none was mentioned and the office staff then opened the drinks cabinet! I was greatly relieved that there were no recriminations for this deed.

The main issue is what happened to the Shield, last

seen in the RSM's office in Somme Lines, Catterick circa 1972. Perhaps a subsequent RSM can complete the story?

*(The Editor invites not only a response to the above question, but also stories from other Adjutant's, RSMs or any others who found themselves with unexpected, and perhaps unwelcome, duties to perform, not anticipated in the job specification.)*

## IRON DUKE INDEX

N Ireland	Battalion Ops in N Ireland	1972
N Ireland	Result of car explosion, Newry, 28 Apr 1972	1972
	Offrs Locs - wef 1 Jul 1972	1972
	Origin of Families articles in Iron Duke	1972
Hudds	10 AYT office petrol bombed in Kirkgate, Huddersfield. Moved to TA Centre	1972
UK	Cpl Verrall, survival instructor	1972
Hx	Move of Hx Assoc meetings from Wed to Sat nights, larger attendance	1972
	Shako Plates, 1812 - 16, KD Pickup	1972
	Bird PJ, Ward JR, Sugden RE, Lunt J, Barkshire J, Kershaw L, Milligan J	1972
	Norman W, Bailes JS, Tight R, Campbell-Lamerton M, Newton J, Charlesworth W,	1972
	McGovern family Crimea to WW2	1972
	Carey D & K	1972
	LD Breare, JC Bull MC, MN Cox, w of MN Cox, F Gunnis, w AE Hemblys, C M	1972
	Major JC Bull by JB Priestley	1972
	New pattern of Officer training	1972
Palestine	CSM PE Walker & CQMS Dunn, killed in Palestine, 1924	1972
	The Eighth Duke of Wellington, Arthur Valerian Wellesley	1972
	Origin of the Taylor-Miles Award, Lt Col George Taylor/Brigadier H G P Miles	1972
Hx	A Wood	1972
	Lt Col P A Mitchell takes over as CO 1st Bn	1972
	MBE - Maj AD Roberts	1972
N Ireland	Maj Stevens spotting snipers, Ballymurphy 1972	1972
Bradford	B Coy inspection in Bradford as part of Kape Tour	1972
N Ireland	Somme Coy VCP, Crossmaglen	1972
Hx	Colour Party marching through Halifax	1972

A page of the Index from 1972 editions of the Iron Duke

In the last edition of the Iron Duke the Editor kindly mentioned his use of an Index to the Iron Duke Journals in his collection. I am very pleased that he finds the index of interest and use, having spent 10 years compiling the initial list and then updating each edition as they appear. The index lists the majority of the articles, maps, images and historical events, along with a growing number of Regimental worthies and personalities, including all the obituaries between 1925 and 2016. The index signposts the veritable cornucopia of Regimental history, with items from 1702 to the present covered in one form or another in the 280 editions published so far.

It occurred to us that other readers may have their own collections of Iron Dukes, either full or partial, or just have an interest in the Regiment's history, who might like access to this index. If so, please apply for an electronic copy through the DWR Webmaster.

It is in a database format on a basic MS Excel spreadsheet, complete with a comprehensive search and filter facility, which can be emailed out to anyone with an interest - and an email address!

Scott Flaving.

## THE DEFENCE AND NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE (DNRC)

Recently there have been a number of full page newspaper advertisements for the DNRC, and the one which caught my eye featured Andy Reid. Not knowing what the DNRC was, and more than a little surprised that “yet another” service charity was looking for donations from the public, I resolved to try to find out a little more about it.



Andy Reid in the DNRC advertisement

Having done so, it seems reasonable to share the information with Iron Duke readers, who may have had the same initial reaction, (although I do not at all rule out that, as I so often find, everyone else is fully up to speed and it is only me that is in ignorance).

In short, the DNRC will take over from Headley Court, at a new site (Stanford Hall) just north of

Loughborough, thanks to the generosity of the late Duke of Westminster, who was very involved in the project from its conception. There is great deal of useful information on the DNRC website – [www.thednrc.org.uk](http://www.thednrc.org.uk) – and especially helpful is the page called “The Service Charities”. With some slight revision, I quote....

### “The Service Charities

There is a long and distinguished tradition in the UK of charitable involvement in the welfare of Service people, particularly those who have been injured. There is a wide range of specific Armed Forces charities and many other non-military charities also do much for the veteran and serving community. The major military charities often co-ordinate their activity through the Confederation of Service Charities ([www.cobseo.org.uk](http://www.cobseo.org.uk)).

Headley Court is a significant example of the UK approach. A Headley Court Trust was established in 1947 and remains in being to this day. Its ‘objects’ relate to the rehabilitation of the personnel serving in the Armed Forces. The Ministry of Defence is responsible for all the operating costs involved in the conduct of clinical rehabilitation on the site, which include the maintenance and development of the buildings, although the Trust assists from time to time with specific projects which add to the welfare of the patients. It is intended that a DNRC will reflect this charitable approach. To this end an appropriate charity was established in May 2011, known as The Black Stork Charity.

### Clinical rehabilitation followed by recovery

The Help for Heroes Recovery Centres and the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) are completely separate places, run by separate organisations but they have the same aim: to support the wounded, injured and sick members of the armed forces along their road to recovery. They are both part of a pathway which ensures that those injured, by whatever means, have the best possible opportunity to recover – a journey that can take years in some cases. The distinction is that the DNRC is involved in clinical rehabilitation and the activity in the Recovery Centres follows on and covers the full range of transitional activities.

Those wounded on operations are transferred from field hospitals to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. After medical treatment, many transfer to Headley Court and in the future to the DNRC. It aims to return members of the Armed Forces to work in ships, regiments and air stations if at all possible.

Beyond clinical rehabilitation, wounded and injured soldiers, sailors, marines and air force personnel move into a final phase: recovery. This happens at the newly built network of Recovery Centres across the country, which are also open to veterans and their families.

The Recovery Centres offer residential and day facilities where they can access life skills courses, training and education, top class sports facilities and activities as well as welfare advice – all in one place and available whenever they are needed. In addition, they provide support with individuals' overall health and physical wellbeing and access to grants from other charities. The tri-service charities principally associated with the activities to be undertaken in the DNRC include, Blesma, Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, HighGround, The Royal British Legion, and SSAFA. " End of quoted extract.

I know that we have a number of ex Dukes who have been, and some still are, very much involved in the operations of the service charities at national, regional

and local levels, and any reader who can bring us up to date with a general overview of their activities can be assured that space will be found in this Journal for such an article.

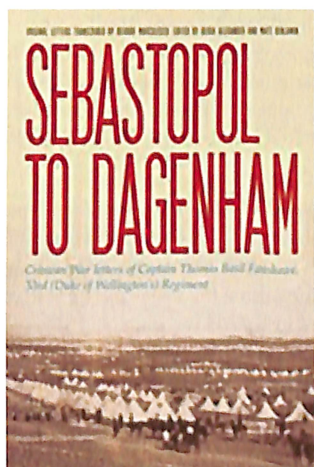
I am often told by friends who are splendid supporters of the Armed Forces in general and the service charities in particular, that they find it very confusing, and not infrequently irritating, to be approached for donations from numerous organisations who "appear to be competing for funds whilst apparently doing much the same thing". A simple, short and convincing way to respond to this would perhaps be of help to many of us who are keen to promote these charities, but have some sympathy with the point of view.

TJN

## BOOK REVIEW

*Review by Scott Flaving*

### FROM SEBASTOPOL TO DAGENHAM



Crimean War letters of Captain Thomas Basil Fanshawe, 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment: transcribed by Dierdre Marculescu.

This collection of letters written by Capt T B Fanshawe to his family living in Dagenham during the latter stages of the Crimean War were deposited, along with other important family papers and paintings, in the local museum in 1963, now the Barking and Dagenham

Archives and Local Studies Centre, located at the Valence House Museum, Dagenham.

Colonel T B Fanshawe was commissioned into the 33rd Regiment of Foot in April, 1846, being promoted to Captain in 1854. He rejoined the Regiment in the Crimea at the camp outside Sevastopol in June, 1855, from Malta, where two Depot Companies of the Regiment were based for the Campaign. He arrived, via Constantinople, on 17th June and was in action in the disastrous attack on the Great Redan the following day. His letter to his mother on the 19th starts, "I consider myself excessively lucky to be now able to write to you as I can assure you that I little did picture to do so about 5 or 6 o'clock yesterday morning when under fire." He calmly goes on to describe his journey from Valetta before describing the action and casualties of Waterloo Day, which included the CO, Lt Col Johnstone.

His letters home throughout the rest of the campaign provide a detailed insight into life in the trenches, contact with those at home and the occasional action and excitement that is a soldier's lot in a siege war. Very reminiscent of the conditions during the First World War 60 years later.

The letters were newly transcribed for this book by Dierdre Marculescu and edited by Derek Alexander and Matt Benjamin. It has been really well researched and well illustrated, with a superb situation map created in 1986 by a local man. The Museum Volunteers formed their own publishing company to be able to publish



these interesting and historically important letters and the book was launched at a symposium held in Valence House Museum on 19th July, 2016, with Regimental representation.

I can highly recommend this superb book both as a 'Dukes' Regimental history and for a wider Crimean War research audience. Copies of the book are obtainable from Amazon.

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*Review by the Editor*

## **THIS HALLOWED GROUND.**

A single volume history of the American Civil War, by Bruce Catton, Pulitzer Prize winning author. 436 pages.

This is not a new book; it was first published in 1955. Bruce Catton was a journalist and historian of the American Civil War, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1954 for his "A stillness at Appomattox". In the course of his career he was the recipient of over 25 honorary degrees and he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor in 1977, the year in which he died.

I go to the USA about once a year, to visit family there; somehow we seem to keep multiplying our family connections with the States, and for years I have had a nagging sense of guilt that I knew nothing at all about what was surely the biggest event in the history of that nation. A lucky find in a second hand bookshop (more conventionally, it is also available from Amazon, and is still in print) has enabled me to extinguish that guilty feeling.

All civil wars are terrible things, citizen against citizen, brother against brother. To begin with the

American Civil War was not especially about slavery, but about preventing the southern states from seceding from the Union. Of course, slavery became the key issue, and was abolished in the Union after the war, but before and during in the early years of campaigning President Lincoln more than once said that it was not his purpose to destroy the southern states "way of life", whilst he had hopes that he could achieve the union without more bloodshed. Under the leadership of Jefferson Davies, and with astute generals like Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E Lee, the south (Confederalist) states wanted to form their own nation, run their way.

They very nearly succeeded. President Abraham Lincoln managed to use the infinitely superior resources of the northern states to hold together the resolve of the state leaders and population and to draw out the contest long enough to squeeze the life out of the south. For a long time he was not well served for military leaders, many of them hesitant, over-cautious, frequently believing themselves to be weaker in numbers and materiel to those they faced (rarely the case), prone to inaction. Eventually with generals such as Ulysses S Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman (and greatly superior forces), the Federal side won, and the Union was saved.

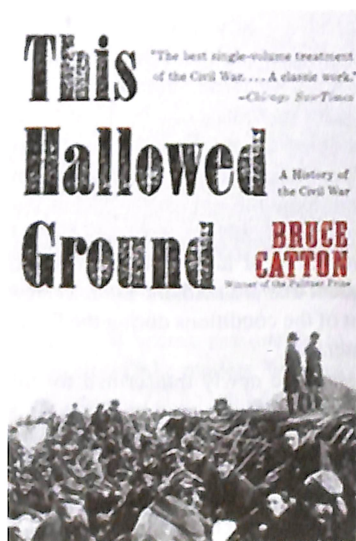
The fighting was spread over four years and a wide geographical area, and from 620,000 up to 850,000 (there are many opinions on this topic) men died. By contrast, the USA lost 405,000 in WW2, 117,000 in WW1 and 58,000 in Vietnam. Battles were fought from southern Pennsylvania to Texas, and from New Mexico to the Florida coast. The majority of the fighting took place in the states of Virginia and Tennessee. Echoes of the war stretched to the Atlantic Ocean and Europe.

The names of battles such as Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Shiloh will be familiar to many of us. Casualties were often unnecessarily heavy: if we criticise our Great War generals for their seemingly over-ready acceptance of losses of men, then the same can be said of the leaders of both sides in the American Civil war. Indeed, there were many similarities in tactics; assemble the guns, let loose the barrage, charge at the enemy (often with green troops), and find that he has survived the worst that you can throw at him from a distance, and is waiting for you with shot, bullet and bayonet.

The author's style is crisp and fast-moving, there are excellent maps and some contemporary photographs, and what might be a heavy-weight subject somehow races along keeping the reader fully engaged. For anyone who wants a "quick-fix" on this fascinating conflict, this book is highly recommended

TJN

September 2016.



# Association News

President: Brigadier AD Meek CBE.

General Secretary: Major R Heron, Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax HX3 6HG.  
Telephone 01422 356795.

## 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, 55 Daws Royd, Almonbury, Huddersfield HD5 8SN.

**Keighley:** Details of Branch meetings can be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Mr Dave Connor, 07258 672114.

**London:** The London Branch has formally closed, due to small numbers attending meetings. However, any queries or questions about southern based Dukes and activities may be referred to the Editor of this Journal, contact details on Page 1.

**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:** Details of Branch meetings can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Mary Bell, telephone 01756 790155, email m\_bell@talk21.com.

**York:** 8.00pm first Monday of each month at the Post Office Social Club, Marygate, York.



Last meeting of the London OCA Branch, Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London, Sunday 11 September 2016. Standing from left, Judith Greenway, Tim Nicholson, Mac and Biddy Dowdy, David Blood. Seated from left, John Greenway, Mavis Shearer, Bob Temple, Jacquie Blood. In-Pensioner Fred Richardson and Colin and Vera Aukett were unable to make it

## SKIPTON BRANCH

Branch meetings and events are arranged as required, and the Branch has an active programme. Members have attended parades in Skipton for Armed Forces Day, VJ Day and the Battle of Britain Commemoration. Members also went to Scarborough for the Armed Forces Day activities there, enjoying fish and chip supper on the way home £after all the sea air we had everyone was hungry.

Readers may remember the article in ID No 278 (Spring 15, page 20) by Lt Col Toby Lehman, on “Captain Tunstill’s Men”, A Company 10 DWR. The Skipton Academy still ruins a website blog on the

progress through the war of these men ([www.tunstillmen.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.tunstillmen.blogspot.co.uk)). Dr Bill Smith, Head of Humanities at the College, the instigator and driving force behind the project, was guest at the annual Skipton Branch Waterloo Dinner, held at Skipton Golf Club and attended by 80 guests. He said that the Academy had staged some re-enactments, portraying such events in the lives of these men, from recruitment, through training and active service, and even including the funeral of Harry Tunstill. The drama’s printed programme included a detailed brief on every one of the men who served with the unit.



(Top) Drill practice for the new recruits. (Bottom) Capt Tunstill’s funeral



# Craven Herald



## AND WENSLEYDALE STANDARD

John Dinsdale, William Eley, Charles Eyre, Richard Harper, Robert Harrison, William Preston Inman, Christopher John Kelly, Walter Limmer, William Oldfield, Arthur Stubbs,

trench and ours, so there is no fear of them advancing unless they swim across, which I don't think is likely."

### HELLIFIELD

#### Appreciation from the Front

A letter of appreciation has been received by Misses Connie Bayley, Esther Laxton and Madge Barton, who, a short time ago, collected money to provide comforts for the local soldiers who are with Captain H.G. Tunstill:

willing helpers realised £2 4s 6d, which will be handed to Mrs. Tunstill to provide tobacco and cigarettes for Capt. Tunstill's men.

### GRASSINGTON - Wounded Grassington Soldiers

News has been received of two of the recruits from the Grassington neighbourhood having been wounded at the Front in France, viz., Privates A. Stubbs, of Bridge End, the son of

B. Section, 69th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C., to say that young Stubbs was getting on very well and bearing his pain with fortitude and endurance, and further, that his chums had spoken about his brave manner and how cheerful he was. He has been removed from the Field Hospital, but it is hoped that medical skill will save his shattered limb from amputation. Mr. H. Stubbs has a second son in the Army, of whom nothing has been heard for several weeks. Of Willie



Tom Swales, George Verity and Thomas Stockdale

Section of a 1916 page of the Craven Herald

## THE 2017 ANNUAL REUNION FOR OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Following this year's very successful lunch at Wellington College, the 2017 annual gathering for officers, their wives and wider family, will again be held at Wellington on Saturday 29th April 2017. The College, having made our Association a member of the Wellington College Community, gave us a very warm welcome, led by the Headmaster and

the Duke of Wellington. Those who attended enjoyed the ambience of the College, which has so much in common with our own heritage, not least seeing a welcoming display by the Corps of Drums.

Details of this event will be published in January, but it is suggested that officers put it in their diaries, NOW.

# Obituaries

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

## WO2 GORDON SIMPSON

WO2 CSM John Gordon Simpson (known as ‘Gordon’ or ‘Simmo’ to his friends) passed suddenly on 19th January 2016, aged 89 yrs. Gordon was born in Hull (Dockside) on 06/02/1926 and enlisted initially into G.S Corps on 19/10/1943. In 1944 he moved to the East Yorkshire Regt until his transfer into the D.W.R on 15/01/1952.

He travelled widely in his service, which included BAOR, UK, Korea 1952/53 where he survived the infamous ‘Battle of the Hook’, Gibraltar 1953/54, UK 1954/56, Malta 1956 and Cyprus 1956/7, Yorkshire Brigade Depot Strensall 1957/60, Kenya 1960/61, BAOR 1964/65, Strensall again and finally Warminster School of Infantry until his discharge in 1968.

His military retirement led to civilian employment as a Barracks Services Officer in Ripon until he finally retired in 1991.

Gordon was an excellent sportman and excelled in cross country running. He was an accomplished horseman and regularly rode ‘point to point’. He married Annie in 1951 and was a devoted husband until she passed away in September 2003. Gordon is sadly missed by all who knew him and is survived by his two sons, Brian and Peter and his sister Nora.

## DRUM MAJOR ANTHONY OXLEY

25039391 Drum Major Anthony Oxley (Ox), 1st Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment, died in a Road Traffic Collision in Cyprus on 14th June 2016 (Aged 40). Ox started his basic training at the Army Training Regiment Glencourse on the 18 January 1995 following which he joined the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment. During his 20 years service he was posted to Weeton (1995), Hounslow (1998), Germany (2000), Warminster (2006), Huddersfield TA centre (2010) and Cyprus (2011). He completed numerous Operational tours of NI in the late 90s, Kosovo (2001), Iraq (2003, 2005) and Afghanistan (2011).

Ox a keen bugler and drummer completed his drummers’ course gaining highly respectable grades, notably winning the best bugler award. He later went on to be presented with the prestigious Cutlers’ sword, an honour reserved for very few drummers. With distinction Ox served as the Drum Major in three of the four current Battalions within the King’s Division.

His love for music was so emphatic that in 2010 he



**Drum Major Oxley, in scarlets, at the Liberation of Palazzuolo ceremony in 2009**

choreographed, organised and led a drums team that auditioned for Britain's Got Talent. Simon Cowell gave his stamp of approval for the team to progress further in the competition. However with Ox's dual qualifications and him having recently completed the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course, Operational commitments took precedence and the team was pulled from the competition.

Drum Major Oxley's unwavering support to the Division, RHQ and his colleagues saw him routinely carrying out ceremonial tasks along with playing the last post for serving and former soldiers at their time of rest. Ox is survived by his wife Sally and his six children Courtney, Harry, Charlie, Mason, Dion and Honiiee-Mai.

### **JAMES (SEAMUS) O'CONNOR, BEM**

Seamus, who served with the 1st Battalion in the

1960s, died after a series of illnesses on the 4th of September 2016.

He served in Osnabruck, the UN tour in Cyprus (1967) and Gillingham, before being posted to Singapore as a member of the Garrison RP staff, eventually he was posted to the King's Own Border Regiment with whom he served the remainder of his service.

He was laid to rest in Tullamore, County Offaly, Ireland.

### **MICHAEL (MICK) HAYES**

Mick Hayes who served in the 1st Battalion 1964 – 73 died in September 2016. Mick will be remembered by many as a fine sportsman, representing both the Battalion and the Hong Kong Army football teams.

## **LETTERS**

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

### **From Mr Joe Bailes**

I have just received my copy of the Iron Duke and see my officer and friend Col Rodney harms MC has died. I first met him at Strensall in July 1950, as platoon officer. He was non shooting captain of Col Bunbury's shooting team.

In Korea he was Intelligence Officer and I was sniper corporal. We had to do a patrol in the Chinese position. Because I was a champion shot in BAOR he decided I should be his bodyguard. I told him I was a devout coward and frightened of the dark. It was an honour to be picked by him.

On the way back into our lines the password was changed owing to a Cutinise attack. My friend Jock Barnett was on listening patrol. As we approached his position we didn't need a password as I had slipped and he said "no chinaman could swear like me in a Geordie accent". We had a good meal provided from the Officers' Mess. We kept in touch until recently.

Joe Bailes also sent the following note.

Are any of Col Bunbury's Bisley team alive?

In 1952 we wearer training for Bisley when Col Bunbury came up to me with his son, Charles who was about 9 or 10 and said I should show him how to fire the Bren Gun. Charles may remember. He was quite good for his first time.

I later went on to be Bren Gun Army Champion with John Fifield in 1952..... At Sennelager in Germany I

was Champion Shot BAOR. The team was so good six had scores which had previously been good enough to win. I wasn't the best shot ..... but I was best shot on the day. Chris Wood, Andy Jackson, Frisby, David Cowell, Tom Nowell, Bill Norman, Sam Robertson, Seymour and a couple I can't remember had all be better than me, but not on the day.

### **From Colonel Hugh Le Messurier.**

In today's (24 May 2016) Telegraph I see that George Forty has died. He was the son of Mr Forty who ran a business in Huddersfield and was a great supporter of the Dukes when I was Adjutant to the newly-formed 7th Battalion in 1947. He had a son John who was one of the first officers to be commissioned into the Dukes at that time.

In Korea 1953 when 1 DWR was deployed on the Hook, George commanded the troop of 5 RTR locate high up on the hillside, a perilous position between the right flank of the Hook company and the left flank of C Company on the Sausage. In the lead up to the final battle George we wounded. In truth he could have been evacuated by road but in view of our connections I had him flown out from the RAP by chopper. It was not until later thjat I found he was strapped to his stretcher on the outside of the helicopter!

We have lost touch over the years but he was occasionally in the news as Curator of the Armoured Corps Museum in Bovington.

**From Mr David Tooley**

Please find enclosed a photograph of an old Duke enjoying a Wellington beer. It may amuse readers of the Iron Duke.

Caption could read “old Duke enjoying a Wellington beer with his son and grandchildren in Espania.” Being retired is quite “brutal” at times but I manage to cope. Regards to all Dukes past and present. Fortune favours the brave.





**The Canadian Vimy Ridge Memorial**

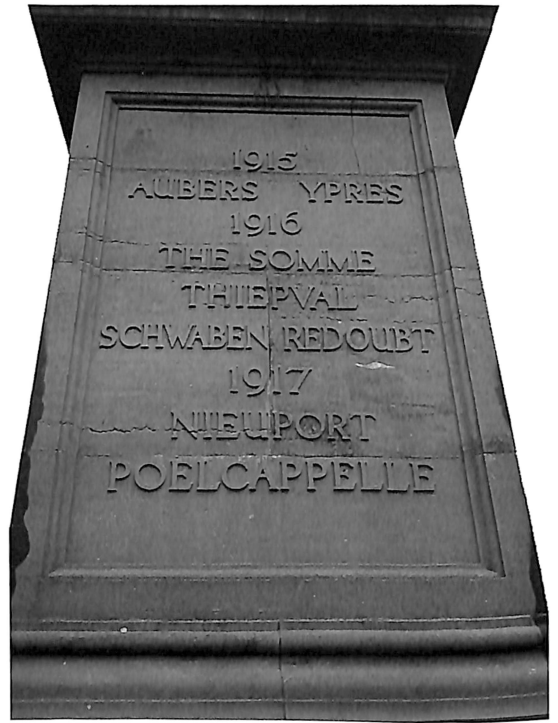


**A Green Howards  
Memorial Cross on the Somme**



**A memorial bench beside La Grande Mine on the Somme**





**“The Memorial of the 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division, front and back. In WW1 the Division consisted of 3 Brigades: 146th (1st West Riding) Brigade, comprised of 1/5, 1/6, 1/7 and 1/8 PWO; 147 (2nd West Riding) Brigade, comprising 1/4, 1/5, 1/6 and 1/7 DWR; 148(3rd West Riding) Brigade, comprising 1/4 and 1/5 KOYLI, 1/4 and 1/5 Y & L. Each Brigade also had a company from the Machine Gun Corps and a Trench Mortar Battery. Divisional artillery, engineer and signal units completed the order of battle. Four VCs were won, including Private Poulter of 1/4th DWR in 1918. The Theatres in which the Division fought can be seen on the Memorial.**

**It remained in service between the wars. In WW2 it became known as the Polar Bear Division, and had the distinction of being referred to by Lord Haw Haw as “the Polar Bear Butchers”, which no doubt gave them intense satisfaction. Corporal Harper of the Hallamshire Battalion Y & L won the VC in Normandy.”**